

Illinois State Water Survey

Illinois River Watershed

Chicago's Impact on the Mississippi

**Annual Meeting
May 30, 2020**

Virtual meeting via Zoom

Meeting Packet

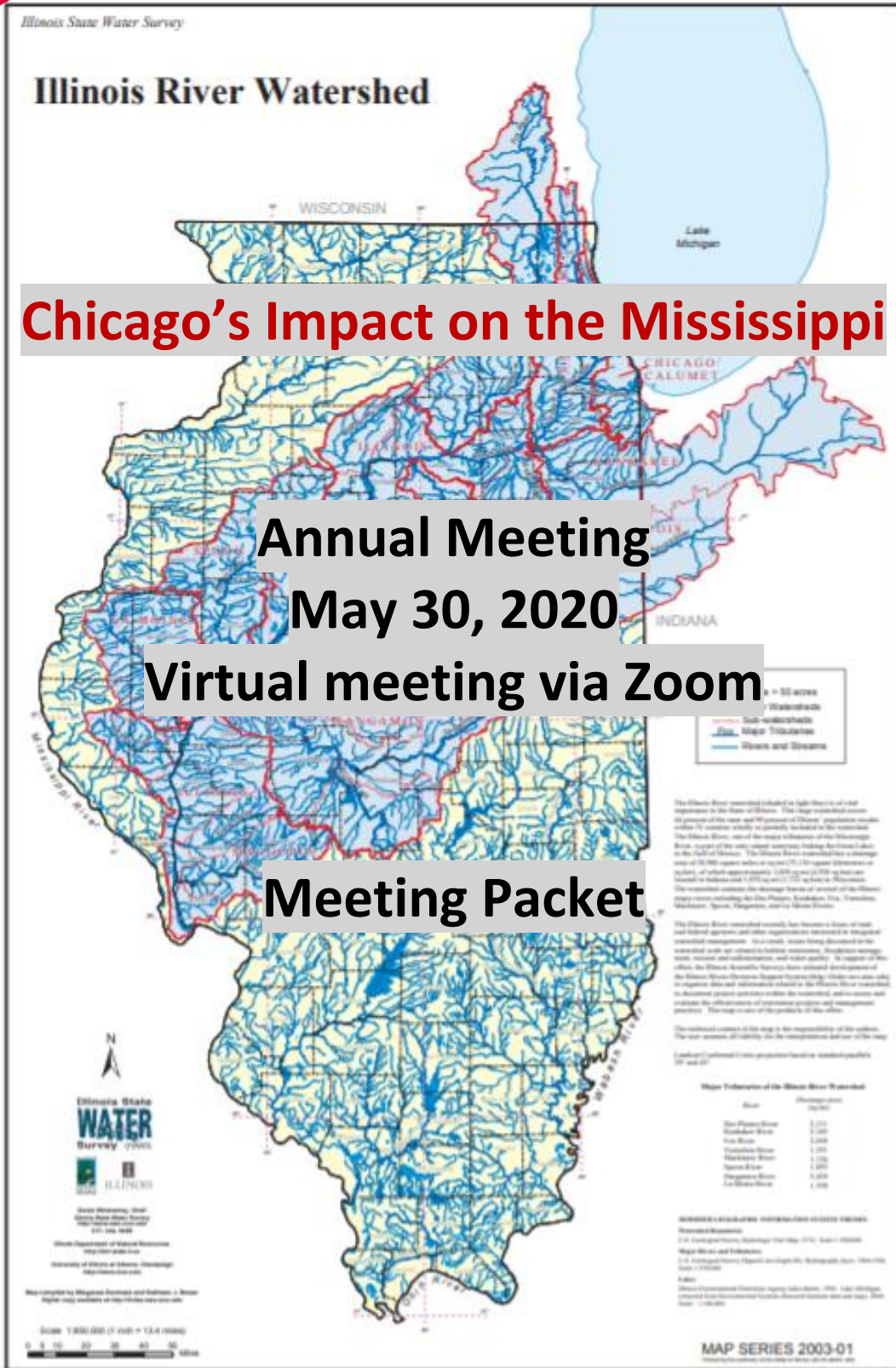


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Connect to the Zoom Meeting

Gretchen Sabel is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: LWV UMRR Annual Meeting - Business Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting online– click this link

