

**SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING
OF
THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGION
INTER LEAGUE ORGANIZATION
May 22, 2021 Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

The sixth annual meeting of the Upper Mississippi River Region Inter-League Organization (UMRR-ILO) was called to order at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom this year due to the COVID 19 Pandemic, by vice-chair Mary Ellen Miller (Metro Des Moines, IA). In attendance and eligible to vote were 12 Board members and 30 additional attendees

VIRTUAL MEETING GUIDELINES

Mary Ploeser reviewed guidelines.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Jeri McGinley reported a quorum was present. Beth Baranski (IL) moved and Lee Ekstrom (IL) seconded that the agenda be approved, Motion carried.

MINUTES

Minutes of the Fifth Annual Meeting held on May 30,2020 via Zoom were included in program materials. There were two misspellings that were reported (BYLAWS heading had an additional Y and in Section 7 of the Bylaws in first line, the letter o of the word of was missing)

Lee Ekstrom (IL) moved and Lonni McCauley (MN) seconded to accept the minutes. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND ADOPTION OF PROPOSED BUDGET

The treasurer's report as submitted by Jeri McGinley (WI) was included in program materials. The UMRR-ILO fiscal year is from July 1 through June 30. Ending cash as of 4/15/2021 is \$10,011.77 which includes \$326.82 in the ERC Restricted Grant II and \$300 in the Judy Beck Memorial Fund. The UMRR-ILO has a restricted grant from the Environmental Resources Council in Minnesota. These funds are restricted to particular uses, so they are tracked separately from the regular operating budget (but are included in our checking account balance). We try to track donated mileage and other activities as well as volunteer time. Currently the UMRR-ILO has 68 local LWV chapters plus 4 state chapters as members – a 26% increase over last year.

Additional discussion included clarification of specific line items in the 'Current Year Actual/Budget & Next Year Proposed Budget' report submitted by the treasurer with the materials for this meeting. The P.O. Box is in Madison, Wisconsin because the UMRR-ILO was

chartered in Wisconsin and the IRS uses this address for official business. The website is paid biannually. Lonnie McCauley (MN) moved, and Art Basler (WI) seconded to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Nominating Committee members were: Rosemary Heilemann (Buffalo Grove, IL) Chair, Tamara Prenosil (Dubuque, IA), Nancy Porter (Iowa City, IA), Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins (La Crosse WI), Gretchen Sabel (Andover, MN)

The nominating committee was asked to fill officer positions whose terms were expiring in 2021. The following people have agreed to accept leadership roles for the 2021-2023 term.

Chair: Mary Ellen Miller (Metro Des Moines, IA)

Co-Vice Chairs: Nancy Porter (Iowa City, IA)

Shawn Stacey-Choinard (Rockford, IL)

Treasurer: Jeri McGinley (Stevens Point, WI)

Director of Communications: Gretchen Sabel (ABC, MN)

Chair of Nominating Committee: Rosemary Heilemann (Buffalo Grove, IL)

Rosemary Heilemann moved and Gretchen Sabel seconded that the proposed slate of officers be approved. Motion Carried.

BYLAWS REVISION

Article VIII – Financial Administration, Section 3: Budget Committee

The Board recommends that the following sentence be eliminated from this section:

At Least one (1) non board member shall serve on the committee.

Jeri McGinley (MN) moved, and Beth Baranski (IL) seconded that this revision be adopted. Motion carried.

ACTION REPORT AND SOLICITATION OF ACTION ITEMS

Lonnie McCauley submitted two documents included in materials for this meeting. The first was the Activity Chart as of 4-17-2021 and the second was the Activities Report and Update for FY20-21. These reports included Highlights, Lobbying and Education activities. Members continue to develop collaborative relationship with other environmental groups in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Illinois to leverage impact. We have increased the use of virtual platforms for advocacy and educational programs.

Lonnie reported on the UMRR-ILO Advisory Group which consists of environmental professionals that have agreed to provide technical information for educational and advocacy efforts.

UMRR-ILO educational Programs are recorded and available on the website. These programs would be useful for local LWV chapters to use as programs at their meetings.

Suggestions for future educational and advocacy efforts included monitoring state tax credits that encourage conservation, a ban on plastic bags, the St. Croix River watershed, and the Wild Rivers Conservancy.

Nancy Porter reported that the Iowa City LWV chapter is planning a road trip to Clinton, Iowa to Celebrate the Mississippi River as part of the Mississippi River Network's River Days of Action. Tim Wagner of the Izaak Walton League will be the guest speaker. This event is taking advantage of a grant received by MRN to defray costs. If chapters want to set up their own events contact Kelly McGinnis at the Mississippi River Network.

SUBJECTS FOR UMMR-ILO RETREAT

There will be a virtual planning meeting on June 7, 2021. Some topics to be discussed include sending a written report to LWV State Conventions, ways to speed up communication so all four states can sign advocacy letters.

FUTURE MEETINGS

June 7, 2021 virtual planning meeting

August 2, 2021 Dubuque, Iowa - Sustainable Communities Initiatives

October 4, 2021 Wisconsin – PFAS (Per – and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) “forever chemicals”

December 6, 2021 TBA

Submitted by Tamara Prenosil

Informational Program: The Mississippi River Restoration and Resilience Initiative (MRRRI)

The MRRRI provision in Rep. McCollum's FY 21 Interior bill directs EPA to develop a strategy with federal, tribal, state, and local entities to improve water quality, resilience to natural disasters, native ecosystems, and more – restoring the vitality of The Great River for generations to come. The LWV UMRR Annual Meeting featured remarks by Representative McCollum and a presentation by Kelly McGinnis of the Mississippi River Network. There was also information on a similar program - the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative - and how it has helped to clean up long-time pollution problems.