

LWV UMRR Board Agenda and Related Material for Board meeting August 5, 2019

Bi-monthly Board Meeting Notice

Date: August 5, 2019

Time: 10:00 am to 12:00 pm Central time

Place: Meeting room, Middleton Public Library: 7425 Hubbard Ave. Middleton WI 53562

By phone: **Connect by phone at (712)770-4010*, code: 950753#**

**If you have trouble connecting with this number, dial in on the backup number - 716.293.9754 - and follow instructions. Still having trouble? Free Conference Call's help line is at 844.844.1322.*

Agenda and all documents here: <https://www.lwvumrr.org/news--upcoming-events.html>

10:00 – Call to order; Operations

- Approve April Board meeting minutes and minutes from June 1 Annual Meeting – Tam Prenosil (pages 3 and 5, respectively)
- Approve Financial Report – Jeri McGinley (on website: 8-1-19 Treasurer's Report)
 - Report from the 2019 Annual Meeting
 - How did the finances come out?
 - Possible donations to speakers' organizations (Freshwater Society and Nature Conservancy)
 - Mileage for Caryl Terrell
 - Form 501H – do we need to do this? - Jeri McGinley (Link for National Council of Nonprofits info on this form: <https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/taking-the-501h-election>)
 - Reporting of in-kind donations to UMRR – Jeri McGinley

10:30 – Judy Beck Memorial

- Consider how we might do this

10:45 – Adding a carbon focus to our mission – carbon sequestration through soil health initiatives – Lonni McCauley

11:00 – Update on partnerships – Lonni McCauley

11:10 – Upper Mississippi River Basin Association Meeting in Winona – John Howard

11:20 – Discussion on adding advisors to the UMRR organization – Lonni McCauley

11:35 – Watershed Game Training update – Toni Dautel

11:45 – Openings on the Board and Updating Appointments of State Reps – Steve Ploeser (Current Board Roster attached – page 8)

11:50 – Membership update – Beth Baker-Knuttila

Noon – Other Business?

12:15 - Adjourn - Lunch will be on-site, provided by Steve Ploeser, donations accepted to cover costs. Lunch discussions:

Global Climate Strike, Sept 20 – Steve Ploeser

River Resilience – Mississippi Cities Rivers and Towns Initiative – Gretchen Sabel

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12:45 – Break and reconfigure room, welcome folks to pm session

Upcoming UMRR Board Meetings (1st Monday of even-numbered months)
October 7 – Board Meeting – Ames, Iowa
December 2 – Board Meeting – Peoria??
February 3 – Board Meeting – Virtual??

1:00 – Wisconsin (and other) Rivers and Climate Change – a talk by Raj Shukla Executive Director of the River Alliance of Wisconsin

League members and non league members alike are invited to a presentation on how global warming affects our rivers. The presentation will be given by Raj Shukla, Executive Director of the River Alliance of Wisconsin. The talk will be held at the Middleton public library on **Monday August 5th at 1:00 pm.**

The Middleton public library is located at 7425 Hubbard Ave. Middleton WI 53562

Raj Shukla, Executive Director – Bio:

Raj Shukla joins the River Alliance of Wisconsin with over a decade of experience in program design, development and management to tackle pressing social and environmental needs. Most recently as Director of Programs with Wisconsin-based nonprofit, Cool Choices, he led public engagement and energy efficiency programs in businesses, schools and government agencies across the United States.

Previously, Raj developed youth education programs for former Vice President Al Gore’s Climate Reality Project. He trained elected officials and candidates how to effectively mobilize resources and voters with Progressive Majority Wisconsin. With the Greater Milwaukee committee, he organized businesses in southeastern Wisconsin to invest in inner city neighborhoods.



Raj currently serves as Chair of the Sustainable Madison Committee, a city advisory committee of mayoral appointees who work to realize the community’s social and environmental aspirations.

In their spare time, Raj and his wife, Tora Frank, chase their three young children around the neighborhood, through Wisconsin’s beautiful parks and into the occasional ice cream shop.

