

Brainerd Lakers United for the Environment (BLUE) Minutes

Date: February 10th, 2019

Time 2:20

Present: Dean, Larry, John Reynolds, Pat, Richard, Judy, Isaiah, Gayle

Treasurer

Pat received a notice from the State with BLUE's non-profit code, but not the certificate. She will check with the credit union to determine whether that is adequate for setting up our account.

Contact List

BLUE contacts are maintained in Excel and as G-mail Contacts. Three tabs will be maintained in Excel: BLUE email list, BLUE Partners, and Archived. The G-mail Contacts will have three groupings: BLUE members, BLUE events, and BLUE partners.

Periodic letters to the Editor

Pat had a letter published in multiple outlets during the third week in January. Karen has one pending, Pat will submit another during the third week in February, Judy in the 4th week, Dean in the 1st week of March, and Larry in the 2nd week of March. Other members are encouraged to join the rotation. As a reminder, the website engage@newmode.net has templates on a variety of topics. Please forward notice of your published letters to Dean for tracking at brainerdblue@gmail.com. BLUE events will be tracked under a separate tab in the same Excel workbook.

Membership Recruiting Strategies

Two BHS Eco-club members and an advisor are among our contacts. Ten new contacts were added via names collected at the CCL presentation in January. Sign-up sheets will be available at future events. MN350 will provide a list of their contacts in the Brainerd Lakes Area for addition to our contacts.

Develop Environmental Scorecard for 2020 Candidates

BLUE members will review the Clean Water Action website to glean information on local candidates at <https://www.cleanwateraction.org/states/minnesota>. This information will be published on the BLUE website, the Standup Brainerd Lakes Environment Facebook page, and in a letter to the editor.

Minnesota 100% Campaign

Chris Conry's visit is planned for Wednesday evening February 27th at the Brainerd Library's large meeting room, please keep the date open. A flyer will be prepared and distributed once artwork is received from Mr. Conry. Gayle will coordinate with Karen to provide refreshments. A Zoom meeting will be held to finalize planning for the event next week. Doug will be asked to check on placing an ad in the Dispatch for \$150 or less. John will forward information on the event to Don Hickman for publication in his newsletter

Chris is also working with CLC instructors to set up a second visit on campus during Earth Day week, BLUE hopes to have a presence at that event, but will leave the details to the CLC staff members.

It was suggested that an interview or feature story with the Dispatch and/or Local Television might be arranged during one of Mr. Conry's visits.

The goal of Minnesota 100% Campaign is to convince campuses and cities across Minnesota to go 100% renewable: <https://environmentminnesota.org/sites/environment/files/cpn/AMN-112818-A1/index.html>

Citizens Climate Lobby (Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act)

A good turnout participated in the CCL presentation, a couple of attendees expressed interest in joining the group in launching a local chapter. A brief discussion was held on this approach, while it leaves change up to pricing of carbon products rather than regulation, it may be an effective approach nationally where carbon producing states would be drawn along with more enlightened states in addressing the issue (<https://citizensclimatelobby.org/>).

MN350 Statewide Call on Clean Transportation

This call was largely conducted to gather information from outstate participants in regard to obstacles and positive observations in moving toward the widespread use electronic vehicles. The attendees' consensus seemed to be limited vehicle range combined with an inadequate network of charging stations is the principal deterrent to more widespread adoption. The group leaders will maintain contact with the attendees to provide and collect information on the issue.

Earth Day March

BLUE will host a march from Gregory Park to NW 4th St for a vigil and then return to the park on Saturday, April 27th, beginning at 10 a.m. Details will be worked out future meetings. Please save the date and plan to participate.

Water Action Day

Water Action Day is coming up on Wednesday April 10th. Members are encouraged to register for the event at their earliest opportunity. It provides a chance to network with activists from around the state, to receive training on how to advance your position, an opportunity to meet face to face with your legislators, and a chance to participate in a rally inside the capitol rotunda. A free bus takes outstate members to St. Paul, if enough of us register in time we may be able to arrange a stop in Brainerd, if not we may need to arrange to meet the bus on its route from Wadena to Little Falls.

Other Business

Pat will check with Bethlehem Lutheran in regard to having a BLUE presence at the Eco-Summit scheduled there for March 30th. She noted however that she will miss our March meeting.

Karen will contact Carrie Ruud requesting that she meet with BLUE to discuss environmental issues. For her information Senator Hawley (R) Stillwater is co-sponsoring the MN 100% bill this session.

Dean will check with the Minnesota Environmental Partnership in regard to enrolling BLUE as a member organization.

Lakes Area Move to Amend is planning to sponsor a single artist play on early 20th century activist and congresswoman Jeannette Rankin at a local venue, BLUE agreed to endorse the event. Please watch for further information.