**WHAT IS “BIOCOMMONS” ANYWAY?**

**3.17.14 outline**

**EMERGED FROM CRISIS IN LATE SUMMER, 2009**

**—Not a fully-fleshed out “plan” or full-blown utopia.**

**—Not “right,” not “inevitable,” just testimony.**

**—Not possible except from deep capacity, in shift from MI to OMC.**

**—Is glimpse of architecture of one version of many alternative proposals.**

**—Rises from the Great YES of Creation; resists the NO’s threat; expresses the**

 **Great Work of re-purposing humanity in our locale and region, restoring the**

 **ancient bonds between people and Earth.**

**LOCAL EXPRESSION OF BIOSPHERE**

**—water shed**

**—air shed**

**—food shed already in use**

**—health shed**

**—why not other sectors or “sheds”?**

 **—land/food**

 **—labor**

 **—capital/ credit-money system sub-commons, or micro-commons**

 **—energy**

 **—Satellite “commons”: media, culture, transportation, misc. goods/services.**

**—Seen through eyes of “mixed” world-view:**

 **—I-It: Reality as object, separate and isolated, commodity, for sale, unlimited**

 ***quantitative* “more,” inert, “secular,” wants as needs, driven by our addictions**

 **to cheap fossil fuel, cheap credit, compound interest. No mystery, no meaning**

 **in Earth or cosmos. Humans as both insignificant in evolution and superior**

 **over, in control of, nature. Indiference. Creating our own Holocaust.**

 **—I-Thou: Reality as subject, *qualitative* “more,” energy-matter inseparable,**

 **radical relationality, all is sacred, cosmos as sacrament, filled with both known**

 **quantity and mysterious quality. Needs-based, light use.**

 **Human species is simultaneously embedded within nature and reflective about**

 **it and our own role in it; we are living organisms with a unique consciousness;**

 **our species is both common and unique. Human enterprises and organizations**

 **emerge from our awe in response to creation; they are based on**

 **Creationjustice. Creation and Justice are not siloed.**

**GEOGRAPHY**

**—Metropolitan areas, counties, neighborhoods, backyards.**

**—Based on John Wesley Powell’s “natural areas” or watersheds.**

**—Indigenous understanding of so-called individual “ownership” of land and**

 **water; in our time, trusts, localized common stewardship or trusteeship.**

**POLITICAL THEORY**

**—PERSON as member of CITY, as member of COSMOS: Citizen of Cosmopolis.**

**—Creationjustice: No separation of creation and justice.**

**—Equity as freedom and equality in balance.**

**EXISTING CORNERSTONE ORGANIZATIONS**

**—Land and water trusts.**

**—Employee-owned firms.**

**—Credit unions.**

**—Media trusts.**

**—Triple bottom-line corporations (B or Benefit corporations, in Oregon.)**

**DEPENDS ENTIRELY ON CIVIL SECTOR CAPACITY**

**—Starts and remains based in back yards, locales and regions.**

**—OMCs create a culture of relational power.**

**—OMCs help mid-wife new generation of enterprises and organizations.**

**—OMCs develop vision for the 21st century broad-based civil sector.**

 **—Non-partisan, multi-cultural and cross-class.**

 **—OMCs of religion, labor, education create new broad-based networks and**

 **alliances.**

 **—Capacity for resisting blow-back from current system.**

 **—Capacity for mid-wifing new generation of “incubators” across economy,**

 **culture and politics.**

 **—Capacity for both resilience and survival.**

**WHAT’S IN THE NAME?**

**—*Bio* stands for biosphere, within which we are born and flourish.**

**—*Commons* stands for shared equity and freedom, in both *polis* and *cosmos.***

**—We are biocitizens of cosmopolis.**

**BIOCOMMONS, for filling out in class**

**Education**

 **Health**

 **Media**

 **Transportation**

 **LAND/FOOD**

 **LABOR**

 **CAPITAL/CREDIT**

 **ENERGY**