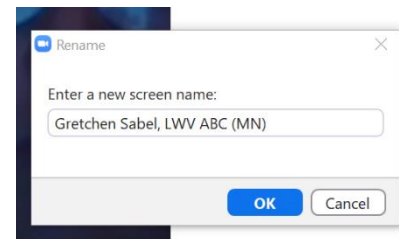
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85689293199?pwd=Q0s5ajFaMlZGaEh4bExkeWZVUExqQT09>

Dial in to connect by phone - 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 856 8929 3199

Password: 412165

When you enter the meeting, please add the League you are representing to your name. You can do this by clicking on “Participants” at the bottom of the screen, then mouse over your name. Click “More”, then “Rename” and type in your League name and state. This way we can all know who’s who! Thanks!



NOTE: Zoom is updating security and encryption. Please make sure to update your computer’s Zoom launcher to Version 5.0 for full participation. It will show up at the top of the Zoom page when you open the link, in a green box.

League of Women Voters Upper Mississippi River Region Annual Meeting 2020 Agenda

Date: **May 30, 2020**
 Time: **10 am to noon Central time**
 Place: Virtual, via Zoom

Gather for coffee and social time: 9:30 am

(of course, the coffee is on your own, but this will be a good time to get to know the other participants!...)

10:00	-	Call Board meeting to order	Steve Ploeser
10:05	-	Virtual meeting guidelines	Steve Ploeser
10:10	-	Qualification of delegates, quorum, adoption of agenda	Mary Ploeser
10:20	-	Action report – Page 12	Lonni McCauley
10:40	-	Treasurer report – Page 8	Jeri McGinley
10:55	-	Budget Report – Page 9	Jeri McGinley
11:10	-	Election of Officers – Page 11	Nominating Committee
11:30	-	Bylaws Revisions – Page 18	Jeri McGinley
12:00	-	Break for Lunch – on your own – stay online and chat with other UMRR members	
12:30	-	Debra Shore, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (Chicago) – Page 27	
1:30	-	Kelly McGinnis, Mississippi River Network – Page 28	

Upcoming UMRR Board meetings (1st Monday of even-numbered months – when possible, we travel around the watershed with our meetings, seeking out new water issues to learn about and discuss with our member Leagues. We are always looking for new places ... invite us!)

Aug 3, 2020 (location TBD – possibly Soldier’s Grove, Wisconsin)
 Oct 5, 2020 (location TBD)
 Dec 7, 2020 (location TBD)
 Feb 1, 2021 (Virtual)
 April 5, 2021 (location TBD)
 Annual Meeting (date and location TBD)

**Fourth ANNUAL MEETING
OF
THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGION
INTER LEAGUE ORGANIZATION
June 1, 2019 at Schaar's Bluff Gathering Center
Spring Lake Park Preserve in Hastings, Minnesota**

The fourth annual meeting of the Upper Mississippi River Region Inter-League Organization (UMRR-ILO) was called to order at 10:00 a.m. at Schaar's Bluff Gathering Center in Spring Lake Park Preserve in Hastings, Minnesota by chair, Gretchen Sabel (Andover, MN). In attendance and eligible to vote were 11 Board members and eight delegates.

MINUTES

Minutes of the Third Annual Meeting held on June 27, 2018 at the Standard Club in Chicago, Illinois were included in program materials. Toni Dautel (Glenview, IL) moved and Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins (La Crosse, WI) seconded to accept the minutes. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report as submitted by Jeri McGinley (Stevens Point, WI) was included in program materials. The UMRR-ILO fiscal year is from July 1 through June 30. Ending cash as of 5/20/2019 is \$7,528.14. Currently the UMRR-ILO has 58 local LWV chapters and 4 state chapters as members. The UMRR-ILO received a second \$1,000 restricted grant from the Environmental Resources Council in Minnesota. These funds are restricted to particular uses so they are tracked separately from the regular operating budget (but are included in our checking account balance). J. McGinley (Stevens Point, WI) moved and M. Ploeser (Dane County, WI) seconded to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Additional discussion included fundraising possibilities as well as a suggestion to research NRCS and Mississippi One grant possibilities.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The report from Mary Ann Nelson (Cedar Rapids, IA), Nominating Committee Chair was included in program materials. Gretchen Sabel will continue as Director of Communications maintaining our website, blog, monthly newsletter and Facebook presence. Nominating committee members from all four states are needed. This group does not meet in person and conducts business by email or phone. Lonnie McCauley does not want to go on to be chair at the end of her term.

