

## **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

## **BRAINERD LAKERS UNITED FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (BLUE) APRIL 14<sup>TH</sup> MEETING MINUTES**

Brainerd Lakers United for the Environment (BLUE) held our monthly meeting on Thursday, April 14 at 7 p.m. The meeting took place online via the Zoom website. Dean Borgeson and Doug Olson joined the BLUE meeting.

Dean and Doug discussed the Brainerd Lakes Earth Day Community Fair being held on Saturday, April 23. The Brainerd Lakes Earth Day Community Fair will be held at Rotary Riverside Park. Rotary Riverside Park is located at East River Road, Brainerd, near Kiwanis Park. The fair is scheduled to last from 12 to 3 p.m. BLUE will host a table at the Brainerd Lakes Earth Day Community Fair. Dean, Pat Scott, and John Reynolds will volunteer at the BLUE table. Dean is bringing a Plastic Free Campus Pledge form for students to sign to ask their schools and colleges to stop using single use plastic items; Stop Line 3 literature; literature explaining how people can conduct plastics audits; sign-up sheets for the BLUE listserv; and a donation bin for the BLUE table. Pat will bring an ecology-themed coloring book, markers, and sign boards to the BLUE table so young people can use their creative skills to create pro-environment signs. John will demonstrate safe trapping techniques. The safe trapping techniques will help trappers avoid accidentally trapping dogs. [The Brainerd Lakes Earth Day Community Fair went very well. The weather cooperated for most of the time the fair took place. Dean said the BLUE table received a positive reception from fair attendees. Many BLUE table visitors picked up literature. Five fair attendees signed up to be on the BLUE listserv. Many young people created signs or colored in the ecology-themed coloring book. John taught several fair attendees safe trapping techniques]. [The Brainerd Lakes Earth Day Community Fair ended a half hour early at 2:30 p.m. as participation in the fair dwindled. Hopefully, Destiny Mankowski of North Country Pheasants Forever, which organized the fair, considered the event successful so it can be held again next year. If the fair is held again next year, BLUE could host a table again].

Dean and Doug discussed the upcoming Spring Brainerd Area Coalition for Peace (BACP) Adopt a Highway cleanup. The Spring BACP Adopt a Highway cleanup will be held on Saturday, May 7. Cleanup volunteers will meet at the former Cabin Fever restaurant parking lot at 11 a.m. to plan the cleanup. The former Cabin Fever restaurant parking lot is located off Highway 76, north of Little Falls. The cleanup will take about two hours. More information about the cleanup can be found at [www.brainerdpeace.org](http://www.brainerdpeace.org) under the Adopt-a-Highway Project section on the homepage. Everyone is welcome to join the cleanup.

Dean and Doug discussed the Brainerd May Day March. The Brainerd May Day March will be held on Sunday, May 1 at 1 p.m. The Brainerd May Day March begins with a rally at the Brainerd Area AFL-CIO headquarters, located at 804 Laurel Street, in downtown Brainerd. Brainerd May Day March participants will march from the Brainerd Area AFL-CIO headquarters to Brainerd city hall. Democratic Farmer Labor (DFL) Party 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District candidate Ernest Joseph Oppegaard-Peltier III will be one of the featured speakers at the event. Brainerd Lakes Area Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) organized the Brainerd May Day March. Several organizations have endorsed the Brainerd May Day March. Endorsing organizations include BLUE, BACP, Brainerd Lakes Pride, Lakes Area Move to Amend (LAMTA), the Crow Wing County DFL, TakeAction MN, Brainerd Trades and Labor, Teamsters Local 120, and Communications Workers of America Local 7250. The theme of the Brainerd May Day March is encouraging workers to organize unions so they can achieve better pay, benefits, and working conditions and have a say in their workplaces. The Brainerd May Day March will highlight the successful organizing efforts of the Starbucks Workers United Union. At least 30 Starbucks stores in the United States have become union stores since November 2021 and workers at many more Starbucks stores are in the process of organizing unions.

A Facebook Event Invite for the Brainerd May Day March can be found at:  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/696824828151436?ref=newsfeed>

BLUE plans to host a table at Arts in the Park on Sunday, June 26. Arts in the Park will be held in Gregory Park from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Gregory Park is located at 511 North Fifth Street, Brainerd. The BLUE table received a positive reception at last year's Arts in the Park. BLUE members look forward to hosting a table at Arts in the Park again.

Dean and Doug discussed whether BLUE should meet online or in-person for our Thursday, May 12 meeting. Dean and Doug decided the May BLUE meeting should be held online due to the recent cold weather. BLUE could meet in-person at Gregory Park, weather permitting, on Thursday, June 10. BLUE will hold our next monthly meeting on Thursday, May 12 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. A link to the BLUE meeting on Zoom will be sent with the notice for the BLUE meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. BLUE Meeting Notes Submitted by Doug Olson