**LWV Upper Mississippi River Region ILO**

**Governing Board Meeting (virtual via ZOOM)**

**10:30 – NOON, Monday, December 4, 2023**

**Elected Board Officers**

**Chair** Mary Ellen Miller (IA-Metro Des Moines)

**Co-Vice-Chairs** Nancy-Porter (IA-Johnson County) +Vacant

**Secretary** Tamara Prenosil (IA-Dubuque)

**Treasurer** Catherine Franczyk (IL- Wheaton)

**Past Co-Chairs** Mary & Steve Ploeser (WI-Dane County)

**Communications Director** Gretchen Sabel (MN-ABC)

**Committee Chairs**

**Action:** Kay Slama

**Nominating:** Bonnie Cox (IL-Galena)

**By-Laws:** Kay Slama

**Audit:** Catherine Franczyk

**Program:** Mary Ellen Miller

**State Appointed Board Members**

**Iowa**: E. J. Gallagher (Blackhawk-Bremer)

**Illinois:** Lee Ekstrom (McHenry County)

**Minnesota:** Kay Slama (Willmar)

**Missouri:** Michelle Croyle (St. Louis)

**Wisconsin:** Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins (La Crosse)

**Appointed Alternates/Provisional**

**Iowa:** vacant

**Illinois:** Paula Ekstrom (McHenry County)

**Minnesota:** Megan Benage (New Ulm)

**Minnesota:** Colleen Werdien (ABC}

**Missouri:** Sheryl Eufinger (Kansas City/JCP)

**Wisconsin:** Nancy Hill (La Crosse)

**Connect to Zoom Meeting  
Topic: LWV UMRR Board Meeting - Business Session**  
Time: December 4, 2023 10:30 AM Central Time (US and Canada)  
Join Zoom Meeting

https://lwvmn-org.zoom.us/j/89570703247?pwd=WFkyaThDZ2dQNytZOElyWDNhLzFuZz09

Meeting ID: 895 7070 3247

Passcode: 971132 Phone in on: 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

**MEETING AGENDA**

10:30 am Call to Order/Welcome New Members: Miller

Megan Benage (New Ulm-MN), Colleen Werdien (ABC-MN), and

Sheryl Eufinger (Kansas City/JCP MO)

Board Check-In (MEM shoulder surgery Dec. 12th)

10:50 am Minutes from October 2, 2023, highlights Prenosil

10:55 am Finance reports (*filed for audit*): Balance Sheet Franczyk

Budget vs Actuals

Revenues/Expenses

11:00 am Action Committee Update Slama

Meets monthly on 4th Monday, at 10:00am via ZOOM

2023 Farm Bill—Sent letters to each of our states’ federal

legislators

CO2 Pipeline status Report (program tonight)

Gulf hypoxia letter—Gretchen (posted on [Upcoming Events](https://www.lwvumrr.org/upcoming-events.html) page)

MN agency control/influence by industry

Working on Action Committee policies and procedures

Call to Action process steps—Mahlum-Jenkins

11:15 am Annual Meeting Committee Appointments Miller

Nominating: Bonnie Cox, (who else?)

By-Laws: EJ Gallagher, Nancy Porter, Tam Prenosil, Kay Slama *(note: Kay says we do not need to appoint a standing By-Laws Committee at the Annual Meeting.  It was a special committee appointed by the Board, and its work is done after its report to the Annual Meeting)*

Audit: Catherine Franczyk, (who else?)

2024-25 Program Planning: All Board Members

11:25 am 2024 By-Laws Committee Report Porter/Slama

See the proposed amended bylaws on [Upcoming Events](https://www.lwvumrr.org/upcoming-events.html) page

Increase Number of Voting Directors (eliminate Alternates)

Term Limits/Reappointments every two years

Co-Vice Chair vacancy/Succession Planning

Change Date of Notice of Program Recommendations

*At least five (5) months in advance of the annual meeting the board shall send to*

*the presidents of local and state Leagues a status report of the current positions*

*with explanations of activities taken under each position, and a request for program*

*recommendations for the next year. The board shall ask for evaluation of the*

*current positions, may ask for suggestions for study and/or focus and may make its*

*own suggestions for study and/or focus.*

1. *Local and state League boards may make recommendations for a program to the board at*

