

## Upper Mississippi River Region ILO

### Activities Report and Update for FY20-21

#### Some highlights

4/20/21

- Joined forces with the Sierra Club and wrote our alderperson to support the adoption of the Madison storm water ordinance. It was adopted and will help prevent excess storm water through required green infrastructure in new development.
- The City of Coon Rapids, MN is amending their solar ordinance to include solar arrays at the request and support of the Coon Rapids Regenerative Energy Task Force. The task force is in the middle of working with three sites in the city for such arrays.
- Participates in the Water Legislative Roundtable through which The Environmental Law and Policy Center developed a webinar on Soil Health presented to farmers: “Factfinding and Policy Options.”
- With the LWV Dane County, Steve and Mary Ploeser helped prepare two mini forums about storm water and how to deal with it in an environmentally friendly way.
- City of La Crosse has approved a 5-year, \$100,000.00 per year budget for the design changes, prepare work plans and estimates, and oversee construction for the restoration and maintenance of hydrology, trail infrastructure, and habitat in the La Crosse River Marsh. The La Crosse River Marsh currently is a 1000-acre, urban, riparian wetland
- Scientists and Beth Baranski continue to work on the Karst Feature Database project in Galena, IL, They're organizing the data so USFWS can host this in a Geographic Information System (GIS) map layer on their web portal. This work is funded through a League grant from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.
- Supported and worked with two dozen environmental groups through the MN Environmental Partnership for a bonding bill which included \$300+ million for water infrastructure across Minnesota. The bonding bill passed the MN legislature and was signed into law on 10/21/20

#### Lobbying

- New legislation for PFAS/PFOS containment and handling to improve water quality issues and the health of community in close vicinity of PFAS/PFOS contamination
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture to develop a suite of programs for farmers and foresters that support greenhouse gas reductions and carbon sequestration
- MN Environmental Quality Board supporting their climate change addition
- State agencies opposing Gulf Hypoxia
- Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources Emergency Rule WA-06-20(E) Relating to PFAS in Firefighting Foam
- USGS in regard potential fish study regarding PFAS in Black River.

- French Island Town of Campbell Supervisor, Lee Donahue ,regarding PFAS contamination.
- Illinois Department of Agriculture regarding Nutrient Reduction Strategy and Gulf Dead Zone
- MN legislature to deliver H.F. 3 as a strong investment in Minnesota’s economy, local communities, and environment.
- Upon asking how the NEPA’S decision to restrict timeframes for the EIS process affects mining decisions in Minnesota DNR answered that in many instances Minnesota will do their own EIS
- MN senators disagreeing with their decision to dump “low level” nuclear waste into regular landfills.
- MN legislature supporting 100% soil health bill, full funding for the U’s Forever Green program and the Clean Car legislation.
- MN Gov. Walz asking for more consideration be given to scientific data on carbon capture before the state more strongly commits to including cover crops and no-till as eligible practices in a carbon market.
- Wisconsin congressional delegation disagreeing with their decision to dump “low level” nuclear waste into regular landfills
- Federal agencies for the Healing Our Waters program FY2022 Appropriations for Great Lakes Priorities

## **Education**

- Hosted via Zoom a book discussion of Blowout by Rachel Maddow IUUWAN is providing informational programs on the book Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed
- Hosted webinar, "Out of Sight, Out of Mind? The Hidden Reality of Groundwater as a Drinking Water Source,"
- Wrote PFAS article for La Crosse Tribune, for the Environment at Risk column and distributed for use by other LWV state organizations
- Researched potential presenters in regard to PFAS for the Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 UMRR meeting
- Produced monthly newspaper columns in Anoka County papers monthly written by Anoka County watersheds and environmental groups
- Produced with Land Stewardship project “Non-Operating Land Owner” events and flyers