

Brainerd Lakers United for the Environment (BLUE) Minutes

Date: January 13, 2019

Time 2:00

Present: Dean, Larry, Karen, Michael, John Reynolds, Pat

Treasurer: Pat reported that the necessary application for BLUE has been filed with the Secretary of State. Waiting now for finalization.

Contact List

The Blue contact list has been consolidated with BACP contact list in an XCEL format. Dean sent out a mass email; of which, approximately 1/3 were returned. Larry provided Dean with additional names. These names will be added to the Master list

Periodic letters to the Editor

John Reynolds had a letter published within the past 2 weeks. The theme of the letter was “when will the legislature take action” r/t dog safe trapping.

Pat and Karen still have letters to write. As a reminder, the website engage@newmode.net has templates on a variety of topics.

Dean requested that a copy of each letter be forwarded to Dean for tracking at brainerdblue@gmail.com

Membership Recruiting Strategies

Attendance continues to be low. Larry suggested that the next Blue meeting (February) will be both a live meeting and a Zoom meeting to see if this strategy will encourage additional members to call in. Larry also contacted the Eco Club at BHS

Develop Environmental Scorecard for 2020 Candidates – tabled for January meeting

BLUE members believe we should develop this, especially for local candidates. This scorecard would then be published on the BLUE website, Standup Brainerd Lakes and in a letter to the editor. A good starting point is to review the scorecards found on <https://www.cleanwateraction.org/states/minnesota>

Minnesota 100% Campaign

The goal of Minnesota 100% Campaign is to convince campuses and cities across Minnesota to go 100% renewable: <https://environmentminnesota.org/sites/environment/files/cpn/AMN-112818-A1/index.html>

Larry and Gayle attended the December and January meetings. Larry shared the coalition's timetable. Campaign Manager Chris Conry will visit Brainerd in February on any date except 2/14 or 2/18. It was suggested that this be a public event, and in addition, that he attend Dave Kobilka's Earth Science class at CLC or Scott Foster's Culture and Environment class. Michael will contact these instructors to see if they are interested in this speaker at their class. Dean will set up at Zoom meeting to plan this event. Michael volunteered to help and Dean will invite other members for their assistance.

Citizens Climate Lobby (Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act)

From their website (<https://citizensclimatelobby.org/>),

“CCL empowers everyday people to work together on climate change solutions. Our supporters are organized in more than 400 local chapters across the United States. Together we are building support in Congress for a national bipartisan solution to climate change.”

This event is scheduled for January 19, 2019 at 1:30 at the Brainerd Public Library. Set up is at 1:00 pm. Presentation from 1:30-2:30 with a question period following.

Other Business

Karen will contact Carrie Ruud requesting that she meet with BLUE to discuss environmental issues. Karen still needs to do this.

Larry reported on MN Can't Wait rally at the Capitol 1/09. Approximately 100 students met with Governor Walz and the head of the PCA. The governor was very receptive.

Dean and Pat will attend a MN 350 Statewide call on Clean Transportation – Zoom meeting; Tuesday, January 15, from 10-11:30.