

Brainerd Lakers United for the Environment (BLUE)

November 11th Meeting Agenda

The December monthly meeting will be held on-line via Zoom, a link will be provided in the cover letter for this agenda. The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be restricted to 40 minutes by Zoom, so please join on time. You may reply to the cover email if you wish to have anything added or changed in the agenda.

Current Business:

- Aurora Vautrin (and possibly Chris Conry) of the 100% MN Campaign will expand on the explanation of their 'Season's of Citizenship' initiative interrupted during last month's meeting. As much time as needed will be allotted. Please review background information on the 'Seasons of Citizenship' initiative at:
- <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1pNZFRTDcjdXWzzopAhGVEy0kMkDiAe1Lo5GlzSLDnQM/edit>
- Discussion of BLUE's participation in a joint online meeting with LAMTA, BACP, BLA-DSA, and BLA-Pride being proposed by LAMTA's Jill Hinkenmeyer in January.
- Discussion of the 'Water Protectors' continued resistance to Line 3. Are revised signs/posters available? Recap of DSA's December 4th caravan to Camp Migizi.
- Further discussion of BLUE facilitating a 'plastics audit' on or around Earth Day 2022 in support of the Break Free from Plastics Act.
- Discussion to identify possible future BLUE events or actions.

New Business:

- Treasure's report

Brainerd Lakers United for the Environment (BLUE)

November 11th Minutes

Brainerd Lakers United for the Environment (BLUE) held our monthly meeting on Thursday, November 11. The meeting took place online via the Zoom website. Dean Borgeson, Judi and Richard Schiller, Pat Scott, Doug Olson, and the 100% Campaign's Chris Conry and Ollin Montes joined the BLUE meeting.

The 100% Campaign is a Minnesota environmental organization dedicated to making a rapid, just, and equitable transition to 100% renewable energy sources. Chris Conry spoke for BLUE at the Brainerd public library in February 2019 and at Central Lakes College in April 2019. To learn more about the 100% Campaign, please visit 100percentmn.org

Chris Conry talked about the 100% Campaign's work. Over 60 organizations endorse the 100% Campaign's platform. The endorsing organizations include environmental, labor, business, and faith groups. (BLUE endorsed the 100% Campaign in early 2019).

[An obnoxious Zoom bomber hijacked the BLUE meeting. The original Zoom link had to be abandoned. Chris Conry reestablished a secure Zoom link. Chris, Dean, Doug, Ollin, and Pat rejoined the BLUE meeting. Unfortunately, Judi and Richard could not rejoin the BLUE meeting. Ollin had to leave for another meeting shortly after the BLUE meeting resumed].

Chris talked about the 100% Campaign's 'Seasons of Citizenship'. Seasons of Citizenship will discuss issues including the climate crisis, democracy, and work. Seasons of Citizenship will stress grassroots organizing. Seasons of Citizenship supports expanding voter access.

Seasons of Citizenship will organize voter registration and get-out-the-vote drives. There will be online presentations, cultural events, and dinners.

More information about Seasons of Citizenship can be found at:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1pNZFRtDcjdXWzzopAhGVEy0kMkDiAe1Lo5GlzSLDnQM/edit>

Because of the Zoom bomber's interruption, Chris could only give a short description of Seasons of Citizenship. BLUE members asked Chris if he and Ollin could join BLUE's December meeting. Chris accepted the offer. [Chris sent Dean and Doug an email after the meeting stating Ollin could not join the December BLUE meeting due to him having another meeting. Chris said the 100% Campaign's Aurora Vautrin will join the meeting. Chris may be able to join the December BLUE meeting].

BLUE will take precautions in the future to prevent Zoom bombings of our meetings. No information about the online BLUE meetings will be posted on Facebook. A waiting room will be set up so Dean, who hosts the online BLUE meetings, can screen visitors. Doug will take similar precautions for BLUE ally Brainerd Area Coalition for Peace (BACP) online meetings. BLUE and BACP will notify members of online meetings via email.

