

Brainerd Lakers United for the Environment (BLUE)

November 11th Meeting Agenda

The November monthly meeting will be held on-line via Zoom, a link will be provided in the cover letter for this agenda. The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be restricted to 40 minutes by Zoom, so please join on time. You may reply to the email if you wish to have anything added or changed in the agenda.

Current Business:

- Chris Conway and Olin Montes of the 100% MN Campaign will take the first 20 minutes of the meeting to provide an update on their campaign and their 'Seasons of Citizenship' program.
- Discussion of the 'Water Protectors' continued resistance to Line 3. Are revised signs/posters available?
- Further discussion of the tribal suit for the rights of the entity 'wild rice' to survive and flourish along the route of Line 3.
- Further discussion of BLUE facilitating a 'plastics audit' on or around Earth Day 2022 in support of the Break Free from Plastics Act.
- Report on the October 16th BACP Hi-way cleanup project.

Discussion to identify possible future BLUE events or actions.

New Business:

- Treasure's report

Brainerd Lakers United for the Environment (BLUE)

October 14th Meeting Minutes

Brainerd Lakers United for the Environment (BLUE) held our monthly meeting on Thursday, October 14. The meeting took place in the Brainerd United Church of Christ (UCC) Fellowship Hall. Dean Borgeson and Doug Olson joined the BLUE meeting.

Dean and Doug discussed Water Protectors' continued resistance to Line 3. Water Protectors and other Line 3 opponents are determined to shut down Line 3. Line 3 became operational on Friday, October 1 despite the determined resistance of Water Protectors to stop Line 3 construction. Thousands of people joined the weeklong People vs. Fossil Fuels protest in Washington, D.C. People vs. Fossil Fuels lasted from Monday, October 11 through Sunday, October 17. People vs. Fossil Fuels demanded President Biden order the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to conduct an environmental impact statement on Line 3 and shut the pipeline down. Water Protectors delivered over one million signatures calling for Line 3 to be shut down to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers office. Water Protectors occupied the Bureau of Indian Affairs office in the U.S. Department of Interior Building. (This action was inspired by a historic sit-in at the Bureau of Indian Affairs office by the American Indian Movement in 1972). Police arrested 655 protesters during People vs. Fossil Fuels. The police brutally arrested some of the activists. Unfortunately, despite People vs. Fossil Fuels determined effort, President Biden continues to support Line 3.

On Thursday, October 14, MN 350.org, the Minnesota chapter of 350.org, an international environmental organization, held pickets outside of St. John's University and the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph where U.S. Senator Tina Smith gave a speech. The pickets called on Senator Smith, who has not made a public comment about Line 3, to speak out against Line 3. Inside the lecture hall, Brainerd Lakes Area Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) member Basil Harrington and other Water Protectors asked Senator Smith to speak out against the pipeline. Senator Smith ended her speech and left the stage after Water Protectors continued to insist she speak out against Line 3. Video of Senator Smith leaving the stage can be found at: <https://mobile.twitter.com/resistline3/status/1449065120513077248>



[Resist Line 3 on Twitter](https://mobile.twitter.com/resistline3/status/1449065120513077248)

"BREAKING: Activists just SHUT DOWN Senator Tina Smith's keynote speech, demanding she call on Biden to #StopLine3. Two minutes after taking the podium, Smith *fled* to her car to avoid questions about the Line 3 pipeline. Nice "climate leadership" @SenTinaSmith @TinaSmithMN.
<https://t.co/M4kiDXKQuS>

[mobile.twitter.com](https://mobile.twitter.com/resistline3/status/1449065120513077248)

Honor the Earth's Eighth Annual Ride Against the Current of the Oil went well. Ride Against the Current of the Oil took place between Wednesday, September 15 and Sunday, September 26. The Ride began at the Welcome Water Protectors Center near Palisade and ended at the Old Crossing and Treaty County Park in Red Lake Falls. Photos of Ride Against the Current of the Oil can be found at the Honor the Earth Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/WinonaLaDukeHonorTheEarth>

Water Protectors protested against Enbridge's sponsorship of Apple Fest, an annual celebration held in Bayfield, Wisconsin, during the weekend of Friday, October 1 through Sunday, October 3. Many people participated in the protest. Water Protectors tore down an Enbridge banner. A Water Protector in a bear costume stomped on the Enbridge banner. Water Protectors in Wisconsin and Michigan are trying to stop construction of a new Line 5 pipeline by Enbridge. Line 5 runs from Superior, Wisconsin to Sarnia, Ontario. The pipeline goes under the environmentally sensitive Straights of Mackinac, located between the Upper and Lower Peninsulas of Michigan. The pipeline runs through the Bad River Ojibwe Reservation located in northern Wisconsin. The Bad River Ojibwe Band is demanding the removal of the old Line 5 pipeline and opposes construction of the new Line 5 pipeline. Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer strongly opposes Line 5.

