

Action Committee report, 2022-23

Kay Slama, Chair

Operations:

- Organized more clearly to conform with by-laws specifying Robert's Rules as our guidance: Standing Committee, Board appoints members each year. This year it included all Board members plus Lynne Markus.
- Elected Kay Slama Action Committee Chair, Lonnie McCauley Vice-Chair, and Tamara Prenosil Secretary for the 2022-23 year.
- 5/21/22 annual UMRR meeting gave Action Committee clear permission to take action on a one-state issue between board meetings, with permission from that state's LWV.

Through the year, worked on:

- Farm Bill information and advocacy
- Mississippi River Restoration and Resilience Initiative (MRRRI) and Save our Mississippi River Together (SMRT) and Mississippi River compact advocacy (voted in March to sign onto MRRRI letter when Rep. McCollum reintroduces to get it a bill number, sent letter to LWVUS Climate Interest Group)
- A clear and expeditious process to get LWV-US approval for a national action by UMRR
- Investigation and possibilities to join LWV-US Climate Interest Group.
- Co-sponsored a Minnesota Climate Change Task Force informational program

Affiliations with other organizations:

- Decided not to join Clean Water for All, which required LWV-US approval, but rather work through our membership in its Mississippi River Network (MRN). Liaison is Porter, with Prenosil liaising to CWfA, Miller on its 2023 Farm Bill committee.
- 100 Grannies, Plastics: Porter, Sabel, Prenosil
- MN Environmental Partnership Water Cluster: Markus
- LWV-US Climate Interest Group: Mahlum-Jenkins, will be UMRR annual meeting presentation
- MN Sierra Club North Star chapter and CURE (Clean Up the River Environment): Slama
- Land Stewardship Project: McCauley
- Lake Michigan ILO: Lee and Paula Ekstrom, Mahlum-Jenkins, Franczyk
- IL Prairie Rivers Network: Franczyk

Tabled at:

- Member state conventions
- Iowa Water Conference
- LWV-US convention
- LWV Lake Michigan ILO
- As other opportunities occur

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Signed onto organizational letters about the following issues:

- UM Forever Green initiative (signed 2/3 letter to MN legislature)
- Kernza and other continuous living cover crops (signed 2/3 letter to MN legislature)
- Natural Resources Trust Fund (signed 2/6 letter to MN legislators)
- PFAS (signed 2/10 letter to MN legislature)
- MPCA community board (signed letter 2/24 to MN legislature)
- Clean Transportation Standard (signed 3/2 letter to MN legislators)
- Lowland conifer carbon reserve in MN (sent letter 3/22 to MN Legislators)
- Carbon dioxide pipelines (signed letter to MN PUC and 3/28 letter to Army Corps of Engineers about federal permit)
- Environment, Natural Resources, Climate, and Energy Finance and Policy Bill (signed 4/16 letter to MN legislators)
- Lead in water (signed 4/17 letter ~HR 24 to MN legislators)

Members from each state reported on issues in their respective states involving the above topics and others, including:

- Fossil fuel pipelines
- Inflation Reduction Act opportunities
- Neonicotinoids, including letter to MN governor, DNR, and lawmakers
- Agricultural herbicides
- Clean energy state law
- Foreign ownership of farm land
- Commercial/farm water withdrawal from wells and water bodies
- MN Lock & Dam #1
- Solar energy
- Boats making large wakes for recreational purposes
- Public water inventory in MN
- Polluted city and well water along the Mississippi
- Sustainable agriculture and wetlands