**FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING**

**OF**

**THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGION**

**INTER LEAGUE ORGANIZATION**

**May 30, 2020 Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

The fifth annual meeting of the Upper Mississippi River Region Inter-League Organization (UMRR-ILO) was called to order at 10:05 a.m. via Zoom this year due to the COVID 19 Pandemic, by co-chairs Mary and Steve Ploeser (Dane Co, WI). In attendance and eligible to vote were 11 Board members and 19 delegates. In addition, there were two observers from the Lake Michigan Inter-League Organization.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Mary Ploeser reported a quorum was present. Kay Slama (MN) moved and Marlene Heider (MN) seconded that the agenda be approved, Motion carried.

**MINUTES**

Minutes of the Fourth Annual Meeting held on June 1, 2019 at at Schaar’s Bluff Gathering Center in Spring Lake Park Preserve in Hastings, Minnesota were included in program materials. Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkens (WI) moved and Toni Dautel (IL) seconded to accept the minutes. Motion carried.

**ACTION REPORT**

Lonnie McCauley reviewed the FY 20-21 Plan of Action DRAFT document which was included in the program materials and shown during the Zoom virtual meeting. Discussion resulted in the following recommendations:

Continue item A – Prepare Action Plan for UMRR-ILO. The Action Committee meets the last Monday of the month at 5:00 pm by phone conference and reviews, updates and proposes actions. All members, not just Board members are invited to attend.

Continue item B – Purchase and use the Watershed Game. The University of Minnesota Extension has put the development of an expanded version as well as training on hold for the time being.

Continue item C – Purchase print materials to support UMRR-ILO goals. Our website, newsletter, blog, and Facebook are good. Ideas of ways to expand UMRR-ILO presence can be discussed at the Action Committee monthly phone conference on the last Monday of each month.

Remove item D – Prepare a universal PowerPoint with potential voice-over. It was decided that issues change often and localizing current issues would necessitate frequent updating.

Continue item E – Determine collaborative organizations. Suggestions for organizations included the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association (has research data), Minnesota Environmental Partnership, Mississippi River Restorative and Resilience Initiative, Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club, Blue Thumb (in St. Cloud MN), Lawns to Legumes (MN).Attendees discussed the aspects of working locally (at the watershed level), at he state and national levels. Each state might have a different list of compatible advocacy groups. We must work on issues and projects that are non-partisan and be careful with which organizations the LWV name is associated.

Jeri McGinley, treasurer, reported that the ERC (Environmental Resource Council) grant funds membership dues to non-partisan groups that are aligned with UMRR-ILO purposes. Lonni McCauley secured this grant.

Continue item F – Monitor and share public policy

Remove item G – Determine water treatment plant effectiveness and residential/industrial anti-pollution measures. The UMRR-ILO however remains aware of the contribution that urban areas make regarding water quality.

Remove item H – Conduct 100 meetings stressing local watershed issues by 2020. This goal was made in collaboration with the Lake Michigan Inter-League Organization and between the two organizations has been accomplished.

Continue item I – Engage the media to expand awareness of UMRR-ILO issues. As an example, Lonni McCauley reported she recently contacted her local newspaper in Coon Rapids, Minnesota and three articles written by three local environmental experts will appear in that newspaper.

Continue item J – Engage environmental speakers

Continue item K – Solicit grants and funds to operate the UMRR-ILO

Remove item L – Support Citizens Water Quality Monitoring project

Continue item M – Interact with legislative and congressional representatives to promote clean water

Additional item – Facilitate efforts with other LWV chapters and inter-league organizations

Lonni McCauley (MN) included a recap and analysis of FY 19-20 activities and accomplishments which were included in the program materials posted on the UMRR-ILO website prior to the annual meeting.

**TREASURER’S REPORT AND BUDGET REPORT**

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 4/30/2020 is $8621.13. Currently the UMRR-ILO has 50 local LWV chapters plus 4 state chapters as members. The UMRR-ILO received a second $1,000 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). As of 4/30/20 there were $361.82 remaining. We try to track donated mileage and other activities as well as volunteer time. This year individuals and member Leagues provided more than $1,100 in unrestricted donations. Included in program materials prior to this annual meeting was the Current Year Actual Budget and Next Year Proposed Budget. Susan Adams (WI) moved and Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins (WI) seconded to accept the treasurer’s report. Motion carried.

