

BLUE Minutes

Date: October 13, 2019

Time 3:00 pm

Attendees: Pat, Isaiah, Reema, Dean, Karen, Doug, and Eleanor Burkett

BUSINESS

Affiliation with MN350

After a brief discussion, a motion was made, and a vote passed to affiliate with Minnesota 350.

Candidate Scorecard

Karen will look at the links that she had posted in previous minutes and present examples of a scorecard at the next meeting. Ellie stated that there would be a Candidate Environmental Forum in September of 2020 and an up-to-date scorecard would be very useful. Blue will co-sponsor the event as in 2018. The event will be held at the Northland Arboretum.

Karen will also look for an environmental scorecard from CCL.

Letters to the Editor

Pat is considering a letter to the Dispatch on the topic of reducing plastic cups/straws and Styrofoam containers.

New Business

The Nature Conservancy's 'Our Mississippi, Our Future' initiative is hosting a round table in support of their purpose – "(to) Educate and mobilize current and future voters in the Brainerd Lakes Area through forums, publicity, and legislative engagement to move our decision makers to act responsibly in holding up the value of the Mississippi River watershed and protecting it now and for future generations." On Thursday December 5th at 6:00 – 8:00 pm, tentatively in the CLC cafeteria. BLUE members will be invited, and the membership may receive requests to help provide support in the presentation of roundtable. Eleanor is the initiative's local contact with the Nature Conservancy, and Dean is on the initiative's local leadership team. The initiative is well aligned with BLUE's water quality focus area.

Doug shared Brainerd Dispatch article about BHS students who attend the Nobel Conference 55 in September at Gustavus Adolphus.

Pat – Electric Vehicles: as a result of the Volkswagen settlement, grant money is available from the MPCA. Grant monies are available for non-Tesla charging stations for EV. Pat has contacted MPCA to see how to apply for a grant for the next round of grant awards. Ellie suggest that Todd Holman from Baxter City Council is well connected and would be a great resource. Pat also contacted a couple who won an electric vehicle, but they will be travelling south for the winter.