The Proposed Slate of Officers to be voted upon at the June 2019 meeting are:

- Co-chairs: Mary and Steve Ploeser (Dane Co. WI) term ends 2021
- Vice-chair and Action Committee Chair: Lonnie McCauley (ABC MN.) term ends 2021
- Treasurer: Jeri McGinley (Stevens Point WI) term ends 2021

T. Prenosil (Dubuque IA) moved and L. McCauley (ABC MN.) seconded acceptance of the Nominating Committee Report and officers be approved by acclamation. Motion passed.

Other Officers for the 2019-2020 year include:

- Secretary: Tamara Prenosil (2- year term up in 2020)
- Director of Communications: Gretchen Sabel is doing this for now
- Chair of Nominating Committee: Mary Ann Nelson (Cedar Rapids, IA) continuing
- State Representatives and Alternates (appointed by their respective state LWVs)
 - Illinois: Judy Beck Alternate: Toni Dautel

- Iowa: Sue Wilson Alternate: needed
- Minnesota: John Howard Alternate: Beth Baker-Knutilla
- Wisconsin: Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins Alternate: needed

Discussion:

The location of the Board meetings moves around to all four states so not everyone can attend each meeting in person, but attendance by phone conference has worked out. Anyone can call in to the Board meetings. Board meetings are generally the first Monday of even numbered months. The state host of bi-monthly Board meetings arranges for an educational program open to the public prior to or after the business meeting. These programs are recorded and have been posted on the website.

ACTION COMMITTEE REPORT (RECAP AND DETAILED LISTING)

UMRR-ILO Activities Recap (FY 18-19) as well as the FY19-20 Action Plan and Strategy Plan Draft was included in the program materials.

L. McCauley also reviewed a PowerPoint of the UMRR-ILO Activities Recap (FY 18-19). The report showed Collaborations with other advocacy groups, legislative and political action and opportunities for future collaboration. For example, in Minnesota, the LWV is supporting the advocacy work of the Nature Conservancy to purchase land adjacent to the Mississippi River, advocating for plans to reduce phosphorous pollution in the La Crosse River watershed, and encouraging Wisconsin’s efforts to make 2019 “The Year of Water Quality Improvement in Wisconsin.”

L. McCauley also discussed the UMRR-ILO Plan of Action Draft for FY 19-20 which was projected by Powerpoint to the participants. The UMRR-ILO Board reaffirmed commitment to the Actions and Strategies for Implementation. The Action Committee meets the last Monday of the month by phone conference at which time members report activities in their respective states.

Discussion issues included:

- L. McCauley reported ongoing collaboration with the Isaak Walton League to provide workshops for retired landowners (many of whom are widows) to help them negotiate with their renters’ ways to practice sustainable agricultural practices.
- Minnesota UMRR-ILO met with their national congressional representatives to encourage ongoing funding for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) as well as streamlined paperwork for farmers.
- Forever Green in Minnesota is another advocacy group to possibly work with. They conduct research in the advantages of the use of cover crops
- The Powerpoint presentations on the UMRR-ILO website may need updating.
- Some communities offer reimbursement for rain gardens, permeable surfaces and the grass strips along street curbs to help mitigate storm water problems.
- The Farmer’s Unions in some states give grants.
- Women’s Food and Agricultural Network in Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota is a good advocacy group with which to collaborate.
- The City of La Crosse is initiating a conservation initiative that is quite extensive and building collations with rural and urban groups especially around energy conservation.
- John Howard remarked that some sustainable agricultural practices sequester carbon, so it is not released into the atmosphere contributing to climate change.

- The USDA has videos on its website about sustainable agriculture with interviews with farmers who maintain sustainable practices contribute to a positive bottom line
- The Red Wing Landfill is leaking and in order to secure funding, small communities as well as Red Wing need to commit to support the issue.
- A report just released states Lake Michigan has one of the highest concentrations of microplastics in the world. Microplastics also flow down the Mississippi contributing to the pollution in the Gulf of Mexico.

BY-LAWS

The initial UMRR-ILO by-laws were adopted at the first annual meeting on October 25, 2015. A committee first met to review the by-laws by phone conference on 10-24-2018 and the proposed changes were reviewed by the UMRR-ILO Board and some attendees at our 12-3-2018 Board meeting in Coralville, Iowa. The by-laws and changes were included in the registration materials as well as projected on the screen at this annual meeting.