Additional discussion included fundraising possibilities. Silk scarves have been sold in the past. Calendars and note cards with pictures of the Mississippi were suggested. LWV design and Vote design facemasks were displayed. Steve Ploeser will convene a fundraising committee which so far will include Tamara Prenosil, Nancy Porter, Kay Slama, and Cheryl Chapman.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Susan Adams (IL) moved and Linda Loomis (MN) seconded the Nominating Committee report which was included in the program materials be unanimously approved. Motion carried.

2021 Nominating Committee: Bonnie Cox, Mary Ellen Miller, Lonnie McCauley, Lee Ekstrom;

The Proposed Slate of Officers to be voted upon at the May 30, 2020 Annual Meeting are:

* Vice-chair: Mary Ellen Miller (Metro Des Moines, IA) term ends 2022
* Secretary: Tamara Prenosil (Dubuque, IA) term ends 2022
* Chair of Nominating Committee: (non-board member: Bonnie Cox, Jo Daviess Co, IL)

Other Officers for the 2019-2020 year include:

* Co-chairs: Mary and Steve Ploeser (Dane Co. WI) term ends 2021
* Treasurer: Jeri McGinley (Stevens Point WI) term ends 2021
* Director of Communications: Gretchen Sabel (Andover, MN) term ends 2021
* Immediate Past President: Gretchen Sabel (Andover, MN) term ends 2021

State Representatives and Alternates (appointed by their respective state LWVs)

* Illinois: Lee Ekstrom (McHenry Co. IL) Alternate: Paula Ekstrom (McHenry Co. IL)
* Iowa: Sue Wilson (Dubuque, IA) Alternate: Nancy Porter (Iowa City, IA)
* Minnesota: John Howard (Winona, MN) Alternate: Lonni McCauley (Coon Rapids, MN)
* Wisconsin: Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins (La Crosse, WI) Alternate: Nancy Hill (La Crosse, WI)

Action Committee Chair: Lonnie McCauley (Coon Rapids, MN)

**BYYLAWS REVISIONS**

Article II – PURPOSES AND POLICY

Section 1: Purposes – remove previous sections (a) through (g) and replace with

(a) encourage informed and active participation in government, work to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influence public policy through education and advocacy

(b) emphasize the preservation of our water resources within the Upper Mississippi River Basin watershed

Article III – Membership

Section 2: add – co-officers shall share one vote

Section 3: remove sentence – A co-chair may be added.

Section 7: remove sentences – There shall be one representative and one alternate appointed by each of the LWV boards of Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, and Wisconsin to serve as directors. Alternate representatives vote only in the absence of the representative.

Section 7: shall read -

The LWV boards f Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, and Wisconsin shall appoint one representative and one alternate to serve as directors; director positions may be jointly held by co-directors. Each director position shall have one vote; co-directors shall share one vote. The terms of the representatives and alternates shall be two years without term limits. Any vacancy of a representative or alternate position may be filled by the LWV-UMRR board of directors pending final approval by the appropriate state LWV board. It shall by the responsibility of each of the representatives to act as a liaison to is or her respective state board for communication and information purposes. However, the appointed director is not required to be a member of his or her state board.

Section 15: remove the words – of an officer or director

ARTICLE IV – PRINCIPLES AND PROGRAM

Section 3 (c) change two (2) months to 45 days

ARTICLE VIII – FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Section 4: change two (2) months to 45 days

ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS

Amendments to Bylaws: change two (2) months to 45 days

Toni Dautel (IL)moved and Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins seconded the bylaws be approved as amended.

Motion carried.

The UMRR-ILO business meeting ended at 12:00 noon.

Submitted by Tamara Prenosil

**Afternoon Programs (will be available for review on the UMRR-ILO website)**

Speaker: Debra Shore, Commissioner, Metropolitan Reclamation District (Chicago)

Chicago’s Impact on the Mississippi River

Speaker: Kelly McGinnis, Executive Director, Mississippi River Network (Chicago)

How to support and lead advocacy in efforts to decrease pollution in the Mississippi River