

## LWV UMRR Board Agenda and Related Material for Board meeting October 1, 2018

### Bi-monthly Board Meeting Notice

Date: **October 1, 2018**

Time: **9:30 am to 11:30 am Central time (coffee starting at 9am)**

Place: **Location: Winona National Fish and Wildlife Refuge Center**

**Or 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>

**Gather at 9am for coffee, call to order at 9:30 am**

### Operations

Approve August Board meeting minutes – Tam Prenosil (to be posted on website)

Approve Financial Report – Jeri McGinley (to be posted on website)

### Special Reports

- Update on Farm Bill - Gretchen Sabel
- Update on Lake Michigan water to Mississippi River basin – Carolyn Mahlum Jenkins
- New Initiative – Partnership for absentee landowner workshops with Izaak Walton League Upper Mississippi Initiative – Lonni McCauley. Action Required: Seeking Board approval of a partnership between UMRR and the IWL UMRI – partnership agreement (attached)
- Update on the Mississippi River Network – Kelly McGinnis or Gretchen Sabel

### Committees

Bylaws committee - Report

Nominating committee – Looking for board officers for next spring slate

### Membership

Gretchen will 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.

### Other Business?

- Should we plan to send a rep to the LWV Wisconsin Issues Briefing? Do other states have things like this that we should be present for? (Wisconsin notice follows on page XX.)

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

Dec 3, 2018 (location TBD – we talked about Racine, is this a good idea? Maybe Iowa City?)

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 Board Meeting at 11:30** (light lunch will be served - \$5 suggested ante, others arrive for 12:30 social time and 1pm Galena River Watershed discussion)

**IMPORTANT NOTE RE: REFUGE VISITOR CENTER** – *The drinking water at the Visitor Center is not potable at this time. We will bring some safe drinking water and prepare the other beverages with safe water, but you may also want to bring a bottle of water of your own.*

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

Board Meeting --- August 6, 2018

Phone Conference

The seventeenth 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 9:00 a.m.

Board members attending the phone conference in addition to the Chair were: Tamara Prenosil (IA-Dubuque), Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins (WI-La Crosse), Jeri Mc Ginley (WI-Stevens Point), Lonnie McCauley (MN-Coon Rapids), Toni Dautel (IL-Glenview), Mary Ann Nelson (IA-Cedar Rapids)

## **I. Operations**

**Secretary's Report:** L. McCauley moved, and J. McGinley seconded that the minutes of the June 4, 2018 Board meeting be approved. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** J. McGinley reviewed submitted reports. As of June 30, 2018 the bank balance was \$4,437.26 which included \$599.75 of unspent balance of restricted ERC grant. In July 2018 Membership dues increased by \$125, The scarf fundraiser added \$80, and there was one ERC grant membership reimbursement (\$50 Practical Farmers of Iowa). Therefore, the July 31, 2018 bank balance was \$4,607.327.

J. McGinley reported the form 990 was filed with the IRS and we continue as a 501 ( c ) 3. Ellen Rosbourough will help review the books.

C. Mahlum-Jenkins moved, and T. Dautel seconded that the treasurer's report be approved. Motion carried.

**Plan of Action Ratification for 2018/2019:** L. McCauley reviewed the Plan as submitted for this meeting. C. Mahlum-Jenkins moved, and J. McGinley seconded that the Plan be approved as stands. Motion carried.

**Focus on NGOs:** Izaak Walton (IKES) continues to host workshops for retired farmers with a focus on negotiating with renters. IKES goal is 20 of these workshops annually. An alliance between UMRR-ILO and IKES may be beneficial. (Possible actions for IKES chapters and LWV Chapters has been included with the materials for this meeting.) The Upper Mississippi River Initiative (UMRI) got a grant from the McKnight Foundation and has hired staff in all four states with a focus on environmental issues impacting fishing and hunting.

**Farm Bill:** The current Farm Bill (2014) expires on 9/30/2018. The House version is most restrictive in terms of funding for environmental programs and SNAP. The Senate version includes more funding for these issues. If a compromise can not be reached, there will probably be a resolution to keep the current version in place.

