

## LWV UMRR Board Agenda and Related Material for Board meeting October 7, 2019

### Bi-monthly Board Meeting Notice

#### Homework before the meeting:

1. Watch the video: [Why Climate Change Is a Public Health Emergency—September 2019 — League of Women Voters® of Dane County](#)
2. Read the LWV UMRR blog post on this topic: <https://www.lwvumrr.org/blog/time-for-leagues-to-talk-about-the-climate-crisis>

**Date:** October 7, 2019

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

**Place:** Location is the Ames Public Library, 515 Douglas Avenue, Ames; Iowa  
– phone: 515 239-5646

**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; welcome new Board members**

**10:10 – Operations**

- Approve August Board meeting minutes – Tam Prenosil – page 3
- Approve Financial Report – Jeri McGinley (on website: Treasurer's Report)
- Membership update – Beth Baker Knuttilla

**10:30 – Mississippi River Network meeting in St. Louis** – Gretchen Sabel

see email on page 4 for more info, anyone interested in going as our delegate?

**10:45 – Discussion of LWV UMRR Climate Change Initiative** (homework above to be done in advance)  
How to encourage our member Leagues to move ahead on climate change? In the blog post, we encouraged our local Leagues to have a climate change meeting if they haven't, but there's more that we can do. How can we move ahead with this?

**11:45 - Alternate Board member replacements for Minnesota, Illinois and Wisconsin – update**

**11:50 – December Meeting in Galena – what do we want to accomplish? - discussion**

**Noon – Adjourn and prepare for the afternoon session, lunch** (bring \$10 to pitch in and cover costs)

**Upcoming meetings** (1<sup>st</sup> Monday of even-numbered months)

December 2 – Board Meeting – Galena

February 3 – Board Meeting – Virtual

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### **1:00 - Welcome folks to afternoon session – all interested are welcome to these presentations**

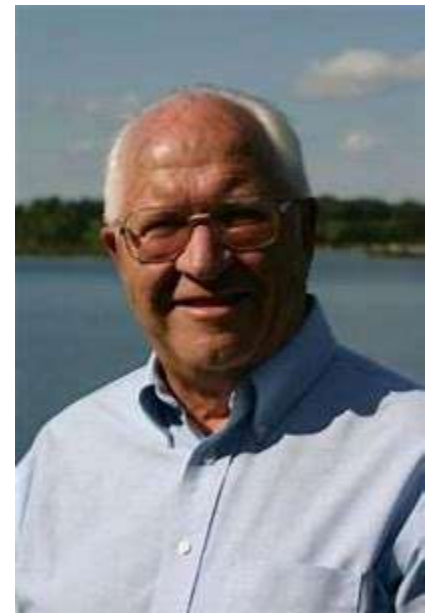
Our afternoon session will focus on soil health and the opportunities that exist for agriculture to help reverse the course of climate change. The afternoon program on water quality issues will be open to all LWV Iowa members who wish to attend. Jean Eells will talk beginning at 1:00 pm followed by Erv Klaas at 2:00 pm. The program is free and guests are most welcome.



**1:00 – Jean Eells** Jean Eells will address soil health issues related to erosion and pollutant runoff. Eells is an advocate for advancing conservation practices and improving natural resources management by women land owners. She has a Ph.D. in agricultural education from Iowa State University and operates E Resources Group LLC.

**2:00 - Dr. Erv Klaas** Erv Klaas will present an update on climate and soil health and nutrition. He is especially interested in the role of agriculture in the climate crisis and will focus on “Environmental Justice, Agriculture, and the Climate Crisis.” Klaas is professor emeritus of animal ecology at Iowa State University. He serves as an Assistant Soil and Water District Commissioner

and is a member of the League of Women Voters in Ames, IA. He is a founding member of Prairie Rivers of Iowa.



The event will be live streamed on [LWV UMRR's Facebook page](#).

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## Board Meeting Minutes--- August 5, 2019

### Middleton Public Library – 7425 Hubbard Ave. Middleton, WI 53562

The twenty second board meeting of the Upper Mississippi River Region Inter-League Organization (UMRR-ILO) was called to order by Co-Chair Steve Ploeser (WI-Madison) August 5, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

**Board members attending the meeting in addition to the Chair were:** Tamara Prenosil (IA-Dubuque), Sue Wilson (IA-Dubuque), Jeri McGinley (WI-Stevens Point), Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkin (WI-La Crosse), Gretchen Sabel (MN-ABC) Lonnie McCauley (MN-Coon Rapids)

**Board Members attending the meeting by phone conference were:** John Howard (MN-Winona), Beth Baker- Knutilla (MN-Park Rapids)

**Guests at the Board Meeting:** Paula Ekstrom (IL-McHenry County), Lee Ekstrom (IL-McHenry County), Robin Schmidt (WI-La Crosse)

#### I. Operations

Secretary's Report: J McGinley moved, and G. Sabel seconded that the agenda for today's meeting as well as minutes of the April 1, 2019 Board meeting and June 1, 2019 Annual Meeting be approved. Motion carried.

