**Upper Mississippi River Region Inter-League Organization**

**Action Committee Video Conference 7-24-2023 at 10:00 AM**

**Present:** Gretchen Sabel (MN), Kay Slama (MN), Lynne Markus (MN), Catherine Franczyk (IL), Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins (WI), Sue Wilson (IA), Tamara Prenosil (IA), Micky Coyle (MO)

The participants at this meeting included six UMRR-ILO Board Members

**A. Old Business**

1. Catherine moved, and Sue seconded that the Action Committee minutes of 6-26-2023 be approved Moton carried.

2. The following people were contacted about membership on the Action Committee: Steve and Mary Ploeser have declined membership at this time. Paul Schultz (IA) and Micky Coyle (MO) have agreed to be members. Lynne Markus (MN) agreed to continue her membership. The Board will need to approve committee membership at its August meeting.

3. UMRR Farm Bill action: Carolyn, Gretchen, Catherine will develop talking points based on the detailed document (DRAFT - LWV UMRR-ILO recommendations for Farm Bill policy/support) submitted by Carolyn and attached to the notice for this meeting.

4. LWVUS policy advocacy permission subcommittee:

Two possible actions to be determined depending on the issue:

First: Ask permission from the LWVUS by filling out the request form on the website and forward it to the LWVUS and wait for a response.

Second: If the action is in line with the LWVUS Positions, UMRR takes action and then notifies the LWVUS.

Gretchen moved and Carolyn seconded that we ask the board to authorize that UMRR generally follow the second procedure. Motion carried.

**B. New Business:**

1. How to join environmental actions in states

a) MN – UMRR can sign letters that are approved by the Minnesota Environmental Partnership or have MWVMN approval.

b) IL - UMRR would be able to sign a letter if the position is in line with LWVIL Positions and receives permission from the state board. If the Illinois Environmental council signs on to an issue Local Leagues can sign. Catherine will be the contact person to notify the Illinois board.

c) IA – Sue is on the state board and can act the UMRR liaison with the LWVIA president and state board. Actions would need to fall under the LWVIA Positions.

d) WI – The LWVWI Board president and subsequently the state board members would be notified of possible UMRR actions. The issue would be publicized with the LWVIL chapters. UMRR would wait for an approval letter.

e) MO – UMRR could ask the LWVMO board to approve issues that agree with the LWVMO Positions. Generally, if an issue is approved by the Clean Energy Coalition the LWVMO agrees. Once LWVMO is an UMRR member

When an action is needed that the person appointed by the state LWV asks for the permission and then notifies the state Board that the action was taken.

It was decided that if a local chapter does not pay dues to the UMRR-ILO the UMRR-ILO Board does not need to get their permission before taking action.

2. Process for adding people to the Action Committee:

a) Letters asking people to join the Action Committee were sent to all local chapters and individuals who attended the Annual meeting. So far there have been no volunteers. Lynne volunteered to do some follow up.

b) Roberts Rules say members of all standing committees must be reappointed at the next annual meeting each year (will now need attention by the Board at its next meeting.

**C. Activity reports:**

1. Affiliate Groups

a) National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition: a marker bill requests “support for a

The program proposed in the COWS Act is modeled on a successful and very popular incentive program that started in California in 2017, the [Alternative Manure Management Program](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/AMMP/)(AMMP). Since then, the California Department of Food and Agriculture has awarded 147 dairies a total of $88 million for equipment that reduces methane emissions. The COWS Act would extend these voluntary incentives to dairy producers across the country.”

b) Minnesota Sierra Club North Star Water and Wetlands Team continues to work on coops, stopping the carbon pipelines, protecting wetlands, and reducing the impact of the wakes from boats. CURE (Clean Up the River Environment CURE (Clean Up the River Environment) is doing a lot of work on carbon pipelines.

c) 100 Grannies is following the Sierra Club of Iowa and Trout Unlimited lawsuit to protect water in a karst area in northeast Iowa because a CAFO of 11,600 cattle was allowed to build on vulnerable land. A Polk County judge has ruled that the DNR improperly approved the nutrient management plan, it is up to the DNR to require Supreme Beef to resubmit a new plan.  Furthermore, the DNR told Supreme Beef that it cannot remove any manure from its storage basins until a new nutrient management plan has been approved. When a hearing date is scheduled, some Grannies will try to attend or submit comments.

d) Catherine is following the Illinois Prairie Rivers Network and hopes to learn if speakers are available

e) LWVUS Climate Interest Group – considering starting another cluster group about Zero Waste.

2. Reports on actions by members in their states – remember to post in new Google. Docs spreadsheet with time devoted to each action

a) Catherine attended the Illinois Environmental Council recap meeting

b) Micky is working with coalition partners concerned with state government limiting DNR powers

**D. Announcements/Other Discussion Items:** None

Next Action Committee meeting: August 28, 2023, at 10:00 am (same zoom link)

<https://lwvmn-org.zoom.us/j/87576279567?pwd=WTJWZ2VkbzNGMTk5VlZWNEh2cFovUT09>   Dial to join by phone audio only:  312 626 6799