

Date: **August 6, 2018**
Time: **9:00 am to 11:00 am Central time**
Place: **Connect by phone at (712)770-4010*, code: 950753#**
Agenda and all documents here:
<https://www.lwvumrr.org/news--upcoming-events.html>

***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.**

Call to order: 9:00 AM

Operations

Approve June Board meeting minutes – Prenosil (attached)
Approve Financial Report – McGinley (to be provided)
Plan of action ratification for 2018/2019 – McCauley (attached)
Focus on NGO's –
 update on organizations we have joined
 discussion on Ikes/Land Stewardship Project collaboration (material attached)
Assisting and urging local Leagues to get involved in water issues
An update on the Farm Bill

Action Item

Update on our petition to oppose interbasin transfer of Lake Michigan water to Mississippi River basin – Carolyn Mahlum Jenkins.

Special Reports

Membership – McGinley will give update

Gretchen is still planning to send a letter to all of our member Leagues thanking them for their support, sending an Action Report and a glossy brochure, letting them know that they can ask for our assistance in dealing with local water issues, and telling them they can pay their membership fees online. THIS IS STILL UNDONE...

Other Business?

Upcoming meetings (1st Monday of even-numbered months)

Oct 1, 2018 (location TBD) Cingonsider work with LWV Winona or other local League on a river-oriented event in October – possible speaker would be Glenn Skuta from MN Pollution Control Agency, on their recent Governor's Award for watershed work.

Dec 3, 2018 (location TBD)

Feb 4, 2019 (phone)

April 8, 2019 (location TBD)

June 10, 2019 – possible Annual Meeting date? Would blend with our regular Board meeting. Location TBD – perhaps in Twin Cities area?

Adjourn

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGION INTER-LEAGUE ORGANIZATION
Board Meeting --- June 4, 2018
Phone Conference

The sixteenth board meeting of the Upper Mississippi River Region Inter-League Organization (UMRR-ILO) was called to order by Chair Gretchen Sabel (MN-ABC) June 4, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. Board members attending the phone conference in addition to the Chair were: Tamara Prenosil (IA-Dubuque), Elizabeth Baker-Knittila (MN-Park Rapids), Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins (WI-La Crosse), Jeri Mc Ginley (WI-Stevens Point), Lonnie McCauley (MN-Coon Rapids), Mary Ploeser (WI-Madison)

I. Operations

Secretary's Report: L. McCauley moved and J. McGinley seconded the report be accepted. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: J. McGinley submitted a copy of the 2018-2019 Budget (attached) showing 2017-2018 budget, Actual expenses through May 31 2018 as well as a column showing proposed Budget for 2018-2019. To date we have had \$4015.98 in revenue and \$3,604.50 in expenses with a \$411.48 net operating revenue.

L. McCauley moved and M. Ploeser seconded that the treasurer's report and proposed budget as discussed be approved. Motion carried.

Package for 2018 Annual Meeting: G. Sabel will send a letter to LWV Chapters with information regarding the Annual Meeting as well as a link to the UMRR-ILO Website with the total package for download.

Discussion centered around the proposed budget for next year which will be presented at the Annual Meeting on June 27, 2018. We want to guard our reserves. G. Sabel worked with LWV members in Minneapolis to make silk scarves which will be available at the LWV National Convention June 28 – Jul1, 2018 for a good will donation. An estimate of donations is \$1300 with expenses of \$600 so a net gain of \$700. Currently 15 local LWV chapters have representatives attending the Annual Meeting and we will give \$15 to each chapter. This money will come out of the grant that L. McCauley is monitoring. Which will leave \$375 to go toward encouraging LWV members to join local environmental advocacy groups working on water issues. J. McGinley will send a revised 2018-2019 Proposed Budget that reflects today's discussion.

The slate of officers to be approved at the annual meeting:

- Chair: Gretchen Sabel (2 year term up in 2019)
- Vice Chair (Chair Elect) Lonni McCauley (term to continue until 2018) Lonni has agreed to stay on in this role until another candidate is secured – thank you, Lonni!
- Treasurer: Jeri McGinley (2 year term up in 2019)
- Secretary: Tamara Prenosil (2 year term up in 2020) Thank you, Tam!
- Director of Communications: Open – Gretchen Sabel is doing this for now
- Chair of the Nominating Committee 2018: Mary Ann Nelson – Continuing
- State Representatives and alternates: (Appointed by their respective state LWVs)
- ♣ Illinois: Judy Beck Alternate: needed

- ♣ Iowa: Sue Wilson Alternate: Nancy Lynch
- ♣ Minnesota: John Howard Alternate: Beth Baker-Knutilla
- ♣ Wisconsin: Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins Alternate: Mary Ploeser

A by-laws committee will be formed at this Annual Meeting to review needed changes to be presented at the Annual meeting in 2019

Plan of Action for 2018/2019 (The May Action Committee Phone Conference was postponed being held in conjunction with this ILO Board Meeting)

L. McCauley proposed focusing on encouraging LWV members (especially UMRR-ILO members) join other organizations to leverage our impact on environmental issues as well as legislation in our respective states. We can spend our time building coalitions and networking. This might be done by using each other's data bases to publicize "calls to action" about emerging issues. We can let these groups know when we join that we are LWV and UMRR-ILO members. These efforts are in addition to ongoing contacts with elected representatives at our local, state and federal governmental levels.