#### II. Financial Report:

J. McGinley reported the UMRR-ILO brought in \$3,049.38 more than was spent. This includes the \$1,000 ERC grant. The Lake Michigan ILO was reimbursed for the UMRR-ILO share of expenses for the combined Annual Meetings in Chicago in 2018. The fiscal year finished with 64 members, the highest so far. Attendees at the Annual Meeting totaled 32 with 17 delegates. A detailed financial report including BUDGET VS ACTUALS July 2018 – June 2019 was submitted to the UMRR-ILO Board in advance. Treasurer's report accepted by the Board as presented.

- Form 9-90 N (for small non-profits) was filed with the IRS
- The Board decided to join the Freshwater Society and Nature Conservancy in appreciation of the speakers from these organizations at our Annual Meeting. The funds will come out of the ERC grant which is administered by Lonnie McCauley.
- The Board decided to give \$100 to Caryl Terrell who was our round-up speaker at the Annual Meeting. She showed us how we can use the LWV US Tool Kit for Climate Action to take effective action in our local communities and more broadly. This is an honorarium to help defray her mileage costs. L. McCauley moved and C. Mahlum-Jenkins seconded this money be taken from our operational budget. Motion carried.
- S. Wilson moved and J. McGinley seconded that the signers on the bank account will now be Jeri McGinley and Steve Ploeser and Mary Ploeser. Because Gretchen Sabel's term as President ended, her name will be removed. Motion carried.
- T. Dautel moved and L. McCauley seconded that the UMRR-ILO use the 501 (h) election which indicates that lobbying is an insubstantial (less than 20%). From Wikipedia (This allows organizations taking the

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501(h) election to potentially perform a large amount of lobbying if it is done using [volunteer labor](#) or through inexpensive means. The 501(h) election is available to most types of 501(c)(3) organizations that are not churches or [private foundations](#).) Most of UMRR-ILO lobbying is “in-kind” or perhaps some printing or mailing. Board members need to tell our treasurer, so we do not exceed the 20%. Motion carried

### **III. Section 319 Grant Program:**

Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins provided an example of a letter that might be sent to each Senator in our four states urging them to support funding for this program. One paragraph from the letter:

The “**Local Water Protection Act**” would reauthorize the **Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Section 319- grant program** that provides funding opportunities for states to develop and implement their own programs for managing nonpoint source water pollution, or pollution from diffuse sources including runoff from farms, managed forests, and urban areas. The bill asks for \$200 million each year for four years to the Environmental Protection Agency’s 319-grant program.

Once permission is granted from LWVUS and all four states Boards, UMRR-ILO delegates using UMRR-ILO stationary will send a snail mail letter to each Senator to their Washington office and a state office. An email letter will also be sent to the Washington office. J. McGinley moved and C. Mahlum-Jenkins seconded this action. Motion carried.

### **IV. Judy Beck Memorial:**

J. McGinley moved and G. Sabel seconded that a Judy Beck Memorial Fund be established. It would be a separate line item in the budget and withdrawals would require Board approval. Requests for funds would generally be for advocacy activities. Motion carried.

### **V. Adding a carbon focus to our mission – carbon sequestration through soil health initiatives:**

L. McCauley reported that the Action Committee this past Monday decided to request the UMRR-ILO Board add a carbon focus. She said some research is needed to understand how much carbon might be stored in an acre of land of various uses. T. Prenosil moved and S. Wilson seconded that carbon sequestration in soil be added as a priority under our climate change action issues in the UMRR-ILO Plan of Action. Motion carried.

A PowerPoint needs to be developed to reflect updated priorities. T. Prenosil, G. Sabel, and L. McCauley volunteered to begin this project. Suggestions from other Board members would be appreciated.

### **VI. Update on partnerships:**

L. McCauley led the discussion regarding adding advisors to our UMRR-ILO Boards and committees. They could provide technical expertise that would keep us current about issues. A list of advisors with

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a brief description of expertise and contact information would be developed that would be accessible to Board members only and not publicized to the general public. T. Prenosil moved and C. Mahlum-Jenkins seconded the addition of advisors as resources but not with official voting privileges. Motion carried.

### **VII. Upper Mississippi River Basin Association Meeting in Winona**

John Howard attended this meeting which is one of several organized by the Corps of Engineers and the DNR. He reported much of the discussion was about flooding and its impact on river commerce. There was some discussion about climate change. Collaboration between agencies was discussed.

### **VIII. Watershed Game Update:**

Toni Dautel reported that the University of Minnesota wants a minimum of 25 participants before they would provide a training in one of our states. The cost would be \$1,500 to 2,500. Toni will continue to research grants or other possible sources of funding.

