

**Brainerd Lakers United for the Environment (BLUE)
February 10th Meeting Minutes**

Brainerd Lakers United for the Environment (BLUE) held our monthly meeting on Thursday, February 10 at 7 p.m. The meeting took place online via the Zoom website. Dean Borgeson, Judi Schiller, Richard Schiller, Steve Roe, Doug Olson, and Lakes Area Move to Amend (LAMTA) member Jill Hinkemeyer joined the BLUE meeting.

Honor the Earth held a rally outside the Aitkin County Courthouse on Thursday, February 10 to support Water Protectors facing criminal charges for committing civil disobedience in their efforts to stop the construction of Line 3. Unfortunately, a snowstorm hit the area early Thursday afternoon. The storm diminished rally turnout. The Honor the Earth Facebook page posted photos of the rally. Photos of the rally can be seen at <https://www.facebook.com/WinonaLaDukeHonorTheEarth>. Honor the Earth Executive Director Winona LaDuke testified at an evidentiary hearing held in the Aitkin County Courthouse for Julia Nerbonne, the Executive Director of Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light, and other Water Protectors facing criminal charges for committing civil disobedience against Line 3 construction. LaDuke is facing criminal charges for her activism against Line 3 in Aitkin and Hubbard Counties. A petition to drop all criminal charges against Water Protectors can be signed at <https://www.stopline3.org/drop-the-charges>.

Steve, an engineer, made an excellent point about Line 3 having an inherently unsafe design to transport tar sands. The pipeline is not built properly to transport tar sands. There is an almost near certainty Line 3 will leak in 3 to 5 years.

Dean, Judi, and Richard submitted pro-environment resolutions at the Tuesday, February 1 Democratic Farmer Labor (DFL) Party caucuses. All DFL Party caucuses took place online due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Brainerd Area Joint Democracy Group meeting held online on Wednesday, January 19 went extremely well. 11 people joined the meeting, including BLUE members Pat Scott, Judi, Richard, and Doug. Meeting participants agreed to hold monthly meetings and create a Facebook page. [LAMTA member Joe Stattine created a private Facebook page for the group before the next Brainerd Area Joint Democracy Group meeting on Wednesday, February 16].

BLUE members at the meeting endorsed the Brainerd May Day event. Brainerd Lakes Area Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) is organizing the Brainerd May Day event. The Brainerd May Day event will promote workers' rights and economic justice. The Brainerd May Day event will feature a parade from Brainerd Area AFL-CIO headquarters in downtown Brainerd to Brainerd city hall on Laurel Street. There will be a rally with speakers. More details about the Brainerd May Day event will become known as the event is organized. Brainerd Area Coalition for Peace (BACP) and LAMTA have endorsed the Brainerd May Day event. BLUE meeting participants believed BLUE should endorse the Brainerd May Day event because BLUE believes the transition to clean energy must be economically just and benefit everyone. BLUE supports workers in the renewable energy and electric vehicle industries organizing unions. This decision is preliminary. A final decision about whether BLUE will endorse the Brainerd May Day event will be made at the Thursday, March 10 BLUE meeting based on the opinions of fellow BLUE members. Doug will submit a question about endorsing the Brainerd May Day event in the February BLUE meeting minutes.

Should BLUE endorse the Brainerd May Day event? Please share your thoughts on BLUE possibly endorsing the Brainerd May Day event before the Thursday, March 10 BLUE meeting.

BLUE meeting participants discussed an Earth Day event proposed by Destiny Mankowski. Mankowski is the Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist in Morrison County. Mankowski contacted Dean in early February asking if BLUE would be interested in participating in her proposed Earth Day event at Rotary Pak in Brainerd on Saturday, April 23. She is looking for environmental and conservation organizations interested in hosting tables at the event. BLUE meeting participants agreed BLUE should participate in the Earth Day event. BLUE could host a table at the Earth Day event. BLUE would share our pro-environment message with Earth Day event attendees. Dean will send an email to Destiny Mankowski letting her know BLUE can join the Earth Day event. Please contact Dean at brainerdblue@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering at the BLUE table at the Earth Day event. [Doug asked at the Wednesday, February 16 Brainerd Area Joint Democracy Group meeting if other organizations involved in the group would be interested in hosting a table at the Earth Day event. DSA co-chair Julius Kapushinski expressed strong interest in DSA hosting a table at the event. Julius will contact Destiny Mankowski to let her know DSA is interested in hosting a table at the Earth Day event].

Dean will contact Pat to ask her for an update on possible plastic audits at Brainerd area public schools and a public film presentation of the 2019 documentary *The Story of Plastic*.

BLUE will hold our next monthly meeting on Thursday, March 10 online via Zoom. The BLUE meeting will begin at 7 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 7:40 p.m.

BLUE Meeting Notes Submitted by Doug Olson

Brainerd Lakers United for the Environment (BLUE)

February 10th Meeting Agenda

The February 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 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be restricted to 40 minutes by Zoom, so please join on time. You will be held in the waiting room until the meeting administrator admits you to the meeting so, please be patient. You may reply to the cover email if you wish to have anything added or changed in the agenda.

Current Business:

- Discussion of today's Rally for Water Protectors in Aitkin

- Discussion of 100% MN 'Seasons of Citizenship' caucus participation and submission of resolutions.

- Discussion of the Brainerd Area Joint Democracy Meeting held on Wednesday January 19th and meeting to be held on February 16th via Zoom @ 7:00 pm.

- Discussion of BLUE's participation/endorsement of a May Day event sponsored by the AFL/CIO on Sunday May 1st.

- Discussion of joining a possible Earth Day event in Rotary Park suggested by Pheasants Forever tentatively on Saturday April 23rd.

- Further discussion of BLUE facilitating a 'plastics audit' on or around Earth Day 2022 in support of the Break Free from Plastics Act and a showing of the 'Story of Plastics' movie.

- Discussion to identify possible future BLUE events or actions.

New Business:

- Treasure's report