

Jenna Kay

From: Heather Tischbein <htischbein@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2024 8:42 AM
To: Jenna Kay; Amy Koski
Cc: Monica Zazueta; Karissa Halstrom; Almendra Velazquez - Perez; Paris Nelson
Subject: Systems change perspective

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Good morning, Jenna and Amy.

I'm thinking to you two this morning as I sit quietly in my "sanctuary" perched on the north shore of Salmon Creek out towards Felida. Wondering what I might be able to do to be helpful as a "citizen witness".

What came to mind is to send this paper along as "background" for the climate change work you are doing...for which I am very grateful. You may or may not have the time or interest to read this, but Donella Meadows is an "ancestor" with great wisdom and her "leverage points" analysis is foundational to systems "thinking". And systems change...which is what I think the comp plan update really needs to be about.

The work you are doing on behalf of our human community is embedded in a "system".

Leverage Points: Places to Intervene in a System
donellameadows.org



What is that "system"? What are the paradigms and mindsets that are the "design parameters" of this system we are in?

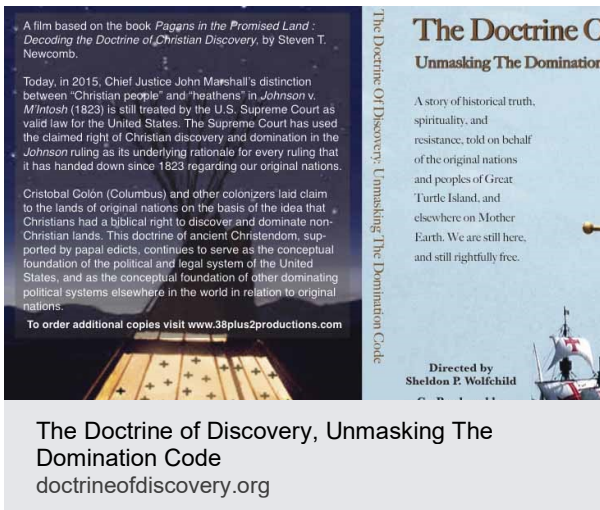
Why do we, should we, care about climate change and creating adaptations, mitigations, and resiliency strategies? If we don't change the 'system'—the paradigm—that got us to this moment in human history, then how are we to "prevent" furthering the direction in which we are already going? How are we to avert the disaster of climate collapse (along with the global war-based economy) that appears to already be upon us...if one takes a global perspective and actually sees the devastation already happening...and who is suffering first and foremost.

After having a near death experience 14 years ago, I decided that the best use of what time I have left was to lean into what Leverage Point 1....the most difficult one in Meadows analysis...but also the one with

the most opportunity for real change. So...for better or for worse, here I am leaning into that this morning with the two of you. You may want to stop reading right here!!!!

Where am I going with this? Not sure. Looks something like this:

As far as I've been able to tell, our "system" of politics and economics, our American political economy, is rooted in the "dominant culture". What is that? It's about the empire building mindset of Imperial Europeans unleashed in the 1500-1600s that sought to "conquer" the world...the conquistador mind set of what were then, White, Christian royalty "empowered" by the Pope to tame the savages...those darker skinned, less than, humans wherever they were "discovered". And oh yes, having "dominion" over Nature as well. So...how is this "domination"—having "Divine" dominion—working out for "us"?



Really, really well for a Few. Not so good for The Rest of Us. The "wealth" gap continues to grow.

So...as for the Present:

As the county council has declared "racism" to be a public health crisis and as it's widely recognized (among some anyway) that land use planning was "created" as a mechanism to protect and grow the wealth of (mostly White male) property owners, how can what you are now doing shift the "nexus of power" and empower those who have been historically dis-empowered? It's one thing to ask for input from these communities of mostly non-White, non-owners of capital resources, and that's a good and important thing to start with. It's another entirely different thing to actually empower "them" (those pesky "Others") as equals partners in designing a future for all of our descendants. Especially when many of those Others originate from colonized cultures that don't have the same worldview of "dominion". Rather, relationships and reciprocity are design imperatives...not the extraction and aggregation and control of natural resource in service of individual wealth?

Is it possible to actually shift the paradigm of White dominant colonization and control of resources by a few (based on racism and genocide), to something more akin to well-being for all, seven generations into the future. What would it look like if "we" were asking the question: What does it look like in this moment to be good ancestors? Would that kind of question open up possibilities for a common ground of thinking outside boxes...across silos? To make peace with Mother Earth...nature and all our relations.



Pull Together Now
pulltogethernow.earth

I don't know. And perhaps designing a climate element for the comp plan update is not the "place" for trying to do that.

For better or worse, I'm just thinking out loud with you two, (I hope) this beautiful morning.

May The Force be with you.

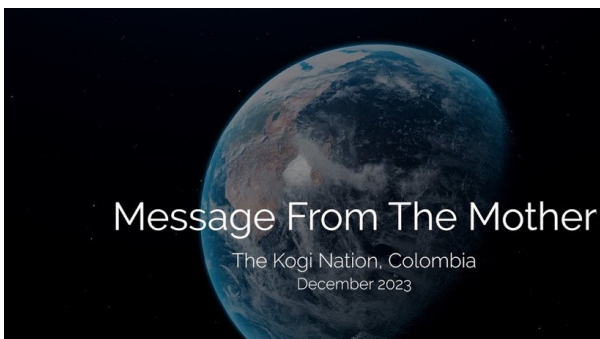
I also want to acknowledge and honor and empower the voices of my "daughters" Monica Zazueta and Karissa Hallstrom as "young" mothers trying to bring a voice of their ancestors and descendants to the comp plan planning table. They speak for many whose power has been "dominated". And Almendra Velazquez-Perez and Paris Nelson.

It could be true that

all you need is love you tube
google.com



And that the Kogi prophecy of the Original People of "the Americas" should be paid attention to



Message from the Mother ~ the Kogi Nation,
Colombia - December 2023
youtube.com