

Brainerd Lakers United for the Environment (BLUE)

Agenda

Thursday July 8th 6:30 pm Monthly Meeting

The July monthly meeting will be held outdoors in the SW sector of Gregory Park, weather permitting. The event will be moved across the street to UCC if the conditions warrant.

Old Business:

- Discussion of the Stop Line 3 vigil held on Saturday, June 19th.
- Discussion of the success of BLUE's booth at the Arts in the Park festival on Sunday June 27th. (We received multiple donations and collected contact information from about twenty individuals.)
- The Stop Line 3 vigil scheduled for Saturday July 3rd was postponed until Saturday July 17th at 3:00 pm due to the 4th of July holiday weekend. This is in alignment with last month's decision that future vigils will be held once a month on the first Saturday, with the 3rd Saturday kept in reserve should a conflict arise. The time and location will remain the same.
- The BACP vigil/meeting scheduled for Monday, July 5th from 6:00/7:00 pm was postponed until Monday, July 12th.
- Discussion of the MN Court of Appeals decision to allow Line 3 construction to continue.
- Discussion to identify possible future BLUE events or actions.

Other ideas?

New Business:

- Treasure's report

BLUE MINUTES – Thursday, June 10th, 2021

Brainerd Lakers United for the Environment (BLUE) held our monthly meeting on Thursday, June 10. The BLUE meeting took place in the Brainerd United Church of Christ (UCC) Fellowship Hall because it was too hot to meet at Gregory Park. (Temperature around 90 degrees at 6:30 p.m.) Dean Borgeson, Judi and Richard Schiller, Holden Hollister, and Doug Olson joined the BLUE meeting.

BLUE meeting participants discussed the recent Treaty People Gathering event. Treaty People Gathering took place from Saturday, June 5 through Tuesday, June 8. Treaty People Gathering, led by Indigenous Water Protectors, brought over 2,000 people from around the United States, Canada, and other nations to protest against Line 3 and call upon the Biden Administration and courts to shut down Line 3. Treaty People Gathering brought together people of diverse ethnicities, backgrounds, and ages.

2,000 people joined a march against Line 3 at Treaty People Gathering on Monday, June 7. Hundreds of people committed civil disobedience by shutting down Line 3 work sites and a pump station. Water Protectors and environmentalists occupied the pump station for 29 hours. Over 150 people were arrested for committing civil disobedience. New Water Protector camps are being established along the headwaters of the Mississippi River.

Holden discussed Treaty People Gathering. Holden, fellow BLUE members Larry Fisk and Gayle Nielsen, Basil Harrington from Brainerd Lakes Area Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) and Basil's younger sister joined Treaty People Gathering. All of them enjoyed the event. They were impressed by how well-organized Treaty People Gathering was.

Fellow BLUE member Donna Bowen also joined Treaty People Gathering. She enjoyed the event. Donna is friends with Winona LaDuke, co-founder of Honor the Earth, an Indigenous-led environmental group, and key organizer of Treaty People Gathering.

Holden said the Treaty People Gathering participants he spoke with were fairly optimistic the Biden Administration and/or the courts would intervene to shut down Line 3.

The Minnesota Court of Appeals plans to make a ruling on Line 3 by Monday, June 21. The Minnesota Court of Appeals will rule if Enbridge must stop Line 3 construction based on the lack of economic need for the tar sands oil Line 3 is transporting. The Minnesota Department of Commerce, Honor the Earth, the Sierra Club, Earth Justice, the Red Lake Band of Ojibwe, and the White Earth Band of Ojibwe are asking the Court to shut down Line 3 because there is no economic justification for it.

There are other legal challenges at the federal level against Line 3 involving treaty rights and the need for much more thorough environmental reviews.

BLUE and DSA cancelled our Stop Line 3 vigil scheduled for Saturday, June 5 because of the extremely hot temperatures that day. (High of 98 degrees). BLUE meeting participants agreed if the weather is too hot (90 degrees or more) or humid, the Stop Line 3 vigil scheduled for that day should be cancelled. Deciding whether to cancel a Stop Line 3 vigil would be a joint decision by BLUE and DSA.

BLUE and DSA will hold our Stop Line 3 vigil on Saturday, June 19. The vigil will be held at the intersection of Sixth and Washington Streets, Brainerd, across from the historic Brainerd water tower. The vigil is scheduled to last from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Meeting participants discussed whether BLUE should change our monthly meeting date and time to the first Saturday of the month at 2 p.m. Meeting participants decided to keep the BLUE monthly meetings on the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. because there was not enough interest

in meeting on the first Saturday of the month and potential conflicts with meeting on the first Saturday such as holiday weekends and BLUE members working or being out-of-town.

BLUE will host our booth at Arts in the Park Community Corner on Sunday, June 27. Arts in the Park will be held in Gregory Park from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

There will be two hour shifts at the BLUE booth. Fellow BLUE member Pat Scott volunteered for the 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. shift. Richard and Judi volunteered for the 12 to 2 p.m. shift. Dean volunteered for the 2 to 4 p.m. shift. Doug will volunteer at the booth from 3:30 to 4 p.m. after finishing work. Dean and Doug will dismantle the booth. Holden volunteered to be a substitute. If anyone is interested in volunteering for the 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. shift alongside Pat or the 2 to 4 p.m. shift alongside Dean, please contact Dean at dborgeson@crosslake.net

Pat will bring a card table, BLUE literature, and donation baskets to the booth. Dean will bring chairs to the booth. Dean will bring a Stop Line 3 sign to the booth.

The BLUE booth will be a great way for BLUE to get the word out in the community about our environmental activism and raise awareness about environmental issues, such as Line 3. If the booth goes well, BLUE may host it again next year.

BLUE and DSA may not hold the Stop Line 3 vigil on Saturday, July 3 because of how busy it will be Fourth of July weekend and potential conflicts. Instead, the July Stop Line 3 vigil may be held on Saturday, July 17. Doug will ask DSA members their thoughts on holding the Stop Line 3 vigil on Saturday, July 17 instead of Saturday, July 3.

No decision has been made about BLUE and Brainerd Area Coalition for Peace (BACP) participating in the Brainerd Fourth of July parade on Sunday, July 4. Doug will ask Larry and Gayle if they believe BLUE and BACP should march in this year's parade. Larry and Gayle have the float and BACP banner for the parade.

If BLUE and BACP do not participate in the Brainerd Fourth of July parade, a peace and environmental justice vigil will be held on Monday, July 5. The vigil would be held at the intersection of Sixth and Washington Streets, Brainerd, across from the historic Brainerd water tower. The vigil would be held from 6 to nearly 7 p.m. The vigil would take place before the BACP monthly meeting. The BACP monthly meeting would be held in Gregory Park, weather permitting, or in the Brainerd UCC at 7 p.m.

BLUE will hold our next monthly meeting on Thursday, July 8. The BLUE meeting will be held at the southwest corner of Gregory Park. The BLUE meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. If bad weather prevents a meeting at Gregory Park, the BLUE meeting will be held in the Brainerd United Church of Christ (UCC) Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m. The Fellowship Hall is located in the downstairs section of the UCC. The UCC is located at 415 Juniper Street, Brainerd, near the southwest corner of Gregory Park.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

BLUE Meeting Notes Submitted by Doug Olson