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

**Board Meeting – August 1, 2022**

**Zoom Video and Phone Conference**

The thirty-nineth board meeting of the Upper Mississippi River Region Inter-League Organization (UMRR-ILO) was called to order by Chair Mary Ellen Miller (IA Des Moines) on August 1, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

**Board members attending the meeting in addition to the Chair:**  Gretchen Sabel (MN-ABC), Lonnie McCauley (MN Coon Rapids), Kay Slama (MN Willmar), Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins (WI La Crosse), Mary Ploeser (WI Madison), Steve Ploeser (WI Madison), Shawn Stacey- Choinard (IL Rockford,) Paula, Ekstrom (IL McHenry County), Lee Ekstrom (IL McHenry County), Catheryn Franczyk (IL Wheaton ) Nancy Porter (IA Iowa City), Tamara Prenosil (IA Dubuque)

**Approval of Minutes**

C. Mahlum-Jenkins moved and S. Stacy-Choinard seconded that the minutes from April 4, 2022 be approved. Motion carried.

C. Mahlum-Jenkins moved and S. Stacy-Choinard seconded that the minutes from June 6, 2022 be approved. Motion carried.

Financial Report:

C. Franczyk, treasurer, sent the Treasurer’s Report for June and July 2022 as well as the Revenues & Expenses with Budget to Board members prior to this meeting.

Revenues: June-July

* $0.11 Interest – June only (Interest for July not yet posted)
* $25.00 – 2022-2023 Membership dues
* $20.00 - Anonymous individual donation (unrestricted)
* $90.00 - Network for Good donation (Unrestricted)
* $25.00 - Dupaco Savings Startup Cash
* $120.00 – fundraiser (scarves)

Expenses: December – January $200

* $147.90 -Supplies/copy
* $1.98 – PayPal fees

Bank Balance as of July 31, 2022: $11,495.71 (includes Judy Beck Memorial Fund of $300. Includes ERC Restricted Grant II balance $166.82

M. Ploeser and S. Ploeser will send the letter to all local chapters and the four state chapters requesting dues (still $25 per year) for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. L. Ekstrom suggested sending letters to LWVIL chapters that are not currently on the list of chapters that are members of the UMRR-ILO. There may be a new Rock Island, IL chapter. The letters should be returned to C. Franczyk’s home address (1052Mattande Lane, Naperville, IL 60540). G. Sabel will get thew second Post Office Box key from M. Ploeser.

The bank in Madison where the UMRR-ILO had its account was purchased by Dupaco Community Credit Union. The home office is in Dubuque, Iowa. C. Franczyk can do online banking. The checking account does not earn interest. T. Prenosil moved and G. Sabel seconded that $5,000 be moved into a checking account which currently earns .07% interest. Motion carried.

T. Prenosil moved and S. Ploeser seconded that our treasurer investigate interest on a short-term CD (perhaps 6 months) in case the interest was higher than .07%. Motion carried.

N. Porter submitted a $1,260 request for reimbursement for attending the LWVUS National Convention in Denver, CO as the UMRR-ILO delegate. The original line item for this was $1,000. L. McCauley moved and C. Mahlum-Jenkins second that $1,260 be reimbursed to N. Porter. Motion carried.

J. McGinley and C. Franczyk have met in person and reviewed the duties of the treasurer. The UMRR-ILO financials need to be reviewed yet

**Update on Action Committee**

The Action Committee will meet on the fourth Monday at 4:00 pm.

The Action Committee subcommittee (G. Sabel, S. Stacey-Choinard, C. Mahlum-Jenkins, T. Prenosil) exploring membership in CWFA (Clean Water for All) met on July 22 and plan to meet again on August 12. T. Prenosil sometimes attends their Thursday morning zoom meetings as an individual. We are researching how to partner more formally with this group so we can promote their action alerts with the approval of the state LWV chapters as well as LWVUS. CWFA has been doing considerable work on building contacts with federal legislative staff to promote increased conservation measures in the 2023 Farm Bill.

L. McCauley continues to follow the Izaak Walton League Upper Mississippi River Initiative activities. She is contacting the three members of the UMRR-ILO Advisory Committee to learn if they want to continue to be available for technical assistance if needed.

Action committee notes as well as UMRR-ILO Board minutes will continue to be sent to some individuals who have participated with this organization until it is determined they are no longer interested.

**Report from June 23 – 26 LWVUS Convention in Denver, Colorado**

N. Porter reported interest in the UMRR-ILO table in the Wares area. Attendees stopped to talk about their own water issues in their home area and learn about Inter League Organizations. There was initially time set aside on Saturday afternoon at the convention for “affinity groups” which the UMRR-ILO had reserved a room for. Because the plenary session ran over for time, this did not happen. The LWVUS has a Climate Interest Group. She suggested becoming more closely involved with this group. C. Mahlum-Jenkins will contact the the water subgroup of the climate Interest Group.

**New Board Member Orientation**

M. Miller, S. Stacey-Choinard, and T. Prenosil will plan information sessions for all of our board members to especially help our newer members become familiar with policies and procedures (ex. Documentation requirements, Advisory committee, approval processes)

**2022 – 2023 Proposed Program Schedule**

* 8-1-2022 MRN webinar on 2023 Farm Bill via You Tube Zoom discussion later
* 10-3-2023 C02 Pipelines IA Sierra Club/LSP Miller/Slama
* 12-5-2022 SMRT Mahlum-Jenkins
* 2-6-2023 Agency: How to comment on Federal Legislation Prenosil
* 4-3-2023 Ground water/Aquifer Geology Miller
* June 2023 Planning retreat

We will also continue to follow the PFAS concerns in the four states.

**Updates from the four states**

* Illinois – L. Ekstrom reported that the LWVIL no longer has paid staff and there have been some board resignations
* Wisconsin – Advocacy groups are insisting the state establish standards for PFAS and other contaminants in the water
* Minnesota – Will plan a River Days of action to coincide with state convention
* Iowa – State convention in 2023 is in Dubuque on June 10,2023 at the Holiday Inn Downtown

**Other Discussion**

We need to learn how to engage with efforts to influence “Marker Bills” in the 2023 Farm Bill. We will inquire if the LWVUS lobbyist is working on environmental bills. MRRRI and SMRT legislation goals may be incorporated into the conservation objectives of the Farm Bill. The UMRR-ILO primary focus is clean water so currently that is our niche when collaborating with other advocacy groups. Members will continue local involvement. We should have a list of legislators that are assigned to the 2023 Farm Bill.

Adjourned at 11:45 am

Submitted by Tamara Prenosil