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### II. Action Item

**Update on UMRR-ILO petition to oppose inter-basin transfer of Lake Michigan water to Mississippi River basin:** C. Mahlum-Jenkins reported that Midwest Environmental Advocates (MEA) filed a petition at the end of May 2018 for a “contested case hearing” regarding the city of Racine’s request to divert seven million gallons of water per day for use by Foxconn. This is a challenge to the Wisconsin DNR’s decision because MEA believes it is a violation of the Great Lakes Compact which states water being used must be for public purposes. MEA believes approval of Racine’s decision would set a precedent for other communities to divert water for other than public use. MEA is concerned about who will be the “watchdog” agency to monitor the water quality of water being released back into Lake Michigan.

### III. Special Reports

**Membership:** J. McGinley reported there are 21 paid memberships to date. She has created a spread sheet that Board members can access to see which chapters in their state have paid dues.

### IV. Other Business

**Bylaws:** T. Prenosil will chair a committee to review current bylaws. Items that need to be reviewed include term limits and appointment of Board members when a vacancy occurs prior to the end of a term. Those who agreed to work on this activity include: Jeri McGinley (WI), Gretchen Sabel (MN), Toni Dautel (IL). The following individuals also agreed to serve on this committee at the ILO annual meeting: Margaret Herring (Chicago, IL), Lee Extrom (McHenry, IL), Judy Beck (Glenview, IL).

**Action Committee:** Phone meetings are now scheduled for the last Monday of the month at 5:00 p.m.

**Policies and Procedures Document:** Discussion of statements to be included: procedures for making public statements, dissemination of individual names, entering collaborative agreements with other non-profits.

#### Upcoming Meetings:

October 1, 2018: Winona Minnesota

December 3, 2018 – Talked about Racine, Wisconsin. Need to decide.

Submitted by: Tamara Prenosil

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### STRATEGIC COORDINATION ON OUTREACH WITH OWNERS OF RENTED FARMLAND

Izaak Walton League MN Division, Land Stewardship Project, and the League of Women Voters Upper Mississippi River Region proposed partnership

Background:

Each of our groups is pursuing engagement of farmland landowners. A shared goal for that work is to improve water quality in the Upper Mississippi River region of Minnesota by improving soil health through grassroots efforts and community engagement to farmland owners. It behooves us to coordinate in geographic areas where we might have overlapping activity on this topic. The goal for doing so is to magnify impacts on the land and avoid confusion for people.

- 1.) We will periodically update each other on workshop plans for landowner outreach. We may invite each other to co-sponsor a workshop or event in geographic regions such as Austin where we overlap with activity and membership. Knowing each other's strengths may mean referring people to each other's program work. At check-ins we can ensure we're most efficiently managing our time and resources.
- 2.) 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 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.
- 3.) We agree to share lists of participants after a co-sponsored workshop or event – in that case we can each invite membership or involvement in our organization during and after the event. It is up to attendees to get involved in any particular organization as they see fit.
- 4.) We agree to discuss outcomes and follow up plans as we progress
- 5.) We utilize other's materials with acknowledgement rather than duplicating.
- 6.) We will invite other conservation organizations to collaborate with this partnership when appropriate.

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**Issues Briefing  
2018**

*Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.*

Join us for *Issues Briefing*

Make plans now to attend the 2018 LWVWI *Issues Briefing* on **Saturday, November 10 from 9 AM - 4 PM**. League members and nonmembers are welcome at this informative event, which this year takes place at the Holy Wisdom Monastery in Middleton (located [here](#), in the Madison area).

Tentative guest speaker topics include:

- Protecting the Great Lakes
- Election security in Wisconsin
- United against hate and prejudice: art and activism
- The League's diversity, equity and inclusion initiative
- The role of media in democracy

Also, the LWVWI Board and staff will provide updates on the work from the State Office. [Learn more and register](#) online for the event today!

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