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

**Board Meeting – August 2, 2021**

**Zoom Video and Phone Conference**

The thirty third 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 August 2, 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), Nancy Porter (IA Iowa City), Lonnie McCauley (MN Coon Rapids), Jeri McGinley (WI Stevens Point), Shawn Choinard (IL Rockford), Kay Slama (MN Willmar), Tamara Prenosil (IA Dubuque)

**Minutes from April 5, 2021**

T. Prenosil’s minutes from the 6-7-2021 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 June – July 2021 to Board members prior to this meeting.

Revenues – June-July: $0.09 interest

Expenses - $0.00

Bank Balance as of July 31, 2021: $10,076.17 (missing July interest of $.10) Includes ERC II Grant of $266.82 and Judy Beck Memorial Fund of $300.

Fiscal Year 2000-2021 ended on June 30, 2021 with net income for year of $1,551.52.

Annual form 990-N filed with IRS on 7-6-2021 (maintains 501 (c) 3 status.

Membership letters will be mailed to local League chapters in late August or early September. Paper mail seems to get a better response. UMRR-ILO Board members will follow up with chapters that have not paid the $25 membership dues. Although some states have LWV chapters that are not in the Mississippi River watershed, we will invite them anyway. Some may choose to contribute.

Treasurer’s report was accepted and will be filed.

**Board positions to be filled:** No update on Iowa alternate.

**Website Updates:**

M. Miller encouraged Board members to send a brief bio and picture for our website. (Iowa state LWV does this.)

Communications in our Four state Leagues:

* Iowa has a paid professional – Melissa Gesing
* Illinois has paid staff, but this person is new
* Minnesota has paid staff
* Wisconsin has paid staff

**2021 Program Schedule:**

October 4: “Should You Drink that? The Untold Story of PFAS in Our Lives.” Webinar on October 4, 2021, at 6 p.m. Publicize widely for example with Sierra Clubs, Interfaith Power and Light, etc. The recording would be available for local programing.

December 6: TBA Suggestions include Art Cullen and Alan Guebert

**Activities Committee:**

L. McCauley included the UMRR-ILO Annual Report in material sent to the Board members prior to this meeting. P. Ekstrom and L. Ekstrom attended an “Oil and Water Do Not Mix” program about the Enbridge Line 5. The pipeline is 65 – 67 years old and should have been retired after 50. There have been protests and court cases. K. Slama reported on the protests in Northern Minnesota about the Enbridge Line 3. Several organizations are involved. One concern is Enbridge started taking more water from the rivers than they were allotted. **ClimateInteractive.org** is a website that offers an interactive game for even large groups to learn about potential mitigation strategies on climate change outcomes.

**Visioning Our Future UMRR Work 2022:**

UMRR-ILO niche topics: water quality and quantity, soil health, climate change

Develop a registry of websites relative to these topics (ex. Changes in the health of the Mississippi, USGS, Great Lakes Compact).

Plan for the League of Women Voters National Convention in 2022 will begin this fall.

**Strengthen Our Organizational Processes:**

Continue to strengthen communications with our four state Leagues as well as local Chapters (ex. newsletter submissions, written reports for state and local annual meetings, have a place on the agenda for all state conventions, every state can have a ‘pop-up’ banner, each state should have a supply of UMRR-ILO brochures. There could be a PowerPoint run on a continuous loop for tabling at events)

Increase communication with LWVUS so the Board, staff, and committees are aware of UMRR-ILO activities.

Communicate with non-LWV organizations (ex. Local LWV members join local advocacy groups, individual local UMRR-ILO members can ask other advocacy groups if they would mind getting our newsletter)

Develop a new board member orientation process.

Support of non-UMRR-ILO initiatives: If we want to take official action UMRR-ILO must get LWVUS permission after getting permission from the four states. This is a “Speak with One Voice Policy.”

Continue to develop our advisory board.

COVID Delta Variant numbers are increasing therefore some meetings will remain virtual. The October 4, 2021, UMRR-ILO Board meeting and program on PFAS will be virtual. The goal is to get the documents about PFAS finalized by August 12 for distribution

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Submitted by Tamara Prenosil