A letter from Kim McFarland, LWVUS made suggestions for future by-law updates (such as removing the word 'citizen' and condensing the Statement of Purpose,) but stated that our current proposed changes are not inconsistent with LWVUS. T. Prenosil moved and S. Wilson seconded that the changes to the by-laws as sent to the membership two months prior to this meeting and as presented on this date be approved. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

Steve and Mary Ploeser (co-chairs of the UMRR-ILO for 2019-2021) expressed appreciation to Gretchen Sabel for the considerable amount of work that she accomplished as the UMRR-ILO's first chairperson and at the same time served as communications chair. They presented her with a statue to commemorate our gratitude.

UPCOMING UMRR-ILO BOARD MEETINGS (First Monday of even-numbered months)

August 5, 2019 in Wisconsin

Submitted by: Tamara Prenosil, Secretary

After the business meeting our speakers at this meeting were: John Linc Stine, Executive Director of the Freshwater Society and Matt Gladue, Program Director, for Our Mississippi Our Future, (The Nature Conservancy), and Minnesota Congress Woman Angie Craig. The focus was on climate change, what it means for the Mississippi and what can be done to mitigate the impacts. Caryl Terrell was our round-up speaker. She showed us how we can use the LWV US Tool Kit for Climate Action to take effective action to reduce climate change in our local communities and more broadly. Caryl is a member of LWV Dane County (Madison, Wisconsin), and was a founding member of the LWV US Climate Change Task Force. Videos are on the UMRR-ILO website.

Treasurer's Report

May 30, 2020 Annual Meeting

We continued our financial growth and outreach this year. As of June 30, 2019, we had \$7,486.64 in our checking account; as of April 30, 2020, we had \$8,621.13.

Our board's vice-chair, Lonni McCauley, continued in her role as administrator of grants received from the Environmental Resource Council. These funds are restricted to particular uses so they are tracked separately from our regular operating budget (but are included in our checking account balance). As of April 30, the remaining ERC grant balance was \$361.82.

Board members and others are generous with their time and expenses. We try to track donated mileage for board meetings and other activities, and expenses related to UMRR work – so far this year, we have tracked almost \$1,000 worth of in-kind travel and supplies. In addition, we try to track time spent on UMRR activities – board members donate hundreds of hours of their time on administrative and advocacy activities.

Our work on the 2019-20 budget is a reflection of our priorities. Our main focus continues to be on advocacy, although we acknowledge the need to keep fundraising in mind. Individuals and member Leagues were generous this year, providing more than \$1,100 in unrestricted donations. Our board will be keeping an eye out for ways to stretch our advocacy dollars. Operationally, we are exploring new video conferencing tools, such as Zoom, to make board meetings and their accompanying programs more accessible.

Finally, our true strength is our members. We are pleased that 54 Leagues (4 state and 5 local) support our regional organization today. We appreciate their shared commitment to our mission.



Current Year Actual/Budget & Next Year Proposed Budget

	July 1, 2019 - April 30, 2020 Actual	July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020 Budget	July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021 Proposed Budget
Revenue			
4100 Memberships		1,500.00	1,500.00
4103 2017-18 Memberships	25.00		
4104 2018-19 Memberships	25.00		
4105 2019-20 Memberships	1,250.00		
Total 4100 Memberships	1,300.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
4200 Donations			500.00
4220 Donations - Unrestricted		521.00	
4221 Individual Donations - Unrestricted	560.00		
4222 Member League Donations - Unrestricted	565.00		
Total 4220 Donations - Unrestricted	1,125.00	521.00	0.00
Total 4200 Donations	1,125.00	521.00	500.00
4400 In-Kind Contributions	955.62	1,500.00	1,500.00
4500 Fundraisers	120.00	1,300.00	500.00
4600 Miscellaneous Income			
4610 Annual Meeting Registrations	0.00	2,000.00	1,500.00
Total 4600 Miscellaneous Income	0.00	2,000.00	1,500.00
4700 Other Income			
4710 Interest Income	2.02	2.00	2.00
Total 4700 Other Income	2.02	2.00	2.00
Total Revenue	3,502.64	6,823.00	5,502.00