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

Board Meeting --- April 1, 2019 Phone Conference

The twenty-first board meeting of the Upper Mississippi River Region Inter-League Organization (UMRR-ILO) was called to order by Chair Gretchen Sabel (MN-ABC) April 1, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

Board members attending the phone conference in addition to the Chair were: Tamara Prenosil (IA-Dubuque), Mary Ploesser (WI-Madison), Jeri McGinley (WI-Stevens Point), Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkin (WI La Crosse), Toni Dautel (IL-Glenview), Judy Beck (IL-Glenview), Lonnie McCauley (MN-Coon Rapids), Mary Ann Nelson (IA-Cedar Rapids -nominating committee), Sue Wilson (IA-Dubuque), Beth Baker-Knutilla (MN-Park Rapids)

I. Operations

Secretary's Report: Carolyn Mahlum moved, and L. McCauley seconded that the minutes of the December 3, 2018 Board meeting be approved. Motion carried. Two corrections: Ploeser is spelled with one 's'. The town is Anoka, Minnesota.

Treasurer's Report: J. McGinley submitted the following report.

April 1, 2019 Board Meeting

1. Activity: a. Revenues – February/March: \$455.13 i. member dues: \$325.00 (one League paid 2017-18 and 2018-19) ii. donation (local League): \$100.00 iii. scarf fundraiser: \$30.00 iv. interest: \$.13 (March not included)
b. Expenses – February/March: \$882.39 i. brochures: \$144.53 ii. PO box rental (1 year): \$134.00 iii. QuickBooks Online (1 year): \$50.00 iv. website domain (1 year): \$12.00 v. PayPal fees: \$.85 vi. annual meeting: \$541.01 (facility rental incl. \$150 refundable deposit)
2. Bank Balance as of March 31, 2019: \$6,179.50 (includes both ERC grants) a. ERC Restricted Grant I balance: \$404.75 b. ERC Restricted Grant II balance: \$1,000.00
3. Number of 2018-19 paid memberships through 3/31/19: 51 (\$1,275)
4. 2019-20 Budget: a. The Budget Committee has prepared the draft 2019-20 budget (report attached). b. For the budget discussion, an analysis of a sliding scale for membership dues was requested (attached). The result: our dues revenue would have been ~\$400 higher this year. c. The Board will review/approve the draft budget at its April meeting. d. The budget will then be sent to each state League president and to each member League president not less than two (2) months before the annual meeting (per bylaws).

FRIENDLY REQUEST: PLEASE FORWARD YOUR IN-KIND HOURS TO ME FOR THE PERIOD JULY – JANUARY.

T. Prenosil moved and M. Ploeser seconded that the Treasure's Report be accepted. Motion carried.

In addition, the following documents were submitted: Income Statement VS Actuals, Budget Committee Report, Dues Structure Analysis.

L. McCauley secured another grant to help defray the cost of paying dues to join other environmental organizations. Members should contact L. McCauley to determine if the organization has compatible priorities. The UMRR-ILO joined the Nature Conservancy.

The UMRR-ILO credit card is not working so reimbursements will need to be made to individuals who have used their own resources to cover expenses.

II. Wisconsin Citizen's Water Lobby Day

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This Lobby Day is May 15, 2019. Because other states also have Water Lobby Days J. McGinley moved and C. Mahlum-Jenkins seconded that up to \$200 might be awarded to state LWVs to participate. Hopefully the UMRR-ILO could get our name on the publicity as co-sponsors. J. Beck suggested a UMRR-ILO Google Calendar would be helpful to see at a glance what events are going on in the various states. We need someone to manage this calendar.

III. Preparation for Annual Meeting - Business

Budget: The UMRR-ILO members present determined that raising dues for LWV Chapters would not be implemented at this time. The treasurer's report included an analysis of a tiered dues structure and the increase in revenue would only by \$400 this coming year.

