

Earth Circle

Library Community Room, Grand Rapids, Minnesota

February 18, 2017; 2 pm

Attendance: approximately 10 members acted during the business meeting, and approximately 13 more came for the presentation.

Call to Order and Minutes:

The business started at 2:00; minutes were distributed.

Motion by Eddington, second by Alfuth, to approve the minutes; motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Plastic Bag Committee Report by Helmberger:

- ✓ During the Christmas season, approximately \$44 was given to grocery shoppers using reusable bags; many recipients repurposed the money to Salvation Army's Red Kettles.
- ✓ Letter to editor was sent to Duluth News Tribune in support on Duluth's single-use plastic bag ban.
- ✓ Letter was sent to new Grand Rapids City Councilor Connelly with background info on Bring Your Own Bag initiative in Grand Rapids, and stated that a ban will be pursued after Duluth or Minneapolis pass the regulation.

New Business:

GRHS Green Team Environment Day By consensus, Earth Circle will have a table display at this event to be held on March 27 (Monday) from 9 am to 11:30 at Itasca County Family YMCA.

Izaak Walton League/Wes Libby Chapter Water Days By consensus, Earth Circle will aim to participate and be listed as a sponsor at this event to be held on May 4 (Thursday), at Itasca Community College; time to be announced.

Earth Day Event Discussion was held to repeat the previous year's event held at Central Square Mall, but it was also noted that a March for Science is also planned for that day. Plans will be confirmed before the Earth Circle meeting on April 15.

Northern Lights Community School Reusable Bag Project/Fundraiser By consensus, Earth Circle will support this initiative by the students to make bags from feed sacks. We will collect bags (possibly at DFL office) and lend them our sewing machine. [NLCS is an environmental project based school in Warba that is authorized by the Audubon Center of the North Woods.]

Other Business Polly and Dee volunteered to help at the GRHS Green Team event; there were updates on the community solar garden, and Standing Rock water protectors; questioned plans for Annual Earth Fest.

Business ended at 2:30 pm.

Citizens' Climate Lobby Presentation

Mike Overend (Two Harbors CCL Chapter) and Dr. Eric Enberg (Duluth CCL Chapter) gave a power point presentation on a "carbon fee and dividend" solution to climate change. Information on their proposal is at www.citizensclimatelobby.org. The presentation ended with an emphasis on the need for legislators to hear from their constituents from the Iron Range. The US House of Representatives' Climate Solution Caucus currently has 12 Republicans and 12 Democrats.

Jeanne Newstrom, secretary.