Upper Mississippi River Region Inter-League Organization

Action Committee Video Conference 10-24-2022 at 4:00 P.M.

**Present:** Gretchen Sabel (MN), Kay Slama (MN), Shawn Stacy-Choinard (IL), Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins (WI), Nancy Hill (WI), Sue Wilson (IA), Mary Ellen Miller, (IA), Nancy Porter (IA), Tamara Prenosil (IA)

The participants of this meeting included nine UMRR-ILO Board members. Quorum met.

**Old Business:**

G. Sabel moved and C. Mahlum-Jenkins seconded that the minutes be approved. Motion carried.

The Clean Water for All (CWFA) is meeting with EPA staff monthly to increase awareness of CWFA and build a working relationship to facilitate advocacy especially for the 2023 Farm Bill. C. Mahlum-Jenkins follows the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association (UMRBA). It is the Governor-established forum for interstate water resource planning and management on the Upper Mississippi River, representing its member states of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin. It has been in existence for 40 years.

**New Business**:

The Four State Sub-Committee will meet over Zoom with Kristen Kerns the Federal Policy and Advocacy Manager for LWVUS to clarify the process for obtaining permission to sign on to advocacy letters when issues are at the federal level.

Breaking Free From Plastic is a Minnesota endeavo,r but not something that currently falls in UMRR-ILO priorities. Other groups like the Sierra Club are working on this issue.

**Reports from the four states:**

Illinois: Stacy-Choinard participates in an Illinois water group. Generally, the priority is the Chicago area.

Iowa: There are articles in Iowa newspapers about the CO2 pipelines proposed in Iowa. There is a decrease in barge traffic because the Mississippi River level is so low. PFAS has been found in wells so there is going to be more testing. M. Miller is a member of SPARKS (group of Iowa retired environmental activists) who are concerned about the pipeline and the use of eminent domain to secure land right aways. N. Porter will attend the Mississippi River Network (MRN) national conference in New Orleans October 10 to 15.

Minnesota: The Corps of Engineers is deciding what to do with Lock and Dam #1. It generally provides recreation activities now. L. McCauley is working with the Sierra Club which is promoting solar energy. CURE (Clean Up the River Environment) is very active in Minnesota. CURE is working to ensure no permits would be granted until an environmental review was performed.

Wisconsin: C. Mahlum-Jenkns attended the Lake Michigan ILO annual meeting in Sheboygan. This ILO promotes clean water in rivers flowing into Lake Michigan.

**Announcements/ Other Discussion Items:** none

**Next Action Committee will be Monday, November 28, 2022, at 4:00 P.M.**