

Brainerd Lakers United for the Environment (BLUE)

Minutes

Sunday July 14th 2019, 2:00 pm Monthly Meeting at UCC

Time 2:00; Present: Dean, Pat, Isaiah, Reema, Judi, Richard

BUSINESS

- Candidate Environmental Scorecards:

The group's consensus was to limit the scope of the scorecards to locally elected candidates. (it was not determined whether to extend this to some limit beyond Brainerd/Baxter municipal and Legislative District 10A/B candidates).

The CWA and LCV links provided in the agenda both appear to provide useful information toward the purpose of creating the BLUE scorecard. The Indivisible link just went to sending them an email, one was sent requesting the BLUE email address be added to their mailing list, but no response has been received to date.

An on-line search for additional sites which yielded a list of forty plus links that will be attached to the mailing of these minutes. To facilitate a review of these sites we decided to split the list for members to review. Dean will take links numbered 1-10, Judi/Richard links #11-20, Pat links #21-30, Karen links #31-40, Sharli links #41 and above, as well as the two '**Other Websites of Interest**' listed below. Please render your opinion on whether the site would have value (yes/no) to be monitored in regard to preparing our scorecard in time for our August meeting.

We had a limited discussion on how to distribute the scorecards beyond our mailing list. Suggestions were to provide it to the Hickman's for their news letter and to place it in the Dispatch. Any other ideas are welcome.

- Electric vehicle event – Melissa has been unable to gain support from dealers, as they are not able to guarantee the availability of vehicles on their lots, so this project is indefinitely suspended. If members know of any private owners of E-Vs who might be amenable to participating in a demonstration event, please advise BLUE and perhaps we can rekindle this event. It was suggested a firm date for such an event should be set and if dealerships happen to have an E-V in stock they could participate. It was noted Global Climate Change Strike Day is set for Friday Sept. 20th, which could be made a target. <https://www.brightest.io/cause/fridays-for-future/activity/global-climate-strike-september-20/>. This action aligns with the UN Climate Change Summit in NY the fourth week in September 2019.
- BLUE's participation in the Brainerd 4th of July Parade was assessed to have been a success by the members present.
- If the parade float is to be rebuilt it was suggested the decking be replaced with 5/4" treated lumber rather than plywood.
- A suggestion to change BLUE's meeting time from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm on the 2nd Sunday of each month. Please respond to the email containing these minutes if you have a preference in one of these times over the other.

Other Business

- Next year will be the 50th anniversary of Earthday, the Nature Conservancy plans a celebration and BLUE may look to partnering in the event.
- Eleanor Burkett of the Nature Conservancy in regard to their 'Our Mississippi, Our Future' project plans to host local reachout sessions to recruit and train parties interested in non-partison environmental political activism in the upper Mississippi basin, Dean will meet with her to discuss the initiative over the coming week.
- A response from WCAN was received in regard to BLUE's query on their experience in affiliating with MN350 will be attached to the email to which these minutes are attached, please review it and respond if you have any comments.

Other websites of interest:

<https://environmentminnesota.org/sites/environment/files/cpn/AMN-112818-A1/index.html>

<https://citizensclimatelobby.org/>

Treasurer's Report

Doug, Pat, Isaiah, and Dean are now registered in BLUE's account at the credit union. Isaiah's address has been changed to 610 2nd St SW, Staples, MN. A discussion determined Larry Fisk is also approved be added to the account if he believes this would be of value to his efforts with this organization.

No change, 452\$ in checking account and 5\$ in savings.