

## **BRAINERD LAKERS UNITED FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (BLUE) May 12<sup>TH</sup> MEETING MINUTES**

Brainerd Lakers United for the Environment (BLUE) held our monthly meeting on Thursday, May 12 at 7 p.m. The meeting took place online via the Zoom website. Dean Borgeson, Judi Schiller, Richard Schiller, Pat Scott, Donna Bowen, and Doug Olson joined the BLUE meeting.

Meeting participants discussed the Brainerd Lakes Earth Day Community Fair held in Rotary Park on Saturday, April 23. BLUE hosted a table at the Brainerd Lakes Earth Day Community Fair. BLUE members Dean, Pat, and John Reynolds volunteered at the BLUE table.

The Brainerd Lakes Earth Day Community Fair went well. There was a good turnout despite the poor weather. Many fair attendees visited the BLUE table. The Break Free from Plastics literature offered at the table was popular. Five people signed up to be on the BLUE listserv.

Many children stopped by the BLUE booth. Some of the children colored in the ecology-themed coloring book Pat brought to the booth. Two of the children used markers and sign boards provided by the booth to create 'Save the Earth' signs.

John gave safe trapping demonstrations to show how to avoid trapping dogs. People watching the safe trapping demonstrations were surprised to find out how lax Minnesota's trapping regulations are. John's group **Dog Lovers 4 Safe Trapping MN** is working to persuade the legislature to pass stricter trapping regulations to prevent the accidental trapping of dogs.

Hopefully, Brainerd Lakes Earth Day Community Fair organizer Destiny Mankowski, who is a member of fair host North Country Pheasants Forever, considered the event successful. BLUE meeting participants hope the Brainerd Lakes Earth Day Community Fair will be held next year so BLUE can host a table again. Dean will send a follow up email to Destiny asking her if the fair will be held next year and thanking her for letting BLUE host a table at the fair.

[Doug visited the North Country Pheasants Forever Facebook page to see if there were photos from the Brainerd Lakes Earth Day Community Fair. There were photos from the fair, though, unfortunately none from the BLUE table. The post with the photos of the Brainerd Lakes Earth Day Community Fair said the event was successful. North Country Pheasants Forever plans to host the fair next year. Hopefully, BLUE can host a table at the fair again]. Photos from the Brainerd Lakes Earth Day Community Fair can be found at the North Country Pheasants Forever Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/NorthCountryPF>

The Brainerd May Day March, organized by Brainerd Lakes Area Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) and endorsed by several Brainerd organizations and unions, including BLUE, had a mixed outcome. Rainy weather reduced the turnout. Around 10 people joined the Brainerd May Day March held on Sunday, May 1. BLUE members Larry Fisk and Gayle Nielsen joined the Brainerd May Day March. March participants marched from the Brainerd AFL-CIO headquarters, located at 804 Laurel

Street in downtown Brainerd, to the Brainerd city hall, located at 501 Laurel Street. A short rally took place outside Brainerd city hall.

DSA co-chair and Brainerd May Day March organizer Julius Kapushinski said at the Tuesday, May 10 DSA meeting he plans to make changes to the Brainerd May Day March. Among these changes are holding the Brainerd May Day March on the Saturday closest to May 1 and possibly holding a picnic at Gregory Park as part of the event. Julius believes these changes will encourage more people to join the Brainerd May Day March in the future. Photos of the Brainerd May Day March can be viewed at the Brainerd Lakes Area DSA Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/BrainerdLakesAreaDSA>

The Spring Brainerd Area Coalition for Peace (BACP) Adopt a Highway cleanup held on Saturday, May 7 went well. Donna, Larry, Doug, and Doug's father Joe Olson joined the cleanup. Cleanup volunteers filled 12 garbage bags with litter.

A new restaurant called Knotty's on 371 is being built in the location of the former Cabin Fever restaurant. The former Cabin Fever restaurant parking lot is located off Highway 76, on the north end of Little Falls. BACP Adopt a Highway cleanup volunteers meet at the former Cabin Fever parking lot to hold a short assembly to plan the cleanup. The owner of Knotty's on 371 gave BACP Adopt a Highway cleanup volunteers permission to park in the parking lot for this and future cleanups. This is greatly appreciated. The Fall BACP Adopt a Highway cleanup will be held in September or October. Everyone is welcome to join the BACP Adopt a Highway cleanups.

Pat gave a treasurer's report. The BLUE treasury has \$286. A copy of the BLUE treasurer's report, showing the amount of money in the BLUE treasury as of March 31, 2022, is attached.

Dean will send out a fundraising appeal to the BLUE listserv asking for donations for BLUE. Donations to BLUE are greatly appreciated and help the organization pay for events, such as the table BLUE plans to host at Arts in the Park in Gregory Park on Sunday, June 26.

Pat said BLUE might consider holding a public presentation at the Brainerd public library, Central Lakes College, or another venue to discuss the climate interactive model. The climate interactive model shows people how certain changes, such as converting to electric cars, impact the environment. If people see the positive or negative changes to the environment shown by the climate interactive model, it may persuade them to make decisions more beneficial to the environment. For more information about this model, please visit: [www.climateinteractive.org](http://www.climateinteractive.org)

BLUE will hold our next monthly meeting on Thursday, June 9 at 7 p.m. Weather permitting, the BLUE meeting will be held in Gregory Park. Gregory Park is located at 511 North Fifth Street, Brainerd. If bad weather prevents an outdoor meeting, the BLUE meeting will be held in the Brainerd United Church of Christ (UCC) Fellowship Hall. The UCC is located at 415 Juniper Street, Brainerd, near Gregory Park. The Fellowship Hall is located in the downstairs section of the UCC.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m. BLUE Meeting Minutes Submitted by Doug Olson

## **BRAINERD LAKERS UNITED FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (BLUE) MAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MEETING AGENDA**

The May 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:**

- Report on the Earth Day event in Rotary Riverside Park hosted by Pheasants Forever on Saturday April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 12-3 p.m. The site was reserved from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. to allow for the setup and take down of booths. (A table with three chairs, BLUE brochures, Signup sheet, donation basket, Stop Line 3 placard, Break Free from Plastics' Campus Petition, Information on non-toxic shotshell alternatives & shotshell recycling, and a 'Plastic Free July' action list were provided by Dean Borgeson; Canopy and Dog safe trapping demonstration were provided by John Reynolds of [Dog Lovers 4 Safe Trapping MN](#); Art materials for children, with a table and chairs were provided by Pat Scott).
- Report on the May Day event sponsored by the AFL/CIO & endorsed by BLUE on Sunday May 1st.
- Report on the Brainerd Area Coalition for Peace Highway Cleanup Project held on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> on Highway 371 in Little Falls.
- Discussion of BLUE's potential participation in Brainerd's annual 'Arts in the Park' festival in Gregory Park on the final weekend in June.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Discussion to identify possible future BLUE events or actions.
- Treasure's report