L. McCauley needs UMRR-ILO members to email her the names of groups with which we are already involved.

L. McCauley suggested we need to seek opportunities to make presentations and lead the Watershed game events. M. Ploeser suggested middle school age groups would be an especially good audience. L. McCauley suggested UMRR-ILO board members commit to approaching at least one group this coming year for a presentation.

L. McCauley will send a draft of the goals and objectives discussed today and which will be presented at the Annual Meeting.

II. Special Reports

G. Sabel will send a letter to our member LWV chapters thanking them for our support, sending them an Action Report and a glossy brochure, letting them know they can ask for our assistance is dealing with local water issues and telling them membership fees can now be paid online. The pay Pal buttons are now operational.

C. Mahlum-Jenkins has been researching the issues involved with the city of Racine Wisconsin approving the new Foxconn Corporation permission to siphon water from Lake Michigan which appears to be in violation of the Great Lakes Water Compact. Some concerned advocacy groups would like to have the process monitored by an independent entity rather than the city of Racine and the Wisconsin DNR. C. Mahlum-Jenkins will continue to investigate these concerns.

G. Sabel has made presentations to Minnesota legislative committees. She gets her presentation approved by the state LWV before the meetings. The State LWV may want to offer additional talking points. M. Ploeser agreed to be available to provide this service since she lives in Madison, Wisconsin. The UMRR-ILO may be able help with talking points.

III. Other Business

L. McCauley encouraged UMRR-ILO board members to continue to recruit people to be involved in this organization.

LWV UMRR Board Agenda and Related Material for phone meeting on August 6, 2018

G. Sabel requested the organization purchase a retractable sign/banner to be used at meetings where a table may not be available. T. Prenosil moved and C. Mahlum-Jenkins seconded the purchase. Motion carried.

IV. Upcoming Meetings

June 27, 2018 (Annual Meeting at the Standard Club in Chicago, IL)

August 6, 2018 (Minneapolis MN)

October 1, 2018 (location TBA)

December 3, 2018 (location TBA)

Adjourn: 2:50 p.m.

Submitted by: Tamara Prenosil

Treasurer's Report comes next – see additional material provided

Partnership Agreement for Upper Mississippi River Alliance

Land Stewardship Project, League of Women Voters, Sustainable Farming Association, Izaak Walton League MN Division

- 1.) We are more effective at achieving our goals when we all work together and would like to partner on initiatives pertaining to agriculture in the Upper Mississippi River region of Minnesota.
- 2.) While we each have different missions, we share an overall goal to improve water and soil quality through grassroots efforts and community engagement.
- 3.) We acknowledge that the amount of time and energy put into individual workshops may vary between groups depending on regional connections and resources.
 - a. Ex.) LSP might have a good network of absentee landowners in Dodge Co. and may shoulder most of the outreach in that location, while the Izaak Walton League might have a great chapter presence in Austin and be able to organize and execute a workshop at their clubhouse there, etc.
- 4.) We agree to share lists of participants after co-sponsored workshops and events – We each bring different items to the table and will appeal to different audiences. It is up to attendees to get involved in any particular organization as they see fit.
- 5.) We agree to discuss outcomes and follow up plans as we progress
- 6.) We agree to check in periodically to ensure we're most efficiently managing our time and resources.

Plan of Action DRAFT for FY 18-19

These are the results of the mini-plan of action during the bi-monthly phone conference on June 4. Its organization refers to the objectives of UMRR determined at its originating meeting 10-15 and adding water quantity as an additional objective 12-17.

(1) Educate ourselves and our fellow citizens on the issue and identify what we can do on an individual, community, regional, and national level to fix the problem of pollution in the Mississippi River.

Members will make one or more presentations to organizations throughout the year using the watershed game, power points or other resources.

(2) Capitalize on our LWV relationships with the legislators and regulators at every level of government and advocate for needed programs and ways to adequately fund them to alleviate nutrient pollution.

Continue member contacts, letters of support and opportunities to testify for water quantity and quantity to legislatures, counties and congress.

(3) Use our 501©3 status and collaborate with others for resources apply for grant to support our educational efforts.

No change.

