

BRainerd LAKERS UNITED FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (BLUE) JANUARY 12TH, 2023, MEETING MINUTES

Brainerd Lakers United for the Environment (BLUE) held our monthly meeting on Thursday, January 12 at 7 p.m. The meeting took place online via the Zoom website. Dean Borgeson, Pat Scott, Richard Schiller, and Doug Olson joined the online BLUE meeting. BLUE meeting participants approved the Thursday, December 8 BLUE meeting minutes.

BLUE meeting participants discussed which organizations BLUE could donate the \$394.50 in the BLUE treasury to. BLUE is dispersing the funds in our treasury to a non-profit organization as part of the process of legally dissolving. The organizations meeting participants agreed BLUE might donate the treasury funds to are: Honor the Earth, Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light, MN 350.org, The 100% Campaign, and the Brainerd First Congregational United Church of Christ (UCC). The first four are environmental organizations. The Brainerd UCC provides BLUE a meeting place in the UCC Fellowship Hall. Only one of these organizations will be designated the recipient of the BLUE treasury funds. Meeting participants unanimously agreed Honor the Earth would be designated to receive the BLUE treasury funds. BLUE members admire Honor the Earth's frontline activism and courageous opposition to toxic pipelines like the Dakota Access Pipeline, Line 3, and Line 5. Honor the Earth is doing commendable work on the White Earth Reservation helping the Reservation communities transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy by building solar panels. Doug will send Honor the Earth an email asking if Honor the Earth can accept the funds from BLUE's treasury. [Doug emailed Honor the Earth on Monday, January 23. Doug will inform fellow BLUE members about Honor the Earth's response as soon as it is received]. Meeting participants agreed the Brainerd UCC will be designated the recipient of the BLUE treasury funds if Honor the Earth can't accept the funds. BLUE members who would like to donate to Honor the Earth can mail a check to Honor the Earth's new address at:

Honor the Earth
P.O. Box 155
Ponsford, MN 56575

Pat read the Dissolution Resolution at the BLUE meeting. BLUE members unanimously approved the Dissolution Resolution. Honor the Earth was designated the recipient of the funds from BLUE's treasury. A copy of the Dissolution Resolution is attached to the BLUE meeting minutes. Approval of the Dissolution Resolution begins the process of legally dissolving BLUE. Dean, Doug, and Pat, in their capacity as BLUE officers, will meet at Mid Minnesota Federal Credit Union in Brainerd on Wednesday, February 8 at 9:30 a.m. to sign the documents for the Dissolution Resolution. Pat said BLUE may be able to keep the BLUE acronym. Brainerd Lakers United for the Environment will legally dissolve but the name BLUE could still be used, either as an orphaned acronym (the name BLUE not standing for anything) or possibly under a different name, such as Brainerd Lakes United Environmentalists (BLUE). Pat will ask for legal advice on whether the BLUE acronym can be retained. If the BLUE acronym can't be retained, a completely new name will be used for the organization.

Honor the Earth planned to hold vigils outside the Aitkin County Courthouse on Wednesday, January 11, Thursday, January 12, and Friday, January 13 supporting Water Protector Scot Bol during his trial. Bol faced felony charges for peacefully resisting Line 3 construction. Bol planned to ask the judge to dismiss the charges. The Aitkin County attorney's office dropped charges against Bol on Monday, January 9, before the trial began. The Aitkin County attorney's office decided to drop the charges because Bol faced more serious non-Line 3 related charges in Duluth, the police officer who arrested Bol didn't want to miss training in order to testify, and the Aitkin County attorney's office didn't consider the trial a good use of the county's limited resources. This information can be found at: messagingmedia.co/aitkin/opinion/letters/letters-from-readers---1-11-23/article_8f662f80-9107-11ed-bc9b-77db410b528b.html. Honor the Earth held a vigil outside the Aitkin County Courthouse on Wednesday, January 11 to demand the Aitkin County attorney's office drop charges against the remaining Water Protectors facing trial, denounce Enbridge for the environmental damage Line 3 construction caused, and demand Line 3 be shut down. Bol spoke at the vigil.

BLUE's next monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, February 9 at 7 p.m. The BLUE meeting will be held online via the Zoom website. The BLUE meeting will last 40 minutes, the maximum amount of time Zoom allots for free meetings. BLUE meetings will be held online through at least April. A link to the February BLUE meeting will be sent out in the meeting notice.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

BLUE Meeting Minutes Submitted by Doug Olson

BRAINERD LAKERS UNITED FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (BLUE) JANUARY 12TH MEETING AGENDA

The January monthly meeting will be held on-line via the Zoom link provided in the cover email to which this agenda is attached. The meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. on the 3rd Thursday of the month. Please reply to the cover email if you have any questions or anything you wish to add to or change in the agenda.

CURRENT BUSINESS:

Select a non-profit to receive the balance of BLUE's banking account.

Review the draft resolution to dissolve and approve it for dissemination.

Discuss the Group's path forward.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion to identify possible future events or actions for the group.

Treasure's report