### **IX. Openings on the UMRR-ILO Board:**

Representatives to the UMRR-ILO Board need to be appointed by the states. Positions that need to be filled include:

- Illinois: Representative to replace Judy Beck
- Iowa: State Board has approved two alternates so okay
- Minnesota: alternate need since Elisabeth Baker-Knuttila has request to retire from the Board
- Wisconsin: alternate needed

### **X. Membership Update:**

Renewals are coming in A list of local chapters that have paid dues was provided so delegates can encourage local chapters in their respective states to renew for the 2019-2010 fiscal year.

### **XI. Other Business:**

Jeri McGinley raised the idea of a calendar with pictures of the Mississippi and perhaps the pictures might eventually be turned into a coffee table book.

October 7, 2019: Board meeting will be in Ames Iowa

December 2, 2019 Board meeting in Illinois and perhaps invite representatives from Missouri to attend

L. McCauley moved and C. Mahlum-Jenkins seconded that the meeting adjourn at 12:10 pm. Motion carried.

Submitted by: Tamara Jo Prenosil

## **LWV UMRR Board Agenda and Related Material for Board meeting October 7, 2019**

**From:** Kelly McGinnis <[kmcginnis@1mississippi.org](mailto:kmcginnis@1mississippi.org)>

**To:** Mississippi River Network members and partners <[MRN@1mississippi.org](mailto:MRN@1mississippi.org)>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 12, 2019, 01:54:34 PM CDT

**Subject:** You are Invited to MRN's Annual Meeting in St. Louis November 13 - 15, 2019

Hello Mississippi River Network Members!

**Please join us for the Mississippi River Network's Annual Meeting which is taking place in St. Louis, MO November 13 to 15, 2019.** Together we will reflect on the last year of successes and challenges, review changes in the Network's guiding documents and updated strategic plan, discuss the changing landscape of Mississippi River work, and much more. It will be an excellent opportunity to connect with other Network members and plan for the coming year.

- The meeting begins on Wednesday, November 13. A group dinner will happen that evening. Beginning meeting time and any pre-meeting events (policy or engagement committee meeting) information are coming out later this month.
- The meeting will end on Friday, November 15, by noon. Steering Committee members and others interested in attending the Steering Committee meeting will meet after at 12:30 pm and run until 2:00 pm. This meeting is open to all members. If you have any questions regarding the schedule, please let me know.

**Attached to this invitation is the registration form. If you can join us, please fill out the registration form and return to me via email by October 14, 2019. You do not need to call the hotel to reserve your room;** I will take care of that based on your registration form. If you are unable to attend, please let me know. If you have any questions at all about attending the meeting or who from your organization should come, please reach out to me.

As we have done in the past, we will take care of your lodging costs and provide a \$300 travel stipend for getting you to and from the meeting. Many of your meals will also be covered as well as a to be determined field trip.

Stay tuned for a draft agenda and field trip information to come out in the next couple of weeks, and if there is anything you would like to see be a part of this year's meeting, please let me know! We are in the planning stages now!

I hope you join us this year in a great city for what is sure to be an exciting meeting! If you have any questions, please contact me. Thank you for your consideration, and have a great day!

Warm Regards,  
Kelly

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Kelly McGinnis

Director, Mississippi River Network

708.305.3524

## LWV UMRR Board Agenda and Related Material for Board meeting October 7, 2019

### Enrichment:

Check out these links, interesting reading! There's lots of stuff going on. Would you enjoy having a section like this with every agenda? This would be a good way for all of us to share items of interest. You can send these to Gretchen Sabel and she'll include it.

1. Written Testimony of Eric Schaeffer, Executive Director of Environmental Integrity Project Before the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce "EPA's Enforcement Program: Taking the Environmental Cop Off the Beat" February 26, 2019

[https://energycommerce.house.gov/sites/democrats.energycommerce.house.gov/files/documents/ESchaefferTestimony\\_House%20Oversight%20Hearing\\_Feb26.2019\\_Copy.pdf](https://energycommerce.house.gov/sites/democrats.energycommerce.house.gov/files/documents/ESchaefferTestimony_House%20Oversight%20Hearing_Feb26.2019_Copy.pdf)

2. A new ELPC-commissioned poll shows that NW Ohioans support regulatory actions on concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) to reduce the toxic algal blooms that continue to plague Western Lake Erie. (This is from the Environmental Law and Policy Center, based in Chicago.)

[NW Ohioans Want Action to Clean Up Toxic Algae in Lake Erie - Environmental Law & Policy Center](#)

3. Cedar Rapids recognized for their water work.

[http://www.cedar-rapids.org/news\\_detail\\_T6\\_R1156.php#content](http://www.cedar-rapids.org/news_detail_T6_R1156.php#content)