

Brainerd Lakers United for the Environment (BLUE) held our monthly meeting on Thursday, January 13 at 7 p.m. The meeting took place online via the Zoom website. Dean Borgeson, Judi Schiller, Richard Schiller, Pat Scott, Donna Bowen, Doug Olson, and Chris Conry, the Campaign Director of 'The 100% Campaign', joined the BLUE meeting.

The 100% Campaign is a Minnesota environmental organization which advocates a rapid and just transition to clean energy. Chris discussed 'The 100% Campaign's' Seasons of Citizenship campaign. Seasons of Citizenship emphasizes themes of climate, democracy, and work. Seasons of Citizenship aims to encourage more people to join the climate justice movement. Seasons of Citizenship will get people involved through webinars, in-person meetings, rallies, dinners, and meetings with policy makers. Chris talked about the 2022 mid-term elections. The governorship, state attorney general, secretary of state, state auditor, and the entire state legislature will be on the ballot. Democrats have a narrow majority in the Minnesota House of Representatives while Republicans have a small majority in the Minnesota Senate. Two U.S. House races, in Minnesota's First Congressional District (Representative Jim Hagedorn-Republican) and Minnesota's Second Congressional District (Angie Craig-Democratic) are projected to be close contests. Voter turnout will make a difference in the outcome of many races. The 100% Campaign supports expanding voting rights. The 100% Campaign supports restoring the right to vote to felons who served their prison sentences and automatic voter registration (i.e. an eligible voter is automatically registered to vote after renewing a driver's license or another government issued document). The 100% Campaign encourages people to attend their party's caucuses on Tuesday, February 1 so they can help pass pro-environment resolutions. The 100% Campaign has model resolutions for party caucuses. Minnesota has a projected budget surplus of \$7.7 billion. The 100% Campaign advocates using some of these funds for wetland restoration, home improvements to making existing homes more energy efficient, public transportation, disaster relief preparation (i.e. flooding, drought), and investments in renewable energy. Chris encouraged BLUE members who would like to learn more about The 100% Campaign's work and Seasons of Citizenship to contact him at chris@100percentmn.org or visit The 100% Campaign's website at www.100percentmn.org

On behalf of fellow BLUE members, Doug discussed BLUE's plans for 2022 with Chris, including BLUE joining the Brainerd Area Joint Democracy Meeting on Wednesday, January 19; possibly holding a Shut Down Line 3 vigil in front of the Brainerd Wells Fargo; BLUE's Earth Day Celebration in April; possible plastics audits in Brainerd area public schools to raise awareness about plastic pollution; BLUE hosting a film presentation of the 2019 documentary *The Story of Plastic*; and BLUE planning to host a booth at Arts in the Park in Gregory Park in late June.

Pat gave an update on the BLUE treasury. BLUE started December with \$310. The amount grew to \$420 after BLUE received \$110 in donations. \$134 was spent to renew the BLUE P.O. Box for one year. The current balance in the BLUE treasury, as of December 31, 2021, is \$286. The BLUE treasurer's report is attached to the BLUE January meeting minutes. Pat suggested BLUE hold a fundraiser in May to request donations to help fund BLUE's booth at Arts in the Park. A booth at Arts in the Park costs \$100. BLUE members agreed this was a good idea. The Arts in the Park booth is a good way for BLUE to share our pro-environment message with the public.

Pat plans to check if the Brainerd public library has a copy of *The Story of Plastic* BLUE could use for a film presentation. A copy of *The Story of Plastic* could be purchased so it would always be available. *The Story of Plastic* film presentation could be held at Central Lakes College (CLC), the Brainerd public library, or perhaps the Northland Arboretum. which holds events for Earth Day (April 22). Pat plans to ask CLC sociology professor Gary Payne if there is an active environmental group at CLC. Pat plans to ask Forestview Middle School science teacher Letitia Laske if there is an active environmental group at Forestview Middle School or Brainerd High School. If any of the Brainerd area schools or CLC has an active environmental group, BLUE could collaborate with them on the plastics audit or *The Story of Plastic* film presentation.

Meeting participants discussed the Brainerd Area Joint Democracy Meeting. Lakes Area Move to Amend (LAMTA), BLUE, Brainerd Area Coalition for Peace (BACP), Brainerd Lakes Area Democratic Socialists of America (DSA), and Brainerd Lakes Pride will participate in the Brainerd Area Joint Democracy Meeting.

The Brainerd Area Joint Democracy Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 19 at 7 p.m. on the Zoom website. The Zoom link to the Brainerd Area Joint Democracy meeting is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2188381311?pwd=K1REUHE4bVJDTkszYWN5UVhhZ2tjUT09>

The Brainerd Area Joint Democracy Meeting will discuss ways the participating organizations can get the word out to the Brainerd community about their work. The Meeting will also explore joint events the participating organizations could hold. Some of the participating organizations may be interested in holding a Shut Down Line 3 vigil or picketing pro-Line 3 politicians.

Donna mentioned Women Against Military Madness (WAMM) and Veterans for Peace, Chapter 27 (Twin Cities) hold weekly Shut Down Line 3 vigils outside the Governor's mansion. The Pipeline Blues vigils are held every Monday from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. The Governor's mansion is located at 1006 Summit Ave., St. Paul. For more information about the Pipeline Blues weekly vigils, please visit:

<https://www.womenagainstmilitarymadness.org/ongoing-wamm-events/2021/8/2/stop-line-3-rally-z4x32>



[Pipeline Blues Vigil — Women Against Military Madness](#)

Starting Nov. 8, 2021, the vigil will be held every Monday from 3:30-4:30 pm. WAMM and Veterans For Peace are sponsoring a regular "Stop Line 3!" vigil in solidarity with Water Protectors outside the Governor's Mansion, 1006 Summit Ave., St. Paul. All are welcome. Bring Signs. Spread the word! Sponsored by Women Against Military Madness, Climate Justice Committee and Veterans for Peace ...

www.womenagainstmilitarymadness.org

Brainerd Lakes Area DSA might hold a caravan to Camp Migizi in late January or February. DSA members discussed holding a caravan to support the Water Protectors at Camp Migizi at DSA's monthly online meeting on Tuesday, January 11. No firm date for the caravan was set. One possible date mentioned was Sunday, January 30.

Donna asked Honor the Earth's co-founder and Executive Director Winona LaDuke, who Donna knows, if Honor the Earth plans to make updated Shut Down Line 3 signs, banners, and flags. Donna hasn't heard back from Winona LaDuke. This is completely understandable, given how busy LaDuke is in the struggle against Line 3, calling for charges against arrested Water Protectors to be dropped, and challenging charges against her in Aitkin and Hubbard Counties. Donna plans to ask MN350.org and StopLine3.org if they have new Shut Down Line 3 signs, banners, and flags available.

BLUE will hold our next monthly meeting on Thursday, February 10 online via Zoom. The BLUE meeting will begin at 7 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 8:05 p.m. BLUE Meeting Notes Submitted by Doug Olson