Expenses

6100 ADMINISTRATIVE

6110 Board and Committees

6111 Board Meetings	0.00	100.00	280.00
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6112 Membership Brochures, etc.	0.00	150.00	150.00
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Total 6110 Board and Committees	0.00	250.00	430.00
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6120 Delegate Travel

6125 Mississippi River Network Annual Meeting	0.00	250.00	250.00
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6126 State League Annual Meetings	0.00	500.00	500.00
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Total 6120 Delegate Travel	0.00	750.00	750.00
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6130 Operating

6131 Annual Financial Review/Audit	0.00	50.00	50.00
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6134 PO Box Rental	148.00	120.00	160.00
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6135 Software	75.00	50.00	50.00
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6136 State Registration Fees	10.00	10.00	10.00
6137 Supplies/Copying	9.35	50.00	50.00
6138 Website	228.00	228.00	12.00
6139 PayPal Fees - Membership Dues	4.25	5.00	5.00
Total 6130 Operating	474.60	513.00	337.00
Total 6100 ADMINISTRATIVE	474.60	1,513.00	1,517.00
6200 PROGRAMS			
6210 Education			
6212 Watershed Game	0.00	500.00	0.00
6213 Educational Events	0.00	200.00	200.00
Total 6210 Education	0.00	700.00	200.00
6220 Advocacy	0.00	500.00	575.00
Total 6200 PROGRAMS	0.00	1,200.00	775.00
6300 FUNDRAISING			
6310 Fundraising Activities	0.00	600.00	200.00
6320 PayPal Fees - Online Donations	0.00	10.00	10.00
Total 6300 FUNDRAISING	0.00	610.00	210.00
6400 MISCELLANEOUS			
6410 Annual Meeting	0.00	2,000.00	1,500.00
6411 Annual Meeting Expenses	580.00		
6412 PayPal Fees - Online Registrations	0.00		
Total 6410 Annual Meeting	580.00	2,000.00	1,500.00
Total 6400 MISCELLANEOUS	580.00	2,000.00	1,500.00
6500 Donated Travel/Supplies	955.62	1,500.00	1,500.00
Total Expenses	2,010.22	6,823.00	5,502.00
Net Operating Revenue	1,492.42	0.00	0.00

Other Expenses

8000 Restricted Grant Expenses

8100 2017-18 ERC Grant

8102 Dues	19.75
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Total 8100 2017-18 ERC Grant	19.75
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8200 2019-20 ERC Grant

8201 Collaborations	457.93
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8202 Sponsorships	50.00
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8203 other Environmental Activities	130.25
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	638.18
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Total 8000 Restricted Grant Expenses	657.93
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Total Other Expenses	657.93
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Nominating Committee Report

2021 Nominating Committee: Bonnie Cox, Mary Ellen Miller, Lonnie McCauley, Lee Ekstrom; still need one Non-board committee member from Wisconsin.

The Proposed Slate of Officers to be voted upon at the May 30, 2020 Annual Meeting are:

- Vice-chair: Mary Ellen Miller (Metro Des Moines, IA) term ends 2022
- Secretary: Tamara Prenosil (Dubuque, IA) term ends 2022
- Chair of Nominating Committee: (non-board member: Bonnie Cox, Jo Daviess Co, IL)

Other Officers for the 2019-2020 year include:

- Co-chairs: Mary and Steve Ploeser (Dane Co. WI) term ends 2021
- Treasurer: Jeri McGinley (Stevens Point WI) term ends 2021
- Director of Communications: Gretchen Sabel term ends 2021
- Immediate Past President: Gretchen Sabel term ends 2021

State Representatives and Alternates (appointed by their respective state LWVs)

- Illinois: Lee Ekstrom (McHenry Co. IL) Alternate: Paula Ekstrom (McHenry Co. IL)
- Iowa: Sue Wilson (Dubuque, IA) Alternate: Nancy Porter (Iowa City, IA)
- Minnesota: John Howard (Winona, MN) Alternate: Lonni McCauley (Coon Rapids, MN)
- Wisconsin: Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins (La Crosse, WI) Alternate: Nancy Hill (La Crosse, WI)

Action Committee Chair: Lonnie McCauley (Coon Rapids, MN)

