**LWV Upper Mississippi River Region ILO**

**Activity as of 3/31/21**

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| ***Activity by whom*** | ***Date*** | ***Activity*** | ***Results?*** | ***Follow-on*** |
| **Meetings with UMRR and other LWVs** |  |  |  |  |
| UMRR board | 8/3 | Virtual meeting with 13 attendees. UMRBA and MRRRI organizations discussed. Afternoon topics included: 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 | Reps named for each of our four states for UMRBA and Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins for MRRRI. |  |
| UMRR Board | 9/30 | UMRR-ILO supported Wisconsin new legislation for PFAS/PFOS containment and handling to improve water quality issues and the health of community in close vicinity of PFAS/PFOS contamination |  |  |
| Wisconsin/Wilson | 10/17 | Letters to Ames, Ottumwa, Des Moines and Muscatine LWVs asking them for 20-21 UMRR dues. |  |  |
| UMRR Board | 12/23/20 | The [“Growing Climate Solutions Act](https://spanberger.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=3036) Board approved and co-presidents signed 12/22/20 to send to legislators | The U.S. Department of Agriculture to develop a suite of programs for farmers and foresters that support greenhouse gas reductions and carbon sequestration. |  |
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| **Interaction with other organizations** |  |  |  |  |
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| **Minnesota** |  |  |  |  |
| Markus | 9/21 | MEP 2021 Policy Survey & Development Zoom Mtg. on water, regenerated land, good governance | MEP 2012 Draft Priorities ongoing work |  |
| Markus | 9/23 | MEP 2021 narrative development for our future vision | MEP 2012 Draft Priorities ongoing work |  |
| Markus | 9/30 | MEP 2021 narrative development for our future vision | MEP 2012 Draft Priorities ongoing work |  |
| McCauley | 10/19 | Took part in a zoom conference for MEP which focused on 2021 legislation re: Environmental Justice, Economic Justice, Racial Justice, Pollinators, Waste Reduction |  |  |
| McCauley | 10-20 to 1-21 and 3/22/ 21 | Worked with state reps, senators, councilmembers and Met Council member in a task force called Coon Rapids Regenerative Energy. | Currently the city of Coon Rapids is amending their solar ordinance to include solar gardens.  The task force is in the middle of working with three sites in the city for such a site**.** | The city council in a workshop session approved the elements of a solar garden plan for the city. |
| Markus | 11/13 | MEP Water Cluster Zoom Mtg-discuss legis & policy |  |  |
| Markus | 1/8/21 | MEP Water Cluster Zoom Mtg-discuss legis & policy |  |  |
| LWV MN EPTF staff, EPTF members including Sabel, Markus | 12/10 | First mtg. of LWV MN Environmental Protection Task Force (EPTF) formation for advocacy | Start work on EPTF charter, identify priorities w/DEI lens etc., get reps. on MEP clusters |  |
| LWV MN staff, EPTF members and | 1/6/21 | Discussion of LWV MN Environmental Protection Task Force (EPTF) purpose and charter | Work on charter, priorities, Climate Change Task Force w/ webpage, Markus is UMRR representative on MEP water cluster. |  |
| Markus | 1/9/21 | Retrieved local watershed Climate Change Resiliency Plan to help w/LWV MN EPTF Climate Change toolkit | Will share w/EPTF to locally customize LWV US Climate Change Tool Kit |  |
| McCauley | 2/8/21 | Meeting with Anoka Ramsey Community College to continue talks with them about solar at their Cambridge campus. | Great deal of interest among the college, their energy  provider and state reps. |  |
| McCauley | 2/9/21 | Meeting with National Sports Center, state rep, Cedar Creek Energy and others re their interest in placing solar panels on NSC buildings | Funding and energy provider, Connexus, obstacles |  |
| McCauley | 2/10 | Meeting with Rep. Stephenson, Federal Cartridge re a possible solar array in their land. | Meeting with Connexus Energy and Anoka Electric need to take place. |  |
| Markus | 3/23 | Presentation by Don Arnosti (Environmental Organizer) through LWV Woodbury on the problems of regulatory agencies in Minnesota and for whom did they really work. |  |  |
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| **Iowa** |  |  |  |  |
| Wilson | 7/13 | Water Legislative Roundtable Routinely this group meets the 2nd Monday of every month. | The ELPC developed a webinar on Soil Health presented to farmers: “Factfinding and Policy Options.”  DNR Advisory meeting announced changes to ranges of acceptable micrograms per liter of specific minerals found in tested water |  |
| Prenosil | 8/19 |  | Hosted via Zoom a book discussion of Blowout by Rachel Maddow IUUWAN is providing informational programs on the book Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming  edited by Paul Hawken |  |
| All members | 9/11 | Approved a letter requested by MRI re  state agencies opposing Gulf Hypoxia |  |  |
| All members | 9/11 | UMRR letter to Wisconsin environmental agency in support of legislation to disallow PFAS pollution into waterways |  |  |
