

BLUE MINUTES – Thursday, July 8th, 2021

Brainerd Lakers United for the Environment (BLUE) held our monthly meeting on Thursday, July 8. The BLUE meeting took place at Gregory Park. Dean Borgeson, Judi Schiller, Richard Schiller, Pat Scott, Donna Bowen, and Doug Olson joined the meeting.

Pat shared the BLUE treasurer's report. BLUE has \$350 in our treasury. The BLUE treasurer's report is attached to the BLUE meeting minutes.

The BLUE booth at Arts in the Park on Sunday, June 27 went very well. Many people signed up for the BLUE contact list. BLUE received \$57 in donations. Almost all of the people who stopped by the BLUE booth supported BLUE's environmental activism and shared our opposition to Line 3.

The Saturday, June 19 Stop Line 3 vigil, co-hosted by BLUE and Brainerd Lakes Area Democratic Socialists of America (DSA), went well.

Around eight people joined the vigil. The vigil received a mostly positive response from passing motorists but there were more negative responses than prior Stop Line 3 vigils. This may be attributable to more tourists visiting the Brainerd Lakes Area.

The July Stop Line 3 vigil will be held on Saturday, July 17. 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.

BLUE members at the BLUE meeting agreed the August Stop Line 3 vigil should be held on Saturday, August 21 (the third Saturday of August) instead of Saturday, August 7 (the first Saturday of August) because the Crow Wing County Fair will be held on Saturday, August 7. (The Crow Wing County Fair will be held from Tuesday, August 3 through Saturday, August 7). Many BLUE members are Brainerd Area Coalition for Peace (BACP) members. BACP is hosting a booth at the Crow Wing County Fair. Holding the Stop Line 3 vigil on Saturday, August 21 avoids a conflict for BACP members volunteering at the BACP booth.

Doug will ask DSA members at the Tuesday, July 13 DSA meeting if DSA believes the August Stop Line 3 vigil should be held on Saturday, August 21. Depending on what works best for DSA members, the vigil will be held on Saturday, August 7 or Saturday, August 21.

The Minnesota Court of Appeals ruled in favor of Enbridge in a 2-1 decision in June. The Court's decision allowed Enbridge to continue Line 3 construction.

The Biden Administration came out in favor of Line 3 in late June. This means the Administration will not halt Line 3 construction.

The Minnesota Court of Appeals' decision and the Biden Administration's support for Line 3 are major setbacks for the environment and bellies the Biden Administration's claims to be taking climate change seriously. These decisions will prolong the struggle against Line 3 and make it much more likely Line 3 will be completed, despite its devastating consequences for the environment and trampling of Ojibwe treaty rights.

Water protectors are continuing the struggle against Line 3. They are actively monitoring Line 3 construction and publicly reporting environmental damage the construction is causing. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and local police are arresting Water Protectors despite their legal right to monitor Line 3 construction. They are forcibly closing Water Protector camps but new camps are being built. Hundreds of Water Protectors have been arrested since June.

Tribal treaty law attorneys are cautiously optimistic federal courts may eventually rule Line 3 construction violates tribal treaty rights.

The federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court, are more supportive of tribal treaty rights than state courts. If federal courts rule Line 3 violates tribal treaty rights, Line 3 could be shut down.

Pat shared information about the Break Free from Plastic Pollution Act. The Break Free from Plastic Pollution Act is pending legislation in both houses of Congress. The Break Free from Plastic Pollution Act would amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act "to reduce the production and use of certain single-use plastic products and packaging, to improve the responsibility of producers in the design, collection, reuse, recycling, and disposal of their consumer products and packaging, to prevent pollution from consumer products and packaging from entering into animal and human food chains..."

More information about the Break Free from Plastic Pollution Act is available at:

www.breakfreefromplastic.org/pollution-act

www.plasticpollutioncoalition.org provides information about plastic pollution.

breakfreefromplastic.org/brandaudit provides a training kit for plastic audits.

Pat asked if BLUE would be interested in sponsoring a plastic audit. A plastic audit could be done by students who would collect plastic. The project would be educational, showing how much plastic is being used.

BLUE members at the meeting were interested in hosting a plastic audit. The plastic audit could be done this fall or next spring (for Earth Day) if an interested teacher or youth center (i.e. The Shop) can be found to hold the plastic audit. Pat will look into the possibilities of finding an interested teacher to hold a plastic audit.

The information Pat shared about the Break Free from Plastic Pollution Act and plastic audits is attached to the BLUE meeting minutes.

BLUE will hold our next monthly meeting on Thursday, August 12. The BLUE meeting will be held in Gregory Park. Gregory Park is located at 511 North Fifth Street, Brainerd. 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 8 p.m.

BLUE Meeting Notes Submitted by Doug Olson

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
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