**Upper Mississippi River Region ILO
FY 20-21 Plan of Action* DRAFT**

Prepared 5/01/20

ACTION	STRATEGY FOR IMPLEMENTATION (1)	Activity for FY20-21	Past Activity	Update 6/21
A.. Prepare an action plan for UMRR for FY20-21	Action Committee prepares	Approval sought by UMRR board	Prepared annually since 10/15.	
B.. Purchase and use Watershed game	Need training and game purchase for new nitrate-based game	Need support of U of M staff	Games were purchased, members trained and presentations made	.
C.. Print materials to support ILO goal	New non-farming owners flyer available now	Find opportunities to use the flyer which can be made available to all UMRR members.	UMRR original brochure is still available for reprint	.
D.. Prepare a universal power point with potential voice-over	Produce a voice-over presentation	Is this still a priority for the coming year with few opportunities for use?	Nonvoice-over PPs are available on the website titled "Presentations" and can be edited by any UMRR member.	
E.. Determine collaborative organizations	Add to the list of organizations where we can either maintain a membership and/or collaborate on programming.	Each member is urged to expand our advocacy through joining additional environmental organizations and taking a visible stance where possible. Money is available for expanded memberships or sponsorships.	Partnerships with Isaak Walton League and Land Stewardship Project have resulted in joint workshops for retired farmers. Continued collaboration with Minnesota Environmental partnership. New partnerships have been formed with Ikes, LSP plus the U of M Soils	

			Department.	
F..Monitor and share public policy	Many environmental issues affect more than one state or region.	Each member organization can ask UMRR for specific action on an environmental issue.	Much effort and many lobbying elements have addressed the Foxconn issue	
G..Determine water treatment plant effectiveness and residential/industrial anti-pollution measures	Should we focus some of our efforts on urban areas			
H..Conduct 100 meetings stressing local watershed issues	Is this still relevant??		Sponsored a clean water forum at the Chicago national convention to honor LWVs 100 th anniversary	
I.. Engage the media to expand UMMR issues	Expand our advocacy through clean water/climate change information in public media.	Encourage and work with local newspapers to include an environmental column. Other media should be explored.	UMRR Illinois has printed several environmental columns in the Galena Gazette in 2019/20. Anoka County will begin a column in May 2020.	
J..Engage environmental speakers	Each UMRR gathering will feature an environmental speaker	The UMRR member responsible for the meeting will be in charge of soliciting speakers	Each bi-monthly and annual meeting of UMRR has featured environmental speakers	. .
K..Solicit grants and funds to operate the UMMR ILO	Grants may be needed for specific purposes	??	2 grants received for \$1,000 each from ERC	
L..Support Citizens' Water Quality Monitoring project	Is this project still active?		Wisconsin and Minnesota counties adjacent to the Mississippi River	

			monitor water equality.	
M. Interact with legislative and congressional reps to promote clean water	Governmental activity often results either in positive or negative environmental action.	UMRR must stay engaged in lobbying activity at the local/state/national level either singly or collaboratively to positively affect the environment.	Many letters and phone calls to local environmental regulators, legislators and congress this past year.	
Possible additions to FY20-21 Plan of Action				
Facilitate efforts with other LWVs				
Engage Nature Conservancy in their "Our Water Our Mississippi" upper Mississippi effort	Is this project still viable where TNC is purchasing land along the Upper Mississippi??		In 2019 UMRR was approached and sat in on a presentation by TNC regarding this effort. No further word.	

**Action Committee Recap
Upper Mississippi River Region ILO
FY19-20**

Recap and analysis (5/20)

Mission: What will the League of Women Voters do to stem nutrient pollution and affect climate change?

Educate ourselves and our fellow citizens on the issue and identify what we can do on an individual, community, regional, and national level to fix the problem.

- **Forum by Dane Co. LWV featuring climate change and its damages to health**
- **Dr. George Kraft from UW spoke on the impact of high capacity wells on ground water**
- **Conference on AgroEcology : Butterflies, Bluegeens, Kilowatts and Calories**
- **U of M lecture – Transforming Energy Systems to Address Climate Change**
- **Lecture entitled Woman and the Land featuring LSP.**
- **Monthly columns in the Galina Gazette newspaper featuring clean water activities**
- **Collaborated with Land Stewardship Project and Izaak Walton League to produce a flyer focused on non-farm owners' regenerative farm practices and resources.**
- **Beginning a monthly column in the Anoka County newspapers featuring clean water/climate change issues written by watersheds and ecological groups**

•Use the Watershed Game as an interactive tool to engage individuals in understanding the connection between various land uses and water quality. Encourage participants to increase their knowledge of best management practices (BMPs) and learn how their choices can prevent adverse impacts.