| Prenosil | 12/15 | Promoted viewing [**webinar, "Out of Sight, Out of Mind? The Hidden Reality of Groundwater as a Drinking Water Source,"**](https://izaakwaltonleagueofamerica.cmail20.com/t/i-l-mjuihly-jtlhuuaky-r/) |  |  |
| **Wisconsin** |  |  |  |  |
| Ploesers | 7/20 | With the LWVDaneCounty, both Steve and I helped prepare two mini forums about storm water and how to deal with it in an environmentally friendly way. |  |  |
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| Ploesers | 7/20 | We joined forces with the Sierra Club | Wrote our alderperson to support the adoption of the Madison storm water ordinance | It was adopted and will help prevent excess storm water through required green infrastructure in new development. |
| Mahlum-Jenkins | 7/20 | City of LaCrosse has approved a 5-year, $100,000.00 per year budget for the design changes, prepare work plans and estimates, and oversee construction for the restoration and maintenance of hydrology, trail infrastructure, and habitat in the La Crosse River Marsh. The La Crosse River Marsh currently is a 1000-acre, urban, riparian wetland | Interviews for professional environmental services have been conducted and the contractor has been chosen/approved by the Park & Rec. Department. Work will begin in 2021. |  |
| Mahlum-Jenkins | 9/20 | The County of La Crosse, planner Charlie Handy, has been working on updating a 10-year Farmland Protection Plan passed in 2012 and will be soliciting public participation. Low-density residential land use is as much of a threat to farmland as traditional urban and suburban development. This will be an opportunity for local action whether for climate change activists, for those local economies based on local farming production |  |  |
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| **Illinois** |  |  |  |  |
| Bernansky | 7/20 | Scientists and Beth continue to work on the Karst Feature Database project. We're organizing the data so USFWS can host this in a Geographic Information System (GIS) map layer on their web portal. This work is funded through a League grant from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. |  |  |
| Baransk | 7/20 | Continues to work with the farmers in the area working on cover crops, no till, etc.  Their field days are now virtual. |  |  |
| Eckstrom | 9/4 | |  |  | | --- | --- | | Sent request to Illinois Board for approval of PFAS request for La Crosse WI | Return email from Board President that I would hear back shortly.  UMRR Board discussed our action and decided to approve the PFAS request in support of WI as UMRR with listing of states we individually represent. | |  |  | | Return email from Board President that I would hear back shortly.  UMRR Board discussed our action and decided to approve the PFAS request in support of WI as UMRR with listing of states we individually represent. |  |
| Eckstrom | 9/10 | Sent request to Illinois Board for approval of letter to Illinois Department of Agriculture for Nutrient Reduction Strategy and Gulf Dead Zone | Approved letter for Illinois Department of Agriculture in my position as UMRR Board member. UMRR Board voted to follow this approach due to information Bonnie Cox discovered that Lake Michigan ILO was following |  |
| Ekstrom | 9/14 | Actively participating in review of McHenry County WRAP (Water Resource Action Plan) development since January 2020. | WRAP DRAFT is currently out for review. The WRAP document can be reviewed at:  <https://www.mchenrycountyil.gov/county-government/departments-j-z/planning-development/water-resources/water-resources-action-plan-new> |  |
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| **Government Action** |  |  |  |  |
| **Minnesota** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| McCauley/Sabel | 7/17 | We strongly request that the legislature put aside political differences and deliver H.F. 3 as a strong investment in Minnesota’s economy, local communities, and environment. The needs are very real and the funds need to be authorized as soon as possible so that the state can issue the bonds and get the resources out to approved projects for water structure improvements |  |  |
| McCauley | 7/21 | Letter to MN state officials and legislators pertaining to their special session 7/22l | * Urge: Significant police accountability and reform * A bonding package that meets important needs for the state around water infrastructure, community rebuilding, transit and natural lands * Funding for Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund projects |  |
| McCauley | 7/22 | Took part in a conversation with DNR commissioner Strommen. Asked how the NEPA’S decision to restrict timeframes for the EIS process affects mining decisions in Minnesota. | DNA answered that in many instances Minnesota will do their own EIS. |  |
| McCauley | 8/4 | Signed unto MEP letter to MN legislators | Asking support for the environmental and natural resources trust fund and for rebuilding communities damaged during the recent riots. |  |
| Sabel, Markus, McCauley,Howard, Baker-Knutilla | 10/18 | Supported the bonding bill which included $300+ million for water infrastructure across the state. Supporting agencies including the MN Environmental Partnership and their two dozen or so environmental partner groups who worked for this passage. |  | The bonding bill passed the MN legislature and was signed into law on 10/21/20 |
