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

**Board Meeting – October 2, 2023**

**Zoom Video and Phone Conference**

The forty fifth board meeting of the Upper Mississippi River Region Inter-League Organization (UMRR-ILO) was called to order by Chair Mary Ellen Miller (IA Des Moines Metro) on October 2, 2023, at 10:30 a.m.

**Board members attending the meeting in addition to the Chair:**  Gretchen Sabel (MN-ABC), Kay Slama (MN Willmar), Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins (WI La Crosse), Nancy Hill (WI La Crosse), Nancy Porter (IA Iowa City), E. J. Gallagher (IA Blackhawk-Bremmer) Tamara Prenosil (IA Dubuque),

**Guests:** Rosemary Heilmann (IL Deerfield), Mary Ploeser (WI Madison), Micky Coyle (MO Metro St. Louis)

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the 8-7-2023 UMRR-ILO Board meeting were included in the documents sent prior to this meeting. K. Slama noted that the wording under **Action Committee Update** should be changed to The Action Committee recommended that the UMRR-ILO Board proceed with actions without LWVUS written approval as long as our positions are in line with LWVUS positions as stated in the LWV Impact on Issues: A Guide to Public Policy Positions of the League of Women Voters. T. Prenosil moved the minutes be approved with the change and N. Porter seconded Motion carried.

**Financial Report:** C. Franczyk, treasurer, was unable to attend this meeting. A written report will be forwarded to the Board. Bank Balance as of July 31, 2023 was $12,029.86.

**Action Committee Update:** Meets the 4th Monday of the month at 10:00 on zoom. G. Sabel sent documents regarding the Farm Bill. We are waiting for LWVUS to approve the timeline. However, we as individuals can advocate with our elected officials.

UMRR-ILO signed on to the letter to the Corps of Engineers about carbon pipelines. Illinois environmental advocates continue to oppose the CO2 pipelines. The public hearings in Iowa about the CO2 pipeline are ongoing. (The Iowa Sierra Club has Lunch and Learn zoom programs weekly about the CO2 pipelines.)

C. Mahlum reported LWVUS so far has not responded to the request for clarification on taking federal action and it has been two weeks.

K. Slama was elected chair of the Action Committee for 2023-2024. C. Mahlum-Jenkins and C. Franczyk were elected co-vice chairs of the Action Committee for 2023-2024.

All members are encouraged to use the Action Committee spreadsheet to report actions.

C. Franczyk will not attend the 2023 Midwest Climate Resilience Conference in Duluth- October 25-27.

**Annual Meeting:**

* **Committee Appointments:** T. Prenosil will confirm who is willing to serve on the Nominating Committee.
* **Special Committee - Bylaws revision:** The Board reviewed the proposed revisions. (Updated document attached to this report. (Revisions in red. Items needing clarification in green.)
* **Financial Records Review:** T. Prenosil will confirm who is willing to serve in this capacity.

**Status Reports:**

**Missouri:** M. Coyle reported that the LWVMO Board voted to join the Upper Mississippi River Region Inter-League Organization and officially appointed her to be a representative. The UMRR-ILO is operating under the current bylaws until the new bylaws are approved at the annual meeting, so she will be considered a provisional Board member, but continues to serve officially on the Action Committee. UMRR-ILO will need a copy of the LWVMO Board minutes reflecting this move as well as the $25 dues. Current UMRR-ILO bylaws state each member state can have one alternate. Perhaps a provisional alternate can be found from Missouri. The UMRR-ILO treasurer will send a letter to all local leagues in Missouri inviting them to join the organization for 2023-2024.

**State Boards:** UMRR-ILO Board members should invite state league presidents to attend UMRR-ILO Board meetings when possible. Supporting leagues should get copies of the UMRR-ILO annual report.

**Exhibit Opportunities:**

M. miller and T. Prenosil attended and staffed a table at the Iowa Water Conference in Des Moines, Iowa from September 18 - 20. This conference is organized by Iowa State University and caters to watershed managers. UMRR-ILO members should try to attend their respective state council meetings in the summer of 2024. We should plan to participate in the LWVUS convention in Washington DC in June 2024. Hopefully the UMRR-ILO can participate in the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge 100th Celebration in 2024 (not 2025 as previously reported).

**2023-2024 Program Schedule:**

* October 2023: postponed until November 2023 Sackett decision
* December 4: CO2 pipelines (Illinois)
* February 5: Circular Economy (Minnesota)
* February TBA: Book discussions with the Des Moines LWV for The River Knows by Neil Hamilton and The Swine Republic by Chris Jones
* April 1: Mississippi River Compact (not yet assigned)
* May: Annual Meeting over zoom
* June: Board Retreat (in person) location to be determined

**Other Business:** Concern was mentioned that meeting during the day precludes including younger people who are employed during the day.

**Next UMRR-ILO Board Meeting:** December 4, 2023, at 10:30 am by zoon

Submitted by: Tamara Prenosil