(4) Facilitate collaboration and action among pairs or groups of LWVs and partner with other groups and organizations to work on the issue on a shared watershed level.

Added emphasis on joining and actively participating in related organizations using UMRR as our identification . UMRR will pay for membership(s)

- **NOTE: members please will send me your organization participation so we can add this to the Plan.**

(5)Capitalize on our ability to develop regional positions and serve as advocates for the collective interests of the Mississippi River or Great Lakes regions before Congress and federal agencies.

Work with LWV Lake Michigan to hold a Water Caucus at the LWV US convention in June 2018 . (completed)

Continue monitoring the Lake Michigan and other Great Lakes siphoning proposal to determine our opposition stance.

(6)Working with other groups locally and at the national level, advocate for retention and strengthening of environmental programs and protections.

Seek collaboration with rural watersheds/soil and conservation districts to find opportunities to speak with farmer groups, Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited etc. about water quality and quantity.

Continue our monitoring of the 2018 farm bill and its elements to determine and lobby for our support or opposition.

LWV UMRR Board Agenda and Related Material for phone meeting on August 6, 2018

Some additional material, just in case

To: 'Gretchen Sabel' <gpsabel@yahoo.com>; "lonnimccauley@comcast.net" <lonnimccauley@comcast.net>
Cc: Lynne Markus <how.lyn@me.com>; 'Barry Drazkowski' <bdrazkow@gmail.com>; Don Arnosti <donarnosti@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2018, 12:26:59 PM CDT
Subject: next steps Ikes UMRI-LWV UMRR

Gretchen & Lonni;

Thank-you both again for meeting with Lynne and I a week ago yesterday. On Monday I began to look at the LWV UMRR Recap (Oct 2015-June 2018). The list of engagements is quite impressive in terms of sheer numbers alone!

I believe our major goal is to assist in effectively growing what I will call the "Regenerative AG Movement". That both organizations seek to grow the number of farm operations that are modifying their operating models in ways that favor improved watershed health.

All engaged know our degree of difficulty is significant to say the least. That said, I think we all welcome a challenge. Particularly on subjects that are so very important to LWV / IWLA missions.

My take is that we keep it simple in our initial efforts to share this great adventure.

FOCUS:

1. Develop working models for IWLA / LWV units to:

1. Facilitate presentations that are directed toward facilitating engagement with what we describe these days as conventional (corn / beans-- row crops being dominant)

Specifically:

Educate LWV and IWLA Chapter members

Be very specific in task “ask” (training that enables members to feel confident in outreach to farm owners-net working thru present relationships)

Begin with Chapter leaders (actually continue what we’ve been doing presenting UMR at Ikes event-get better in simplifying action items)-reach agreement on chapter engagement-provide resource support.

Bring LWV and Ikes from local areas together to help / enable them to develop their programming-(guidance-vs. dictating)

Use both staff and volunteer leaders to leverage out-reach-

Outreach strategies that are built for different locations (for example-effective small / rural community marketing Ray Archuleta presentations in 2018 in S. MN-N IA) Do same for larger urban areas.

2. As above: Develop programming directed toward presentations customized for non- farm-owner –land owners.

Develop methods of find and marketing to those land-owners.

Develop customized programming

Provide rental agreement examples that feature conservations features

Be able to provide other resource referrals for the owners, and the farm operators (legal, financial, realistic expectations regards transition time and production realities, equipment, etc.)

3. Media

Develop media strategies connected to marketing for both types of outreach meetings above.

Find and cultivate media relationships (Note: in many cases we already have long standing relationships with media that we can use to build awareness around UMR / UMRI-and position them in some ways as advisors to us in working with the media. In short, present our work to them, ask them how we need to proceed with media).

UMR NEXT STEPS: (suggestions)

LWV UMRR Board Agenda and Related Material for phone meeting on August 6, 2018

1. We are beginning programming in the Driftless area. One example is a meeting in Weaver, MN on Sept 26th involving the Winona and Wabasha Ikes Chapters. This may be an opportunity to invite LWV members from the area to the meeting at Weaver. Another possibility is that we gather a number of Ikes leaders from the region and a number of the LWV leaders before the UMRI presentations to discuss LWV / Ikes programming and get a sense of support and in-put. I am going to discuss this with Don Arnosti and Barry Drazkowski during a call this coming Monday.
2. Make progress on connecting LWV units in IA with Ann Robinson. With 47 Ikes chapters in IA, and I certain quite a number of LWV units, there appears to me to be significant opportunity to support one another's programming.
3. We meet for a half day at the Ikes MN Valley Chapter House in Bloomington to react and agree on actions immediately forward.

I will be gone much of the rest of July- I am open now for the 3rd item above August 7th-9th-10th, Do any of these dates work for you?

I will check back the week of July 30th.

Thank-you;

Dave Zentner