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

**Board Meeting – June 6, 2022**

**Zoom Video and Phone Conference**

The thirty eighth 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 June 6, 2022, at 10:07 a.m.

**Board members attending the meeting in addition to the Chair:**  Gretchen Sabel (MN-ABC), Lonnie McCauley (MN Coon Rapids), Kay Slama (MN Willmar), Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins (WI La Crosse), Shawn Choinard (IL Rockford) Sue Wilson (IA Dubuque), Tamara Prenosil (IA Dubuque)

**Special Meeting with the written request of four members of the board**

(See Article IV Section 12) Originally, this meeting after the Annual Meeting on May 23, 2022, was planned as a board retreat. However, five board members requested that this meeting be an official board meeting in order to take votes on recommendations. Eight members were present so there was a quorum.

**Develop an Orientation Program**

Items to include:

Cox History, Board Member Expectations, Vision, Mission &amp; Values, Bylaws, 2 years of minutes, annual budget, latest finance reports, board roster, latest newsletters and UMRR annual reports, current year Program, Action Committee activities, board meeting schedule, relationship to Local/State Leagues.

Additional suggestions included a list of the mechanics of the procedures we follow; the difference between an action and an activity; how to flag emails in the subject line if an action is needed.

Mary Ellen Miller, Shawn Choinard, and Tamara Prenosil will be on this committee.

**Review 2022-2023 Program Priorities approved at the May 21, 2022 Annual Meeting**

Steve Ploeser and Gretchen began working on a Google Docs form that could be used to document actions and activities. Gretchen Sabel shared a sample form that her Minnesota League uses to track actions and activities.

Monthly Action Committee meetings are the vehicle for discussing actions to be brought before the board for approval. If an issue pertains to a single state, then only the UMRR-ILO board or the Action Committee needs to get the pertinent state’s permission to sign on to an advocacy letter. If issues are federal in scope, then all four states and LWVUS must agree that the UMRR-ILO can take a public stand. Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins and Shawn Choinard will develop a list of sequence of actions (and documents) that needs to be followed to take state and federal actions.

**UMRR-ILO 2022 - 2023 Board Schedule**

The board meetings are the first Monday of even numbered months. We will meet at 10:30 am rather than 10:00 am. Action Committee meetings are the last Monday of the month at 5:00 pm. Educational Programs will vary between afternoon and evening presentations depending on the availability of speakers.

Tentative topics include: August – Farm Bill; October – pipelines ((Mary Ellen Miller and Kay Slama); December – SMRT (Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins). Other topics discussed included ground water, a Midwest Compact, and climate change impacts.

The Mississippi River Network (MRN) and Clean Water For All (CWFA) are sponsoring a webinar about the Farm Bill on June 7, 2023 at 2:00 pm. These advocacy groups have working groups that are addressing different aspects of environmental problems. A toolkit is being developed for use when speaking with elected officials and the public.

The board of the UMRR-ILO would like to sign on as an official member of the CWFA coalition. Since this group address federal legislation UMRR-ILO will need to get the permission of the Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota LWV boards plus the LWVUS board to do so. Lonnie McCauley moved, and Kay Slama seconded that joining with CWFA be placed on the August 1,2022 board agenda. Motion carried. Gretchen Sabel has already done some preliminary research about this process.

**LWVUS national convention in Denver Colorado June 23-26, 2022.**

Nancy Porter is the UMRR-ILO delegate. Gretchen Sabel and Tamara Prenosil will go as delegates from their local Leagues. They will staff a table providing information on UMRR-ILO priorities at this convention. They will meet in person at the MRN Mississippi “Days of Action” event at the National Mississippi River Museum in Dubuque, Iowa on Friday, June 10, 2022.

**How do we effectively influence state and federal legislation?**

Federal legislation might include: the Mississippi River Restoration and Resilience Initiative (MRRRI); Safeguarding our Mississippi River Together (SMRT) and the 2023 Farm Bill. There are 7,000 individuals in the four states that are members of LWV chapters, and we can continue to spread information to them and they can contact elected officials.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am

Next Action Committee meeting: June 27, 2022, at 5:00 pm via zoom

Submitted by Tamara Prenosil