- **Contact with the U of MN indicated no current training available; however, a new watershed game for southeast U.S. and one on nutrients being formed**

•Capitalize on our LWV relationships with the legislators and regulators at every level of government and advocate for needed programs and ways to adequately fund them to alleviate nutrient pollution

- **Letter to senators requesting continuation of Free Conference Calling**
- **Form tasks force in the city of Coon Rapids, MN Council to promote accelerated action on regenerative energy**
- **Letter to congress asking them to help communities solve their own clean water problems (non-point solution bill).**
- **Letter to the MN Pollution Control Agency indicating they do not adequately address the problems of sedimentation**

- Letter to Congress asking for permanent funding for the land and water conservation fund
- Asked Congress for leadership for a strong Interior and Environment appropriations budget.
- Wisconsin Water Day at the Capitol co-sponsorship
- Letter to Sen. Klobuchar thanking her for introducing of the Local Water protection Act.
- Participation with the Dane Co. Wis. county climate crisis change task force
- Letter to MN MPCA urging the municipal separate storm sewer system practice
- Call to MN Senators asking them to get involved in the redistricting process to prevent gerrymandering
- Letter to MN Governor urging the appointment of an advocate of climate justice equity and indigenous treaty protection rights.
- Letter to congress protesting the massive roll-back of the National Environmental Policy Act

•Facilitate dialogue and collaborative efforts with LWVs in other sections of the country and along the Middle and Lower Mississippi River and Great Lake Regions through our mutual connections to the LWVUS.

- Prepared a power point incorporating clean water and climate change for presentation to LWVs in Minnesota and other states.
- Presentation to a Minnesota LWV
-

•Facilitate collaboration and action among pairs or groups of LWVs and partner with other groups and organizations to work on the issues of clean water and climate change.

- Collaborate with MN Environmental Partnership and attend their monthly meetings
- Set up partnerships with representatives of the U of M Soils Dept, Land Stewardship Council and Izaak Walton League.
- Co-sponsored a farmer roundtable event with the Ikes in Trempealeau Wisconsin
- Staffed a display to engage participants during the Wild Ones Design w/Nature Conference
- Staffed a display for the Women March and attended the Women for Water gathering

Partner with governmental, educational, and environmental groups to share data, gather information, and collaborate on best practices and projects to alleviate nutrient pollution.

- Co-produced flyer with Land Stewardship Project (LSP) and Ikes linking land owners to regenerative farming resources available through LSP and distributed it widely to conservation-minded groups

- **Attended the MN Environmental Quality Board Congress and followed up asking them that state bonding ensures projects that move us away from a carbon emission perspective**
- **Asked the MN Pollution Control Agency and PUC to deny the Enbridge Pipeline 3 application and requesting additional time for public hearings.**
- **Supported the Land Stewardship Project petition calling for an equitable farm economy grounded in family farm viability, land stewardship and community.**

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS –
UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGION ILO BYLAWS
Amended June 1, 2019 at the Annual Meeting

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this organization shall be the **League of Women Voters - Upper Mississippi River Region Inter League Organization**, hereinafter referred to as **LWV-UMRR ILO**. This Upper Mississippi River Region Inter League Organization (ILO) is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States, hereinafter referred to as LWVUS.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSES AND POLICY

Section 1: Purposes. The purposes of the LWV-UMRR ILO are to:

- (a) encourage informed and active participation in government, work to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influence public policy through education and advocacy.
- (b) emphasize the preservation of our water resources within the Upper Mississippi River Basin watershed.

~~(a) educate the public concerning the necessity of preserving our Region's water resources;~~

~~———— (b) improve public understanding and active, informed citizen participation in evidence based decision making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of the natural resources of the Upper Mississippi River Region;~~

~~———— (c) promote resource conservation, science based stewardship, and long range planning for managing the region's natural resources, efficient and economical government requiring competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, effective monitoring and enforcement, coordination among the different agencies and levels of government and well defined channels for citizen input and review;~~

~~———— (d) publish on our website, FaceBook page, and other media outlets information related to resource preservation efforts and developments;~~

~~———— (e) meet with governmental representatives to report to governmental committees, agencies, and boards; and to help local, state and federal lawmakers establish legislation to help protect the region's natural resources;~~

~~(f) expand and redefine our educational and environmental program from time to time as necessary to meet the continuing challenge of protecting our region's natural resources; and~~

~~(g) collaborate with non-profit and advocacy groups to leverage impact across political boundaries~~

Section 2. IRC Section 501(c)(3) Purposes

This corporation is organized exclusively for one or more of the purposes as specified in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Section 3: Policy. The LWV-UMRR ILO shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: The four state Leagues within the Upper Mississippi River Basin (Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin) shall be dues paying members of the **LWV-UMRR ILO**.

