**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGION INTER-LEAGUE ORGANIZATION**

**Board Meeting – December 6, 2021**

**Zoom Video and Phone Conference**

The thirty fifth board meeting of the Upper Mississippi River Region Inter-League Organization (UMRR-ILO) was called to order by Chair Mary Ellen Miller (IA Des Moines) on December 6, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.

**Board members attending the meeting in addition to the Chair:**  Gretchen Sabel (MN-ABC), Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins (WI La Crosse), Lee Ekstrom (IL McHenry County), Paula Ekstrom (IL McHenry County), Mary Ploeser (WI Madison), Steve Ploeser (WI Madison), Lonnie McCauley (MN Coon Rapids), Jeri McGinley (WI Stevens Point), Shawn Choinard (IL Rockford), Kay Slama (MN Willmar), Nancy Porter (IA Iowa City), Tamara Prenosil (IA Dubuque)

**Minutes from August 2, 2021**

T. Prenosil’s minutes from the 10-4-2021 UMRR-ILO Board Meeting were included in the information sent to Board members prior to this meeting. One error noted – delete the word **Vice** in the second paragraph “Board members attending the meeting in addition to the **Vice** Chair”. N. Porter moved and J. McGinley seconded that the minutes be approved. Motion carried.

**Financial Report**

J. McGinley, treasurer, sent the Treasurer’s Report for October - November 2021 as well as the Revenues & Expenses with Budget to Board members prior to this meeting.

Revenues: October – November $525.19

* $0.19 Interest -
* $25.00 - 2020-2021 Membership dues
* $500.00 – 2021-2022 Membership dues
* $25.00 – Member League donations (unrestricted): includes $25 LWV Elmhurst (2nd dues pymt)

Expenses: October – November $105.70

* $91.74 – One time Zoom upgrade (webinar version) for October 4 program
* $10.00 – Annual Nonstock Corporate Report
* $3.96 – PayPal fees

Bank Balance as of November 30, 2021: $11,337.55 Includes ERC II Grant of $266.82 and Judy Beck Memorial Fund of $300.

Currently 55 local chapters and state chapters have paid dues. J. McGinley provided a list of chapters that have not yet paid dues and Board members will contact them to encourage payment. J.McGinley will resend the form and letter to refresh the awareness of the chapters.

**Communications**

Board members will continue to send notices of UMRR-ILO events and information to their respective states for newsletters as well as many local chapters and advocacy groups.

* Iowa – Melissa Gesing
* Illinois – need name
* Minnesota – Kristin Smith
* Wisconsin – Molly Carmichael

We can send information to One Mississippi. N. Porter is the UMRR-ILO representative to the Mississippi River Network engagement group and passes information to them.

**Program Schedule**

February 7: En-Roads Climate Change Simulator with Jackie Armstrong (Mary Ellen Miller)

April 4: Possible panel on water sustainability in our four states ideas included (co)

* Exploring what is happening to aquafers. Some cities are switching from ground water to surface water which impacts streams and lakes.
* How are climate change and human activities impacting a drop in water levels?
* How is irrigation impacting water quantity for both surface and ground water?
* Water 101 -Where do our communities get our water from? (ground or surface)
* Speaker about the failure of voluntary actions to improve water quality and the need for legal guides

May 21: Annual Meeting – possibly Great Lakes Compact and MRRRI update

June 23 – 26: LWVUS Convention in Denver, Colorado (hybrid - virtual and in-person)

The Board needs to decide how we want to participate - table, computer presentation run on a loop, sponsor a caucus (with a breakout room on zoom?)

The ILO can send one voting delegate. J. McGinley reported there is nothing in the 2021-2022 budget for expenses, but the UMRR-ILO could reimburse the delegate in July and have this as a line item in the 2022-2023 budget.

**Visioning Our Future**

UMRR-ILO niche topics: water quality, water quantity, soil health, climate change. We need to continue to develop a registry of websites relative to these topics. Board members need to decide how to promote UMRR-ILO activities at state conventions. Board members need to continually be aware that we need to fill our “pipeline” for Board positions.

L. McCauley sent an updated Action Committee chart prior to this meeting. She requested a discussion of the future of the Action Committee.

Please send M. Miller suggestions for Topics of discussion for the February 7 business meeting.

Submitted by Tamara Prenosil