| McCauley | 10,21 | Letter reo the Nuclear Regulatory Commission sent to: Sens.Klobuchar and Smith, Rep. Phillips of Minnesota | Disagreeing with their decision to dump “low level” nuclear waste into regular landfills. |  |
| McCauley | 10/27 | Monitored a live video from the MN Legislative Climate Action Caucus | Plans include action on: regenerative energy, transportation based on electricity, soil and water reclamation based on cover crops and carbon sequestration including expanding tree cover, energy savings in buildings factored on changing building codes. |  |
| McCauley  Markus | 11/9 | Called Governor Walz opposing Line 3 | We ask our Pollution Control Agency to consider treaty rights, harm to indigenous communities, and climate consequences in its assessment of the impacts of Line 3 – as the administrative law requires. So far the PCA has chosen not to do so. This can be fixed. Please follow the science, follow the facts, uphold the law and deny the permit. |  |
| McCauley | 2/18 | Letter to state legislature asking for 100% soil health bill | Approval for letter given by LWVMN |  |
| McCauley | 2/18 | Letter to state legislature asking for full funding for the U’s Forever Green program | Appoval for letter given by LWVMN |  |
| McCauley | 3/12 | Signed unto an MEP letter supporting the Clean Car legislation in the legislature. |  |  |
| McCauley | 3/13 | Letter to Sen. Hoffman and Newton/Reps. Hortman and Stephenson urging their support for bills that would give farmers funding for environment farming such as cover crop seeds and altered farm equipment. |  |  |
| Sabel/McCauley | 3/23 | Letter sent to Gov. Walz in Minnesota | LWV UMRR is joining with other environmental organizations in Minnesota in requesting that more consideration be given to scientific data on carbon capture before the state more strongly commits to including cover crops and no-till as eligible practices in a carbon market. |  |
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| **Iowa** |  |  |  |  |
| Miller | 1-21 - going | Lobbying environmental bills via Iowa Farmers Union, Iowa Woodland Owners Association/Iowa Nut Growers Association, Iowa Environmental Council, Iowa Sierra Club, Conservation Districts of Iowa and League of Women Voters of Iowa and Metro Des Moines. | Current issues include Iowa's Bottle Bill, Forest Reserve Program, Charitable Conservation Tax Credit, and numerous bills related to water quality |  |
|  |  | Attending my state legislator's monthly virtual forums, next one is April 1st, where I remind them of my concerns about Iowa's water quality issues.  Attended the National Association of Conservation Districts virtual annual meeting in early February. |  |  |
|  |  | Sent to the UMRR team a recent article about the discovery of PFAs in the Des Moines and Quad Cities drinking water. | The result of this article is that a monitoring study is being put in place. |  |
| **Wisconsin** |  |  |  |  |
| Mahlum-Jenkins | **10/21** | **Letter to Wisconsin congressional delegation and NRC** | Disagreeing with their decision to dump “low level” nuclear waste into regular landfills. |  |
| M Ploeser | **11/16** | On behalf of our millions of members and supporters, the 109undersignedconservation, environmental, faith-based, and recreation organizations urge you to cease efforts to resurrect the Yazoo Backwater Pumping Plant Project in Mississippi. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers | Signed on behalf of the board |  |
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| **Education/Publicity/Advocacy** |  |  |  |  |
| **Illinois** |  |  |  |  |
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| **Minnesota** |  |  |  |  |
| **McCauley** | **7-11-20** | Newspaper columns in Anoka County papers July August, September, October, December written by Anoka County watersheds and environmental groups. | **Columns continuing through 2021** |  |
| **Markus** | **various** | Attended MPCA/MN DNR/MN Dept. of Health public meetings on the 3M PFAS Settlement public info/input mtgs (Washington County, MN) | Planning to provide clean water due to PFAS groundwater contamination |  |
| **Markus** | **various** | Attended Zoom mtgs on DNR North and East Metro Groundwater Management Area (Ramsey, Anoka, Hennepin and Washington Counties, MN) | Planning to assure groundwater sustainability; research on ~30 potential new Woodbury wells due to PFAS spread and summer irrigation. |  |
| **Markus** | **1/21/21** | Intro to UMRR ppt at Zoom meeting for new and prospective Woodbury-Cottage Grove Area LWV members | Provided ppt to UMRR Action Committee members on 1/26 for their potential modification to use |  |
| **Markus** | **1/25/21** | 2/2/21 PFAS and Tamarack Mine Zoom presentations to UMRR and to LWV-Woodbury Cottage Grove Area | Publicity forwarded for distribution |  |
| **Markus** | **1/26/21** | Called Robin Moore, LSP re: Non-Operating LandOwner events and flyers | Markus will mail Robin 200 NOLO flyers for distribution |  |