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

**Board Meeting – October 4, 2021**

**Zoom Video and Phone Conference**

The thirty fourth 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) on October 4, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.

**Board members attending the meeting in addition to the Vice Chair:**  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), Steve Ploeser (WI Madison), Lonnie McCauley (MN Coon Rapids), Jeri McGinley (WI Stevens Point), Shawn Choinard (IL Rockford), Kay Slama (MN Willmar), Nancy Hill (WI La Lrosse), Tamara Prenosil (IA Dubuque)

**Minutes from August 2, 2021**

T. Prenosil’s minutes from the 8-2-2021 UMRR-ILO Board Meeting were included in the information sent to Board members prior to this meeting. L. Ekstrom moved and T. Prenosil seconded that the minutes be approved. Motion carried.

**Financial Report**

J. McGinley, treasurer, sent the Treasurer’s Report for August - September 2021 as well as the Revenues & Expenses with Budget to Board members prior to this meeting.

Revenues: August – September $940.09

* $0.09 Interest - August only
* $25.00 - 2020-2021 Membership dues
* $825.00 – 2021-2022 Membership dues
* $50.00 – Individual donation (unrestricted)
* $40.00 – Member League donations (unrestricted) includes $25 LWV Ripon Area; $15 LWV Rochelle

Expenses: August – September $98.37

* $94.00 – PO Box rental (six months)
* $4.37 – PayPal fees

Bank Balance as of September 30, 2021: $10,917.97 (missing September interest of $.10) Includes ERC II Grant of $266.82 and Judy Beck Memorial Fund of $300.

L. Ekstrom moved and S. Wilson seconded that the UMRR-ILO pay Alan Guebert $300 for his presentation on December 6, 2021. Motion carried. (An email informal vote had been approved about the $300 a few weeks ago.) L. McCauley approved $100 be taken from the ERC grant and the remaining $200 will come from the operational fund.

L. Ekstrom moved and S. Wilson seconded that the UMRR-ILO reimburse Rosemary Heilemann $91.74 for a one-month upgrade to turn the evening educational meeting about PFAS into a webinar format. Currently 220 have registered and registrations continue to come in even today. The presentations will be recorded. Motion carried.

The Board discussed giving an Honorarium (perhaps $100) to presenters or their organizations. G. Sabel reported her local LWV chapter does not give money to other non-profits, but publicizes their events on the LWV website and Facebook pages. The UMRR-ILO may need to put honorariums in future budgets. We should put the website of presenter’s organizations in the chat box during presentations. No motion made after discussion.

M. and S. Ploeser sent letters to local LWV Chapters reminding them that dues of $25 are needed for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. So far 37 memberships have been received. It appears that not including a self-addressed envelope this year has had not detrimental effect on response.

Treasurer’s report was accepted and will be filed.

**Board positions to be filled:** S. Wilson reported she has been working with a Dubuque man who is quite knowledgeable about environmental issues to join the UMRR-ILO Board. S. Wilson and G. Sabel have updated a job description. The LWVIA President has indicated she will support this candidate if he chooses to accept the position.

**Website Updates:**

M. Miller encouraged Board members to send a brief bio and picture for our website. (LWVIA does this and it can be a guide for what to include.)

We need to have the names and contact information for staff that manage our respective state’s websites and state Voter newsletter four our four states.

**2021 2022 Program Schedule:**

August 2: Sustainable Dubuque

October 4: 6-7:30 pm (virtual) PFAS in Our Water and Us

There have been three practice sessions. M. Ploeser will moderate. C. Mahlum-Jenkins and S. Ploeser will monitor the Q & A. The program will be recorded for later viewing. The number of attendees shows the value of marketing and sharing information with other organizations.

December 6: 1:00 pm (virtual) How Federal Farm Policy Ended Up Polluting our Waters and Creating the Dead Zone in the Gulf of Mexico. Alan Guebert presenter

February 7: 6-7:30 pm En-Roads Climate Change Simulator. Jackie Armstrong presenter.

April 4: Possible topic is water quantity. In parts of Illinois, this is becoming an issue. In Iowa, Pattison Sand Company, a sand fracking mining business proposed in 2020 tapping the Jordan aquifer to send millions of gallons of water to drought stricken western states. (The Iowa DNR denied the request.) Information about the Great Lakes Compact would be helpful. Perhaps the Upper Mississippi River might need a similar compact. G. Sabel has initiated contact with the Great Lakes ILO to determine how we might combine some of our educational efforts.

Other possible topics for April include: an update on the Mississippi River Restoration and Resilience Initiative (MRRRI) and learning how other river systems manage nutrient reduction strategies (ex. Columbia River).

May 21: Annual Meeting on Saturday at 9:00 am (possibly in-person and hybrid virtual). Perhaps the LWVUS President Deb Turner would speak.

June: No information about the date or whether the LWVUS convention will be virtual or in-person.

**Visioning Our Future UMRR Work 2021-2022**

We continue to develop a list of websites relating to our priority topics of water quality, water quantity, soil health, and climate change.

LWVUS Convention - We will discuss at a future meeting how we want to participate (exhibit or presentation).

State League communications:

State Board members need to ensure the UMRR-ILO is acknowledged at our respective state councils and conventions with written reports to be included in the annual booklet as well as verbal updates if possible. Some in-person meetings offer the possibility of exhibits. Illinois will give a verbal presentation if possible. Iowa has both written and verbal presentations. Wisconsin has a ‘Parade of Leagues’, but there are 30 plus the two ILOs so presentations are brief. Minnesota can publicize issues broadly through not only the LWVMN but the Minnesota Climate Change Task Force.

We also need to get information into the state Voter newsletter and send information to other advocacy groups (ex. Izaak Walton League, Sierra Club, AUW).

Adjourned at 11:33 am

Submitted by Tamara Prenosil