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

**Board Meeting --- August 3 ,2020**

**Zoom Video and Phone Conference**

The twenty-seventh board meeting of the Upper Mississippi River Region Inter-League Organization (UMRR-ILO) was called to order by Co- Chairs Mary & Steve Ploeser (WI-Dane County) on August 3, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

**Board members attending the meeting in addition to the Co-Chairs were:**  Tamara Prenosil (IA-Dubuque), Gretchen Sabel (MN-ABC), Jeri McGinley WI-Steven’s Point), John Howard (MN-Winona), Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkin (WI La Crosse), Lonnie McCauley (MN-Coon Rapids), Sue Wilson (IA Dubuque), Lee Ekstrom (IL McHenry County), Paula Ekstrom (IL McHenry County), Mary Ellen Miller (IA Des Moines), Nancy Porter (IA Iowa City)

**Secretary’s Report:** T. Prenosil reviewed the minutes from the 4-6-2020 UMRR-ILO Board Meeting. L. Ekstrom moved and J. Howard seconded that the minutes be approved. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report:** J. McGinley, treasurer, sent board members prior to this meeting the treasurer’s report as well as the BUDGET VS ACTUALS for July 2019 through June 2020. She also sent BUDGET VS ACTUALS for July 2020 the new fiscal year.

Revenues – April, May June July $125.22 (Memberships: $100, League member donations: $25, Interest $.22)

Expenses - $352.90 (Online QuickBooks annual fee $75, Supplies (stamps) $9.32, Website hosting fee for 2 years $216.00, PayPal fee $2.55, Annual Meeting gift cards for speakers $50.00)

Bank Balance as of July 29, 2020: $8.609.65 (includes ERC II Grant of $326.82 and Judy Beck Memorial Fund of $300). ERC II (Environmental Resource Center of Anoka, Minnesota) made a payment of $50.00 for one-year membership in Women, Food and Ag Network and $35 for the Land Stewardship Project). J. McGinley reported the UMRR-ILO bank balance at the end of the 2019-2020 fiscal year was $1,133.01 more than at the same time the previous year.

J. McGinley and G. Sabel Have been coordinating membership renewals. A letter is being drafted and the UMRR-ILO co-chairs will sign it. J. McGinley reported we have 54 members, down from 65 the previous year. The 9-90 form was filed which maintains the 501 (c) 3 status.

L. McCauley moved and C. Mahlum-Jenkins seconded that the treasurers report be accepted. Motion carried.

**Review of the Action Committee 2020-2021 Activity chart:**

L. McCauley submitted an updated chart prior to this meeting. S. Wilson reported on attending the Iowa Legislative Roundtable via Zoom. Issues discussed included flood mitigation with an emphasis on wetlands and restoring natural infrastructure. S. Ploeser and M. Ploeser attended a Wisconsin Sierra Club presentation about stormwater infrastructure needs and Madison has passed a stormwater ordinance for new construction. S. Ploeser wrote a piece about electric cars and “range anxiety” for the Wisconsin Governor’s Task Force on Climate Change. M. Miller reported on the ongoing problems with nitrates in the Racoon River which supplies drinking water to Des Moines. Iowa DNA is looking at problems with the Missouri River near Omaha.

**Fundraising Committee:** The committee decided the problems with trying to develop, sell and distribute a product were too great at this time. It was decided that a letter to members and sympathetic individuals describing our accomplishments and goals might be more efficient. We might consider a donate button on Facebook as well as the website.

**Update on the Mississippi River Basin Association:** The state representatives will be Illinois – Bonnie Cox; Iowa – Sue Wilson; Minnesota – Lonnie McCauley; Wisconsin – Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins. There will be a Zoom Meeting on Friday, September 11, 2020 at 5:00 to discuss the level of involvement possible.

**Mississippi River Restoration and Resilience Initiative (MRRRI):** Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins agreed to be the representative for this group.

**Future Meetings:** Wilson moved, and L. McCauley seconded to continue with Zoom meetings for the rest of 2020 due to the COVID 19 virus. Motion carried.

**Other Business:**

A suggestion was to give a series of brief weekly informational meetings.

Mary Ellen Miller agreed to contact a possible speaker for our October Board Meeting.

J. McGinley reminded the group to report in-kind services and financial expenses for this year nd even for last fiscal year. The in-kind donations look good when applying for grants.

L. Ekstrom moved, and S. Wilson seconded that this meeting adjourn at 11:18 am Motion carried.

**Next Board Meeting:** October 5, 2020 at 10:00 am via Zoom.

Submitted by Tamara Prenosil

Afternoon Informational Program included two recorded programs from the League of Women Voters in Madison, Wisconsin. A discussion over Zoom followed.

Revenge of the Marshes: Preserving the Wetlands That Protect Us. The speaker was Kenneth Potter, water resource engineer and management expert and Professor Emeritus of Civil and Environmental Engineering at UW – Madison

A Watershed Approach to Flooding: Suggestions included what individuals, neighborhoods and towns can do to mitigate flooding due to extreme rainfall events that exceed the capacity of drainage systems