

LWV Upper Mississippi River Region ILO
2022-2023 Budget Committee
Zoom Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 21, 2022

Present: Lee Ekstrom, Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins, Jeri McGinley, Tam Prenosil, Mary Ellen Miller

Absent: Kay Slama

The meeting convened at 1:00 pm. Motion made by Tam to elect Lee to serve as chair. Seconded by Carolyn. Unanimously approved by voice vote.

Budgeted revenues were reviewed. Donations are made to UMRR “randomly.” Little impact has been observed from the “Donate” button on the website and we have been unable to gather in-person and make asks at meetings and programs. The amount budgeted for donations was lowered from \$250 to \$125. Regarding fundraising, the pandemic decreased opportunities to sell merchandise. Our financial position is currently strong, but those present wondered if there might be an opportunity to sell merchandise at the LWVUS convention in June. It was agreed to budget \$0 for fundraising, but pursue selling merchandise if the board expresses interest.

It is expected that events in the coming year, such as our annual meeting, may be “hybrid” events with both virtual and in-person aspects. Registrations for the annual meeting were budgeted at \$1,000 with the understanding that fees are set to cover the annual meeting expenses. During the pandemic, opportunities for in-kind donations dropped. It is anticipated there will be more opportunities this summer and next year, so board members will again be encouraged to submit documentation for in-kind donations.

Administrative expenses were discussed in detail, with focus on delegate travel and new exhibit materials for each state. \$1,000 was budgeted for the 2022 LWVUS Convention (expenses will be paid next fiscal year) and \$1,000 was budgeted for the 2023 LWVUS Council. In each case the \$1,000 could be applied to registration, lodging, travel, meals and table fees (receipts required). The \$750 budgeted for exhibit materials is for two additional free-standing pull-up banners and four table displays (such as three-panel folding tabletop displays).

Also discussed were board meeting expenses (speaker fees and room fees), reduced from \$250 to \$150. Conference and webinar registration expenses were increased to \$250, in the hope that board members will register if there are funds budgeted. \$100 was budgeted for the Mississippi River Network (MRN) annual meeting in case our delegate has eligible expenses not covered by MRN. Once again, \$125/state was budgeted for table fees and registration at state annual meetings. Mary Ellen suggested the board continue exploring alternatives to renting the PO box.

While we did not have a financial audit of our books last year or this year, it was agreed the board should discuss ways to review the books before the new treasurer takes over.

Program expenses were reviewed. The amount budgeted to help cover educational events was increased to \$500 – this account is intended to cover speaker honoraria, A/V needs, room fees, and program handouts. Advocacy remains important in carrying out our mission and raising our profile. Advocacy, budgeted at \$575, can include co-sponsorships with other organizations and supporting state water days, as well as other activities.

The result of the proposed numbers was a deficit of \$3,777 to be covered by a transfer from our undesignated reserves (current balance: \$10,600).

Motion made by Tam to recommend to the UMRR board the draft 2022-2023 operating budget for discussion at its April board meeting (attached). Seconded by Carolyn. Unanimously approved by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 2:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeri McGinley
Treasurer