BLUE members discussed Water Protectors' continued resistance to Line 3. Camp Migizi remains open. Camp Migizi is asking for donations of winter clothes. Donations can be brought directly to Camp Migizi, which is located near Cloquet, or mailed to 1661 Reservation Road, Cloquet, MN 55720. Camp Migizi's Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/MigiziWillFly>

There will probably be many Water Protectors going to trial on various felony and misdemeanor charges in 2022. Over 900 people were arrested during the Line 3 protests. Trials will likely be held in Aitkin, Cass, Hubbard, Pennington, and Wadena County, where most of the arrests took place. Water Protectors, including Honor the Earth co-founder Winona LaDuke, are insisting on going to trial and contesting the charges against them. The trials could be used as a platform to denounce Line 3, Enbridge, police brutality, and the State of Minnesota's collusion with Enbridge. Sympathetic jurors could acquit the Water Protectors. Prosecutors may dismiss charges against Water Protectors if many trials end in acquittals and the cost of prosecuting Water Protectors becomes prohibitive.

Ron Turney, a member of the Indigenous Environmental Network, is flying a drone to monitor, record, and map the environmental damage caused by Line 3 construction. Honor the Earth supports Turney's work. The

images Turney released so far have shown terrible damage caused by drilling oil spills. The images can be viewed at the Honor the Earth Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/WinonaLaDukeHonorTheEarth/>

Doug will contact fellow BLUE member Donna Bowen to ask her if Honor the Earth plans to make new Shut Down Line 3 signs and banners. Donna knows Winona LaDuke well.

BLUE members discussed the potential plastic audits in Brainerd area schools Pat is working on. Pat reported she has not heard back again from the Pine River-Backus High School principal or from the Forestview Middle School principal on the plastic audits. Both principals expressed some interest in the plastic audits when Pat contacted them at the beginning of the school year in September. Pat will contact the principals, as well as Forestview Middle School science teacher Leticia Laske, after New Year's. Hopefully, there will be more interest in the plastic audits as Earth Day (April 22) draws near.

Other possibilities for plastic audits include The Shop (a Brainerd youth center) and church youth environmental groups.

Central Lakes College (CLC) sociology professor Gary Payne could help BLUE set up a film presentation of The Story of Plastic, an anti-plastic pollution documentary, at CLC during Earth Day week.

BLUE members discussed the Fall BACP Adopt a Highway cleanup. BACP has an Adopt a Highway section north of Little Falls. The cleanup went very well. 7 people joined the cleanup, including BACP/BLUE members Gayle Nielsen, Pat Scott, Isaiah Oleson, Richard and Judi Schiller, and Doug Olson and Doug's father Joe Olson.

BLUE treasurer Pat gave a report on the BLUE treasury. The BLUE treasury has \$310. [Pat's treasurer's report is attached to the BLUE meeting minutes. The information for September and October 2021 can be found on Sheets 3 and 4 of the report].

BLUE members discussed Lakes Area Move to Amend (LAMTA) member Jill Hinkemeyer's idea of a joint online meeting between LAMTA, BLUE, BACP, and Brainerd Lakes Area Democratic Socialists of America (DSA). The meeting would discuss ways the organizations can get the word out in the Brainerd community about our work and possibly plan a joint event.

BLUE members approved BLUE joining the proposed joint online meeting. BLUE members prefer the meeting be held in January. [Discussions about the joint online meeting continue. A fifth organization, Brainerd Lakes Pride, accepted an invitation from Jill to join the meeting. Wednesday, January 19 is a possible date for the meeting].

BLUE will hold our next monthly meeting on Thursday, December 9 online via Zoom. The BLUE meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. and last 40 minutes, the maximum amount of time Zoom provides for free meetings. BLUE will continue to meet online until at least April.

A link to the BLUE meeting on Zoom will be sent with the notice for the BLUE meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

BLUE Meeting Notes Submitted by Doug Olson