

BLUE Minutes

Date: November 10, 2019

Present: Dean, Karen, Pat, Doug

Time 3:00

BUSINESS

Affiliation with MN350

Dean stated that this will be further discussed when Larry is present.

OMOF Roundtable Discussion (Our Mississippi Our Future)

Blue is supporting OMOF's Roundtable Discussion, Thursday, December 5th from 6:30-8:30 pm at CLC Cafeteria. The purpose of the roundtable is to support the purpose of OMOF: "(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."

Dean has attended meetings about the event, and he reported that there has been a Brainerd high school student involved in these meetings. A small panel of interested people are being recruited to give short presentations on the values behind the purpose of OMOF and obstacles that need to be overcome.

Area elected officials have been invited to the event and as of this meeting, Dean reported that they have not heard from Representatives Heintzman and Leuck.

Invitations are being sent out. Blue members are encouraged to attend AND to spread the word about the roundtable.

Letters to the Editor

Pat wrote a letter to the editor that was published in the Brainerd Dispatch on climate change. She composed this letter after attending the Water Summit in Onamia on November 2nd, with Ellie Burkett. Pat reported that there was not a large turnout. Winona LaDuke was a featured speaker.

Electric Vehicle

Pat – It might be best to apply for VW monies for an EV charging station in downtown Brainerd. Pat is following up on the steps needed to apply and receive the grant dollars from the MPCA. We could apply for 1 fast charging station or 3 slower charging stations.

Pat is also going to check the schedule of classes offered by Happy Dancing Turtle's Back to the Basics in February, when it becomes available.

Environmental Candidate Scorecard

Karen brought examples of existing scorecards. Blue's intent is to create a scorecard before the 2020 Candidate Forum at the Arb. Attached is a link to: <http://www.checkmylegislator.org/legislators/josh-heintzman/>

This link related to conservation issues shows how the representative voted on an issue and how the House or Senate voted on the same issue. A brief explanation of the bill is also presented. Blue members agreed that this is a valuable resource in developing our scorecard.

ACTION: Members agreed that we would assign state representatives and senators to Blue members who can follow their voting records. Include the following: Rude, Gazelka, Paxton, Lueck, and Heintzman.

Blue also needs to research Brainerd/Baxter City Council members.

National Representatives

Karen found the following website that presented all the information that we need for a scorecard:

<https://cleanwaterscorecard.org>

Karen presented information on the Minnesota Congressional delegation voting records. The format is an excel spreadsheet of voting records of each representative (Klobuchar, Smith, Franken, Walz, Lewis, Paulsen, McCollum). Each bill is briefly described. Blue likes this format and hopefully in the near future, there will be information published on Representative Stauber.

Karen will bring the materials to the next meeting for those members that were not in attendance.

BACP

On November 29th, there will be a peace vigil and Pie Social at UCC; 415 Juniper Street. The Peace Vigil Will be from 1-2 pm at the corner across from the water tower and the pie social will be held from 2-1 at UCC. All are invited

Treasurer's Report

Pat reported we have 502\$ in our account. There have been no withdrawals. Tax forms need to be filled out by Isaiah.

Do we need a PO Box?