**LWV Upper Mississippi River Region ILO**

**Governing Board Meeting (virtual via ZOOM)**

**5:30 – 7:00 pm, Monday, February 5, 2024**

**Elected Board Officers**

**Chair** Mary Ellen Miller (IA-Metro Des Moines)

**Co-Vice-Chairs** Nancy-Porter (IA-Johnson County) +Vacant

**Secretary** Tamara Prenosil (IA-Dubuque)

**Treasurer** Catherine Franczyk (IL- Wheaton)

**Past Co-Chairs** Mary & Steve Ploeser (WI-Dane County)

**Communications Director** Gretchen Sabel (MN-ABC)

**Committee Chairs**

**Action:** Kay Slama

**Nominating:** Bonnie Cox (IL-Jo Daviess County)

**By-Laws:** Nancy Porter

**Audit:** Catherine Franczyk

**Program:** Mary Ellen Miller/Board

**State Appointed Board Members**

**Iowa**: E. J. Gallagher (Blackhawk-Bremer)

**Illinois:** Lee Ekstrom (McHenry County)

**Minnesota:** Kay Slama (Willmar)

**Missouri:** Michelle Croyle (St. Louis)

**Wisconsin:** Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins (La Crosse)

**Appointed Alternates/Provisional**

**Iowa:** vacant

**Iowa:**

**Illinois:** Paula Ekstrom (McHenry County)

**Illinois:**

**Minnesota:** Megan Benage (New Ulm)

**Minnesota:** Colleen Werdien (ABC}

**Missouri:** Sheryl Eufinger (Kansas City/JCP)

**Misssouri:**

**Wisconsin:** Nancy Hill (La Crosse)

**Wisconsin:**

**Connect to Zoom Meeting  
Topic: LWV UMRR Board Meeting - Business Session**  
Time: February 5, 2024 5:30 AM Central Time (US and Canada)  
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://lwvmn-org.zoom.us/j/87134361337?pwd=OFXKIr6EbdlY7aD4LWogoYS8DS7RTW.1>

Meeting ID: 871 3436 1337

Passcode: 194770

Phone in on: 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

**MEETING AGENDA**

**5:30 pm** Call to Order/Board Check-In Miller

Newest members: Megan Benage (New Ulm-MN), Colleen Werdien

(ABC-MN), and Sheryl Eufinger (Kansas City/JCP MO)

**5:50 pm** Minutes from December 4, 2023, highlights Prenosil

**5:55 pm** Finance reports (*filed for audit*): Balance Sheet Franczyk

Budget vs Actuals

Revenues/Expenses

**6:00 pm** Action Committee Update Slama

Meets monthly on 2nd Monday, at 4:00pm via ZOOM

– new day and time being sought to avoid conflicts

Approve Action Committee Policies.  Attach the P&P to the agenda email, as attached to this email.

Sent Gulf hypoxia letter, thanks to Gretchen.

Signed on to request to LWVUS to sign Missouri ozone letter

Which Actions should be logged – how far to take recordkeeping?

**6:10 pm** Annual Meeting Committee Updates

**Nominating:** Bonnie Cox, Chair; Lee Ekstrom (IL), Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins (WI), John Howard (MN) and Catherine Eisenhoffer (IA).

**By-Laws:** Porter, Chair; EJ Gallagher, Nancy Tam Prenosil, Kay

Slama (were the proposed revisions sent to our members)

**Audit:** Catherine Franczyk, (who else?)

**2024-25 Program**: do we continue with current version?

**UMRR Annual Report**: Mary Ellen Miller

**6:25 pm** MRN Mini Grant and Hive Update Miller

Exhibit Collaborators: Isaak Walton League, Upper MS River Wildlife & Fish Refuge, MS River Aquarium Museum (Dubuque), Upper Mississippi River River towns

1. *IRA funding for Farm Bill conservation programs and work through NRCS State Technical Committees (led by Jesse Womack, NSAC). (MEM is a member of this hive group.)*
2. *2) IIJA funding for the Army Corps NESP (Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program) projects along Mississippi River (led by Olivia Dorothy, American Rivers).*
3. *IIJA funding for State Revolving Funds (SRF) (led by Chuck Anderas, Michael Fields Ag Institute).*

MRN DC Fly-In March 3-5; Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins may attend, others: MN/IA/IL/MO MRN can offer a $300 stipend, can UMRR also help?

**6:34 pm** Invite Each State Chair to an UMRR Board meeting

Illinois: Becky Simon

Iowa: Terese Grant

Minnesota: Laura Helmer

Missouri: Marilyn McLeod

Wisconsin: Dorothy Skye

**6:35 pm** **2023-24** **Program Schedule:**

August 7, Duane Hvorka, NWF, 2023 Farm Bill (Iowa – Miller)

October 2, Sacket Decision (Minnesota – Sabel)

December 4, CO2 Pipeline (Illinois – Franczyk)

February 5, Circular Economy (MN St. Cloud – [Tracy Hodel, Director of](https://www.sctimes.com/story/news/local/2019/11/05/st-cloud-mayor-dave-kleis-appoints-tracy-hhttps:/www.sctimes.com/story/news/local/2019/11/05/st-cloud-mayor-dave-kleis-appoints-tracy-hodel-public-services-director-replace-pat-shea/4160176002/odel-public-services-director-replace-pat-shea/4160176002/)

[Public Works,](https://www.sctimes.com/story/news/local/2019/11/05/st-cloud-mayor-dave-kleis-appoints-tracy-hhttps:/www.sctimes.com/story/news/local/2019/11/05/st-cloud-mayor-dave-kleis-appoints-tracy-hodel-public-services-director-replace-pat-shea/4160176002/odel-public-services-director-replace-pat-shea/4160176002/) City of St. Cloud, Minnesota)

Virtual Book Discussions with LWV Metro DSM (see attached flyer)

February 3, 10:00 am Chris Jones “The Swine Republic”

March 2, 10:00 am: Neil Hamilton’s “The River Knows”

April 1, 7:00 pm? Mississippi Compact (who)

**6:40 pm Other 2024 Meetings**

May 29 6:00 pm UMRR Annual Meeting (virtual) SMRT, MRRRI, Farm

Bill/ByLaws amendments/MRN Grant Exhibit Schedule

? Speaker Kelly McGinnis, MRN ED

June 15 or 22, 2024 Board Retreat, (in person) Location discussion

Moline, IL or Lansing, IA???

MS River Documentary “Moved by Waters” ?Pop Art Exhibit

June 1? MN annual convention virtual only

June 8 IA (Grinnell) & WS (Green Bay) annual councils

June 8-9? IL where?

June 8 MO where?

June ??? Days on the River 1 Mississippi (Porter)

June 27-30 LWV US Biennial Convention, Washington DC

Who can attend? Porter, etc. (MRN mini-grant + UMRR funds)

June 7-14+ Upper MS River National Wildlife Refuge 100th Celebration

<https://uppermiss100.com>

**6:55 pm Other Business:**

**6:59 pm** **Next board meeting Monday, 5:30-7:00 pm, April 1, 2024 (virtual)**

**7:00 pm** Adjourn