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

**Board Meeting --- April 5, 2021**

**Zoom Video and Phone Conference**

The thirty first board meeting of the Upper Mississippi River Region Inter-League Organization (UMRR-ILO) was called to order by Vice-Chair Mary Ellen Miller (IA Des Moines) on April 5, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

**Board members attending the meeting in addition to the Vice Chair were:**  Tamara Prenosil (IA-Dubuque), Gretchen Sabel (MN-ABC), Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkin (WI La Crosse), Sue Wilson (IA Dubuque), Lee Ekstrom (IL McHenry County), Paula Ekstrom (IL McHenry County), Mary Ploeser (WI Madison), Nancy Porter (IA Iowa City), Lonnie McCauley (MN Coon Rapids), Jeri McGinley (WI Stevens Point)

**Secretary’s Report:** T. Prenosil’s minutes from the 2-1-2021 UMRR-ILO Board Meeting were included in the information sent to Board members prior to this meeting. N. Porter moved and S. Wilson seconded that the minutes be approved. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report:** J. McGinley, treasurer, sent the treasurer’s report as well as the REVENUES & EXPENSES with BUDGET for July 1, 2020 through March 31,2021 to Board members prior to this meeting.

Revenues – February - March $75.08 (Memberships: $50, Interest $.08, Unrestricted Member League donation from LWV Ashland-Bayfield COs).

There are 68 LWV chapters that have paid dues.

Expenses - $266.00 (Zoom for 12 months $160.00, P.O. box rental for 6 months $94.00, Website domain for 12 months $12.00)

Bank Balance as of March 31, 2021: $10,062.53. (includes ERC II Grant of $326.82 and Judy Beck Memorial Fund of $300).

The Budget Committee met on March 4, 2021 and the proposed 2021-2022 budget was provided prior to this meeting to be included in the material sent to member LWV chapters prior to the Annual Meeting. Minutes from this meeting were provided with the material for this meeting. J. McGinley moved and C. Mahlum-Jenkins seconded that the proposed budget for 2021-2022 be approved. Motion carried.

Treasurer’s report was accepted and will be filed.

**Finance Report Discussion:**

J. McGinley reported that according to our by-laws, “At least one League from each member state and at least on-fifth (1/5) of the member local Leagues must be represented at the annual meeting for any actions to be taken.” This year that will be 13 local Leagues.

Currently the UMRR-ILO uses Home Savings Bank in Madison, Wisconsin. Typically, the Chair and Treasurer hold the Debit Card. S. Wilson and L. McCauley moved that the Director of Communication, G. Sabel, have a Debit Card. Motion carried.

The annual fee for the P.O. Box in Madison went up to $188 per year. While expensive the Board decided to keep this P.O. Box because changing the address of the UMRR-ILO would require paperwork with the IRS. Currently M. Ploesser has the keys to the P.O. Box, but because G. Sabel travels through Madison fairly often it was decided she should have a key and at least have her name on the official post office list as approved to pick up UMRR-ILO mail.

Currently the Bylaws state one non-board member serve on the Budget committee. This committee is only advisory and does not make official decisions. The Budget Committee recommends this requirement e stricken from the Bylaws. T. Prenosil moved and M. Ploeser seconded this change to the bylaws be proposed at the annual meeting. Motion carried.

QuickBooks Online is used by the treasurer. Because the UMRR-ILO is a non-profit there is a lower cost for the service. Also using this service makes the transition between individuals who hold the treasurer’s position easier.

J. McGinley has a non-board member review the books annually. An official audit is not necessary at this time. An online review was necessary during the COVID 19 pandemic but will resume in-person as soon as possible.

**Action Committee:** An updated Action Committee report was included in the material provided to the board prior to this meeting. L. McCauley reported the conservation articles in the Coon Rapids, Minnesota newspaper continued for several months. Local LWV members have been engaged in promoting solar energy. PFAS continues to be an issue in the four states.

The Mississippi River Network (MRN) is hosting a webinar on April 14, 2021 regarding the Mississippi River Restoration and Resilience Initiative (MRRRI).

**Program Planning:**

Attendees of the annual meeting on May 22,2021 will be solicited for ideas about education, advocacy, and networking actions for the UMRR-ILO. UMRR-ILO members are encouraged to attend their state conventions this summer. A board retreat will be planned to evaluate the suggestions from the annual meeting and devise possible action steps.

The board will need to occasionally reevaluate the daytime meeting times. When the board was meeting in person and overnight travel was required for some members the daytime meetings were practical. However, with zoom, meetings can more easily be scheduled in evenings. G. Sabel records all UMRR-ILO programs, and they are available to watch on the website.

**Development of Programs on the Great Lakes:** G. Sabel is working with the Great Lakes ILO. She reported the Great Lakes ILO has developed a series of monthly program meetings. P. Ekstrom is also involved with the Great Lakes ILO.

**Biographies on UMRR-ILO website:** M. Miller requested board members submit brief biographies for posting.

May 22, 2021: Annual Meeting via zoom

 Reports and names from nominating committee need to be submitted.

August 2, 2021: Dubuque water quality and sustainability actions

October 4, 2021: Wisconsin panel on PFAS (possible evening event)

December 6, 2021: TBA

Meeting adjourned: 11:45 am.

Submitted by Tamara Prenosil

**Afternoon educational program and discussion:** Tollway sustainability by Brian Wagner, Program Manager.

The Illinois tollway system has been implementing projects to mitigate the impact of construction and stormwater runoff on the surrounding environment from tree planting, pollinator habitat, and the restoration of natural hydrology.