Governor Whitmer demanded Enbridge halt Line 5 construction in Michigan. Enbridge is defying Governor Whitmer's order, claiming Michigan has no authority to regulate the pipeline. The issue is being contested in federal court.

Four people joined the Stop Line 3 vigil hosted by BLUE and DSA on Saturday, September 18: BLUE members Donna Bowen and Doug Olson and DSA members Holden Hollister and Julius Kapushiniski. The vigil received a mostly positive response from passing motorists.

Two people joined the Stop Line 3 vigil held on Saturday, October 2: BLUE members Doug Olson and Pat Scott. The vigil received a mostly positive response from passing motorists.

DSA members agreed at the online Tuesday, October 12 DSA meeting the monthly Stop Line 3 vigils should be discontinued. Turnout is dwindling and vigil participants are feeling burned out. Instead, DSA members believed Shut Down Line 3 vigils should be held on an occasional basis.

Dean and Doug agreed with DSA's position on discontinuing the monthly Stop Line 3 vigils. Donna and Pat told Doug before the BLUE meeting the monthly Stop Line 3 vigils should be discontinued.

BLUE and DSA will continue to oppose Line 3. The demand to shut down Line 3 immediately will be incorporated into larger events, such as BLUE's Earth Day Celebration in April and Climate Justice vigil in September. A Shut Down Line 3 vigil could be held in front of the Wells Fargo bank on Washington Street in Brainerd to demand Wells Fargo stop financing Line 3. Donna suggested BLUE, DSA, Brainerd Area Coalition for Peace (BACP), and Lakes Area Move to Amend (LAMTA) hold a large Shut Down Line 3 vigil next spring. Dean and Doug discussed the possibility of BLUE and DSA picketing outside the venues where pro-Line 3 politicians speak.

Donna will ask Winona LaDuke, who she knows well, if Honor the Earth plans on creating new Shut Down Line 3 banners and signs. These would replace the Stop Line 3 banners and signs, which, sadly, are now outdated.

Dean and Doug discussed if it had been publicly known in January or June about Enbridge illegally piercing an aquifer near Clearbrook during Line 3 construction would there have been even more opposition to Line 3 and could this emboldened opposition have compelled Governor Walz or President Biden to shut down Line 3? Would the Minnesota Court of Appeals have ordered Line 3 construction halted in June if it had known about the breach? Enbridge and the so-called independent environmental monitors covered up the aquifer breach until June when they finally reported it to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The DNR covered up the breach until mid-September, when Line 3 construction was nearly complete. Enbridge failed to mitigate the damage it caused by a Friday, October 15 deadline.

The Fall BACP Adopt a Highway cleanup will be held on Saturday, October 16. BACP has an Adopt a Highway section north of Little Falls. Cleanup volunteers will meet at the former Cabin Fever restaurant parking lot, located off Highway 76, at 11 a.m. [The cleanup went very well. Seven people joined the cleanup, including BLUE/BACP members Pat Scott, Isaiah Oleson, Gayle Nielsen, Judi and Richard Schiller, and Doug Olson, and Doug's father Joe Olson].

Pat was not at the BLUE meeting, so there was no treasurer's report nor update on efforts to hold plastic audits in Brainerd area public schools this school year.

BLUE plans to hold at least one film presentation of *The Story of Plastic*, a documentary about plastic pollution, next spring. The film presentation would be held around Earth Day (April 22). The film presentation could be held at Central Lakes College. Another presentation of *The Story of Plastic* could be held at the Brainerd public library.

Dean mentioned the Minnesota DNR is requesting public comments about North Star Manganese, Inc.'s proposal to lease land to explore for manganese near Emily in northern Crow Wing County. If the permit to lease land to explore for manganese is granted, North Star could eventually open a manganese mine. Manganese can be used for electric car batteries. There are concerns about the environmental damage a mine could create. The DNR is accepting public comments on whether to grant the permits to North Star to lease land to explore for manganese until 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 30.

A link to the public comments section about North Star's proposed manganese exploration can be found at:

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/news/2021/10/01/dnr-considers-request-negotiated-state-minerals-leases-explore-manganese>

BLUE will hold our next monthly meeting on Thursday, November 11 online via Zoom. The BLUE meeting will begin at 6:30 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 7:55 p.m.

BLUE Meeting Notes Submitted by Doug Olson