**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGION INTER-LEAGUE ORGANIZATION**

**Board Meeting --- December 7 ,2020**

**Zoom Video and Phone Conference**

The twenty-ninth board meeting of the Upper Mississippi River Region Inter-League Organization (UMRR-ILO) was called to order by Vice-chair Mary Ellen Miller (IA Des Moines) on December 7, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

**Board members attending the meeting in addition to the Co-Chairs were:**  Tamara Prenosil (IA-Dubuque), Gretchen Sabel (MN-ABC), Jeri McGinley WI-Stevens Point), Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkin (WI La Crosse), Sue Wilson (IA Dubuque), Lee Ekstrom (IL McHenry County), Paula Ekstrom (IL McHenry County), Mary Ploeser & Steve Ploeser (WI-Dane County)

**Secretary’s Report:** T. Prenosil reviewed the minutes from the 8-3-2020 UMRR-ILO Board Meeting. There was one error in the first paragraph – the meeting was called to order on October 5, 2020 not August 3, 2020. L. Ekstrom moved and J. McGinley seconded that the minutes be approved. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report:** J. McGinley, treasurer, sent the treasurer’s report as well as the BUDGET VS ACTUALS for July 1, 2020 through November 30, 2020 to Board members prior to this meeting.

Revenues – October/November $450.16 (Memberships: $350, Individual donations: $100, Interest $.15). A thank you was sent to the donor from Iowa who sent the $100 donation. Some Board members will contact chapters who have yet to renew.

Expenses - $3.35 PayPal fee, $90.00 Conferences (webinar registrations), $10.00 Non-stock corporate report (State of WI). Annual non-stock corporate report was filed in October.

Bank Balance as of November 30, 2020: $10,054.13 (includes ERC II Grant of $326.82 and Judy Beck Memorial Fund of $300).

Treasurer’s report was accepted and will be filed.

There is a $50 request to renew with Freshwater. L. McCauley will be contacted.

**Action Committee Report:** L. McCauley submitted a report regarding Lobbying efforts and monitoring activities taken by UMRR-ILO representatives in their respective states. Letters or contacts made to oppose the Yazoo Backwater Pumping Plant in Mississippi, dumping “low level” nuclear waste into regular landfills, dumping PFAS pollution into waterways and the Enbridge Line 3 (although it passed its final approval in November. Members supported the Minnesota Legislative Bonding bill which included water infrastructure across the state, Wisconsin’s new legislation for PFAS/PFOS containment and handling, and the Illinois Dept of Agriculture for the nutrient reduction and gulf hypoxia strategy.

M. Miller reported the Iowa DNR recently sent a report about impaired waterways in Iowa, but since there was a change in the way the reporting was done it appeared there was little improvement overall. M. Miller said Iowa is a state with some of the most impaired waterways in the country. The Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement (ICCI) will have a webinar 12-10-2020 called the Right to Clean Water which Iowa Board members will try to help publicize.

**Reports from the Upper Mississippi River Webinar Series**: Some members had difficulty accessing the webinar, but recordings of the series will be available for watching soon. Members who agreed to attend the different programs will write a brief summary to be posted on the UMRR-ILO blog. M. Ploesser will ask if the recordings can be publicized on our website.

**Suggestions for future topics:**

Bolster the role of women in agriculture,

Climate change and impact on water,

Good nutrient reduction strategies,

The roles of the DNR, NCRS and county soil and water commissions

How state government committees allocate money

Farm bill

**Future meetings:** While most of our meetings for the next year will need to be held virtually due to COVID 19, members know that some type of in-person and virtual meetings will need to be explored. At previous Board meeting Board members agreed there was a benefit in having meetings in the various member states because it helped to engage local people in the UMRR-ILO goals.

February 2021 – Women in Agriculture

April 2021 – Illinois – Individual Actions

June 2021 – Annual meeting (May 22 or June 5)

August 2021 – Iowa - Local municipal efforts (permeable pavers and water meters, etc.)

October 2021 – Wisconsin – TBA

**Next Meeting: February 1, 2021 at 10:00 am**

Adjourn at 11:30

No Informational program scheduled this month.

Submitted by Tamara Prenosil