Slate: Co-Chairs: Mary Ploeser and Steve Ploeser (WI- LWV Dane County)

Vice Chair: L. McCauley agreed to serve for one or two years but not to proceed to the position of Chair

Treasurer: J. McGinley

Proposed Agenda: 9:00 a.m Gather at Schaar's Bluff Business Meeting to start at 9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m. networking 12:00 p.m. lunch 12:30 p.m. speaker(s) 1:30 Increasing effective advocacy 3:30 Adjourn

Food and Cost: It was determined to charge \$45 which is the registration fee and covers the lunch. L. McCauley will arrange for food. T. Prenosil will bring a cookie tray.

Other considerations:

T. Dautel and S. Wilson will spearhead a marketing and fundraising committee. There are scarves available to sell. Discussed adding an additional line on the LWV Chapter dues form for a voluntary donation. G. Sabel reported her local LWV League donated \$100 this year and will donate \$300 next year. Letters to Chapter Presidents and Treasurers are problematic because the list is "never – ever" up to date.

IV. Preparation for Annual Meeting - Education

The Annual Meeting planning committee will meet y phone conference at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, 4-4-2019 to continue discussing possible speakers. An emphasis on how climate change affects rivers may be possible.

V. LWV UMRR – ILO Board Retreat

Board members will meet Friday night May 31, 2019. G. Sabel will send information about time and location

VI. Committees

There are currently 51 members. A letter will be sent again. There has been difficulty with appropriate names for Des Moines contact.

VII. Other

Krista Grimm of the Lake Michigan ILO reported the UMRR-ILO needs to provide an additional \$480 to cover the cost of last years joint Annual Meetings in Chicago. T. Prenosil moved and T. Dautel seconded that we pay this out of money for next year's annual meeting. Motion carried.

The UMRR-ILO meets during the even numbered months. Think about where we might have meetings to garner interest in other parts of our four states.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Submitted by Tamara Prenosil

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**Fourth ANNUAL MEETING
OF
THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGION
INTER LEAGUE ORGANIZATION
June 1, 2019 at Schaar's Bluff Gathering Center
Spring Lake Park Preserve in Hastings, Minnesota**

The fourth annual meeting of the Upper Mississippi River Region Inter-League Organization (UMRR-ILO) was called to order at 10:00 a.m. at Schaar's Bluff Gathering Center in Spring Lake Park Preserve in Hastings, Minnesota by chair, Gretchen Sabel (Andover, MN). In attendance and eligible to vote were 11 Board members and eight delegates.

MINUTES

Minutes of the Third Annual Meeting held on June 27, 2018 at the Standard Club in Chicago, Illinois were included in program materials. Toni Dautel (Glenview, IL) moved and Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins (La Crosse, WI) seconded to accept the minutes. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report as submitted by Jeri McGinley (Stevens Point, WI) was included in program materials. The UMRR-ILO fiscal year is from July 1 through June 30. Ending cash as of 5/20/2019 is \$7,528.14. Currently the UMRR-ILO has 58 local LWV chapters and 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). J. McGinley (Stevens Point, WI) moved and M. Ploeser (Dane County, WI) seconded to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Additional discussion included fundraising possibilities as well as a suggestion to research NRCS and Mississippi One grant possibilities.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The report from Mary Ann Nelson (Cedar Rapids, IA), Nominating Committee Chair was included in program materials. Gretchen Sabel will continue as Director of Communications maintaining our website, blog, monthly newsletter and Facebook presence. Nominating committee members from all four states are needed. This group does not meet in person and conducts business by email or phone. Lonnie McCauley does not want to go on to be chair at the end of her term.

The Proposed Slate of Officers to be voted upon at the June 2019 meeting are:

- Co-chairs: Mary and Steve Ploeser (Dane Co. WI) term ends 2021
- Vice-chair and Action Committee Chair: Lonnie McCauley (ABC MN.) term ends 2021
- Treasurer: Jeri McGinley (Stevens Point WI) term ends 2021

T. Prenosil (Dubuque IA) moved and L. McCauley (ABC MN.) seconded acceptance of the Nominating Committee Report and officers be approved by acclamation. Motion passed.