*least three (3) months prior to the annual meeting.*

1. *The board shall consider these recommendations and formulate a proposed program, which*

*shall be sent to the members at a minimum of two (2) months before the annual meeting.*

1. *The annual meeting shall be given a list of all program items submitted to the board but not*

*selected by the board in addition to the board proposed program. The annual meeting may amend or modify the board proposed program by adopting a program item by a two-thirds vote of those present, which must include that of delegates from all four (4) state Leagues*

1. *The annual meeting shall adopt a program by a majority vote of those present, which must*

*include that of delegates from all four (4) state Leagues.*

1. *Between annual meetings the board may choose to pursue an issue not selected at the*

*previous annual meeting.*

11:35 am MRN Mini Grant Opportunity

*MRN is launching partnership mini-grants to support our members' work to implement the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). There are three main components of this new work: a new public database, a “Hive” meeting space, and partnership mini-grants. Only topics and organizations collaborating through MRN's Hive space will be eligible for mini-grant funding. To be eligible to receive the mini-grants, your organization must: Be a member of the Mississippi River Network (MRN) and attend MRN's Hive meeting spaces. Only topics and organizations collaborating via the Hive space will be eligible for mini-grant funding. If you have questions about this, please contact Kelly or Maisah. If there are other topics you'd like to bring to the Hive -- now is the time! Currently, we are covering:*

1. *IRA funding for Farm Bill conservation programs and work through NRCS State Technical Committees (led by Jesse Womack, NSAC). (MEM is a member of this hive group.)*
2. *2) IIJA funding for the Army Corps NESP (Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program) projects along Mississippi River (led by Olivia Dorothy, American Rivers).*
3. *IIJA funding for State Revolving Funds (SRF) (led by Chuck Anderas, Michael Fields Ag Institute).*

Annual Meeting Committee Appointments

Annual Report to all Supporting Leagues - Miller

Invite Each State Chair to an UMRR Board meeting

Illinois: Becky Simon

Iowa: Terese Grant

Minnesota: Laura Helmer

Missouri: Marilyn McLeod

Wisconsin: Dorothy Skye

Exhibit Opportunities:

2024 Each State’s Council Meeting

June 2024 LWV US Convention

Board meeting time? first Monday at 4:30 pm winter/6:00 pm spring?

11:50 am **2023-24** **Program Schedule:**

August 7, Duane Hvorka, NWF, 2023 Farm Bill (Iowa – Miller)

October 2, Sacket Decision (Minnesota – Sabel)

December 4, CO2 Pipeline (Illinois – Franczyk)

February 5, Circular Economy (MN St. Cloud – [Tracy Hodel, Director of](https://www.sctimes.com/story/news/local/2019/11/05/st-cloud-mayor-dave-kleis-appoints-tracy-hhttps:/www.sctimes.com/story/news/local/2019/11/05/st-cloud-mayor-dave-kleis-appoints-tracy-hodel-public-services-director-replace-pat-shea/4160176002/odel-public-services-director-replace-pat-shea/4160176002/)

[Public Works,](https://www.sctimes.com/story/news/local/2019/11/05/st-cloud-mayor-dave-kleis-appoints-tracy-hhttps:/www.sctimes.com/story/news/local/2019/11/05/st-cloud-mayor-dave-kleis-appoints-tracy-hodel-public-services-director-replace-pat-shea/4160176002/odel-public-services-director-replace-pat-shea/4160176002/) City of St. Cloud, Minnesota)

February/March Book Discussions with LWV Metro DSM

(Publisher discount code to all who attend)

February Saturday TBD Chris Jones “The Swine Republic”

March 2 or 9: Neil Hamilton’s “The River Knows”

April 1, Mississippi Compact (who)

May 25?? UMRR Annual Meeting (virtual) SMRT, MRRRI, Farm

Bill/ByLaws amendments/etc

June ???, 2024 Board Retreat, (in person) Davenport?

MS River Documentary “ Moved by Waters”

May 31 -June 1? MN annual convention

June 7-8? IA & WS annual convention

June 8-9? IL annual convention

June 20-23? LWV US Biennial Convention

2024 Upper MS River National Wildlife Refuge 100th Celebration

11:55 am Other Business:

11:59 am Next board meeting ???? time, February 5, 2024 (virtual)

NOON Adjourn