Other Officers for the 2019-2020 year include:

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- Secretary: Tamara Prenosil (2- year term up in 2020)
- Director of Communications: Gretchen Sabel is doing this for now
- Chair of Nominating Committee: Mary Ann Nelson (Cedar Rapids, IA) continuing
- State Representatives and Alternates (appointed by their respective state LWVs)
 - Illinois: Judy Beck Alternate: Toni Dautel
 - Iowa: Sue Wilson Alternate: needed
 - Minnesota: John Howard Alternate: Beth Baker-Knutilla
 - Wisconsin: Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins Alternate: needed

Discussion:

The location of the Board meetings moves around to all four states so not everyone can attend each meeting in person, but attendance by phone conference has worked out. Anyone can call in to the Board meetings. Board meetings are generally the first Monday of even numbered months. The state host of bi-monthly Board meetings arranges for an educational program open to the public prior to or after the business meeting. These programs are recorded and have been posted on the website.

ACTION COMMITTEE REPORT (RECAP AND DETAILED LISTING)

UMRR-ILO Activities Recap (FY 18-19) as well as the FY19-20 Action Plan and Strategy Plan Draft was included in the program materials.

L. McCauley also reviewed a PowerPoint of the UMRR-ILO Activities Recap (FY 18-19). The report showed Collaborations with other advocacy groups, legislative and political action and opportunities for future collaboration. For example, in Minnesota, the LWV is supporting the advocacy work of the Nature Conservancy to purchase land adjacent to the Mississippi River, advocating for plans to reduce phosphorous pollution in the La Crosse River watershed, and encouraging Wisconsin's efforts to make 2019 "The Year of Water Quality Improvement in Wisconsin."

L. McCauley also discussed the UMRR-ILO Plan of Action Draft for FY 19-20 which was projected by Powerpoint to the participants. The UMRR-ILO Board reaffirmed commitment to the Actions and Strategies for Implementation. The Action Committee meets the last Monday of the month by phone conference at which time members report activities in their respective states

Discussion issues included:

- L. McCauley reported ongoing collaboration with the Isaak Walton League to provide workshops for retired landowners (many of whom are widows) to help them negotiate with their renters' ways to practice sustainable agricultural practices.
- Minnesota UMRR-ILO met with their national congressional representatives to encourage ongoing funding for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) as well as streamlined paperwork for farmers.
- Forever Green in Minnesota is another advocacy group to possibly work with. They conduct research in the advantages of the use of cover crops
- The Powerpoint presentations on the UMRR-ILO website may need updating.
- Some communities offer reimbursement for rain gardens, permeable surfaces and the grass strips along street curbs to help mitigate storm water problems.
- The Farmer's Unions in some states give grants.

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- Women's Food and Agricultural Network in Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota is a good advocacy group with which to collaborate.
- The City of La Crosse is initiating a conservation initiative that is quite extensive and building collations with rural and urban groups especially around energy conservation.
- John Howard remarked that some sustainable agricultural practices sequester carbon, so it is not released into the atmosphere contributing to climate change.
- The USDA has videos on its website about sustainable agriculture with interviews with farmers who maintain sustainable practices contribute to a positive bottom line
- The Red Wing Landfill is leaking and in order to secure funding, small communities as well as Red Wing need to commit to support the issue.
- A report just released states Lake Michigan has one of the highest concentrations of microplastics in the world. Microplastics also flow down the Mississippi contributing to the pollution in the Gulf of Mexico.

BY-LAWS

The initial UMRR-ILO by-laws were adopted at the first annual meeting on October 25, 2015. A committee first met to review the by-laws by phone conference on 10-24-2018 and the proposed changes were reviewed by the UMRR-ILO Board and some attendees at our 12-3-2018 Board meeting in Coralville, Iowa. The by-laws and changes were included in the registration materials as well as projected on the screen at this annual meeting. A letter from Kim McFarland, LWVUS made suggestions for future by-law updates (such as removing the word 'citizen' and condensing the Statement of Purpose,) but stated that our current proposed changes are not inconsistent with LWVUS. T. Prenosil moved and S. Wilson seconded that the changes to the by-laws as sent to the membership two months prior to this meeting and as presented on this date be approved. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

Steve and Mary Ploeser (co-chairs of the UMRR-ILO for 2019-2021) expressed appreciation to Gretchen Sabel for the considerable amount of work that she accomplished as the UMRR-ILO's first chairperson and at the same time served as communications chair. They presented her with a statue to commemorate our gratitude.

UPCOMING UMRR-ILO BOARD MEETINGS (First Monday of even-numbered months)

August 5, 2019 in Wisconsin

Submitted by: Tamara Prenosil, Secretary

After the business meeting our speakers at this meeting were: John Linc Stine, Executive Director of the Freshwater Society and Matt Gladue, Program Director, for Our Mississippi Our Future, (The Nature Conservancy), and Minnesota Congress Woman Angie Craig. The focus was on climate change, what it means for the Mississippi and what can be done to mitigate the impacts. Caryl Terrell was our round-up speaker. She showed us how we can use the LWV US Tool Kit for Climate Action to take effective action to reduce climate change in our local communities and more broadly. Caryl is a member of LWV Dane County (Madison, Wisconsin), and was a founding member of the LWV US Climate Change Task Force. Videos are on the UMRR-ILO website.

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Position	Name	Home League	eMail	Address	Phone
Co-Chairs	Mary and Steve Ploeser	LWV Dane County	mploeser@gmail.com	2452 Kendall Ave, Madison WI 53705	608.347.4647
Vice-chair	Lonni McCauley	LWV ABC	lonnimccauley@comcast.net	9701 Avocet St, Coon Rapids MN 55433	763.757.2517 H
Secretary	Tam Prenosil	LWV Dubuque	tamaraprenosil@gmail.com	3050 Saint Anne Drive, Dubuque IA 52001-3903	563.583.6031 H, 563.590.9147 C
Treasurer	Jeri McGinley	LWV Stevens Point	mcginley0720@gmail.com	516 Sunrise Avenue, Stevens Point, WI 54481	715-344-9525
Communications	Gretchen Sabel	LWV ABC	gpsabel@yahoo.com	3540 153rd Ave NW, Andover MN 55304	763.486.2609 C, 763.427.5593 H (voice mail only)
MN Rep	John Howard	LWV Edina	jhoward3@gmail.com	5812 W 61st St, Edina MN 56436	952-334-6730 C
IA Rep	Sue Wilson	LWV Dubuque	wilsonsue@mchsi.com	3881 Cora Drive Dubuque IA 52002	563.582.7366 H, 563.543.3881 C
IL Rep					
WI Rep	Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins	LWV La Crosse	cjjenks@earthlink.net	2642 Hackberry Lane, La Crosse WI 54601	608.782.5727
MN Alternate	Elizabeth Baker-Knuttila	LWV Park Rapids	2014loocall@gmail.com	12029 Far Portage Dr, Park Rapids MN 56470	218.732.9441
IA Alternate					
IL Alternate	Toni Dautel	LWV Glenview	toni.dautel@gmail.com		
WI Alternate					
OFF BOARD POSITIONS					
Nom Com (off Board)	Mary Ann Nelson	LWV Linn Co	mrsmanelson@yahoo.com	211 5th Ave SE, Cedar Rapids IA 52403	319.362.8078 H, 319.899.2682 C
Filer of official papers	Ellen Rosborough	LWV Dane County	ellen.rosborough@gmail.com	2439 Trevor Way, Madison, WI 53719	608.386.0064
No role?	Sheri Latash	LWV Glenview	sheri.latash@gmail.com	1319 Pflingsten Rd. Glenview, IL 60025	847.724.5832 H; 847.309-3905 C
		UMRR US Post	LWV UMRR ILO. PO Box 258106. Madison. WI 53725		