Section 2: All League members of dues-paying local Leagues in communities within the Upper Mississippi River Basin region shall be members of the **LWV-UMRR ILO**.

ARTICLE IV – THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1: Voting members of the Board of Directors shall consist of the officers (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer); a representative appointed by each of the four state LWVs of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin; the Past Chair; a Communications Director; and other such members as prescribed in the bylaws (as described by the bylaws in Article IV Section 7).

Section 2: Enumeration, Qualification and Terms of Officers

The officers of the **LWV-UMRR ILO** shall be a chair, a secretary, a treasurer, and a vice-chair (chair elect). All offices may be jointly held by co-officers; **co-officers shall share one vote**. All officers shall be members of **LWV-UMRR ILO**. The chair, vice-chair, and treasurer shall be elected at the first annual meeting and at each annual meeting thereafter in each odd numbered year to hold office for two (2) years or until their successors have been elected and qualified. The secretary shall be elected at the first annual meeting to hold office for a one year term and at each annual meeting thereafter in even numbered years to hold office for two (2) years or until their successors have been elected and qualified. The Chair shall be elected for no more than two successive terms of two years.

Section 3: The Chair. The chair shall preside at all meetings of the organization and board of directors. The chair shall be, *ex officio*, a member of all committees except the nominating committee. The chair shall have such usual powers of supervision and management as may pertain to the office, may sign or

endorse checks, drafts, and notes in the absence of the treasurer, and perform such other duties as may be designated by the board. ~~A co-chair may be added.~~

Section 4: The Secretary. The secretary shall keep minutes of the annual meeting and meetings of the board of directors. The secretary shall perform such other duties as directed by the board.

Section 5: The Treasurer. The treasurer (or an alternate to be appointed by the board of directors) shall collect and receive all monies due. The treasurer shall be the custodian of these monies, shall deposit them in a bank and disburse the same upon order of the board. The treasurer shall present statements to the board at its regular meetings and a report to the annual LWV-UMRR ILO meeting. The treasurer, in consultation with the Board, shall be responsible to arrange for an annual financial review or audit of the books.

Section 6: The Vice Chair (Chair Elect) The vice chair shall preside in the absence of the chair. The vice chair may assume the office of the Chair after one or two terms as vice chair. The vice chair shall perform such other duties as directed by the board.

Section 7: ~~There shall be one representative and one alternate appointed by each of the LWV boards of Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, and Wisconsin to serve as directors.~~ **The LWV boards of Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota and Wisconsin shall each appoint one representative and one alternate to serve as directors; director positions may be jointly held by co-directors.** ~~Alternate representatives vote only in the absence of the representative.~~ **Each director position shall have one vote; co-directors shall share one vote.** The terms of the ~~state board~~ **representatives and alternates** shall be two years without term limits. Any vacancy of a ~~state~~ **representative or alternate position may be filled by the LWV-UMRR board of directors pending final approval** by the appropriate state LWV board. It shall be the responsibility of each of the ~~state~~ **representatives** to act as a liaison to his or her respective state board for communication and information purposes. However, the appointed director is not required to be a member of his or her state board.

Section 8: The immediate past chair shall serve as a director on the ILO board. The past chair may assume the duties of the chair if requested by the chair to do so.

Section 9: An additional director shall be elected at the annual meeting to serve as the Director of Communications with the responsibility of developing and maintaining online communications to members and the public. The term of the Director of Communications will be two years without term limits.

Section 10: Powers. The board shall manage and supervise the business, affairs, and activities of the LWV-UMRR ILO subject to the instructions of the annual meeting. It shall select delegates to member state conventions and councils and to national conventions and national councils. It shall accept responsibility for such other matters as the national or state boards may from time to time assign to it. It shall have the power to create such special committees as it deems necessary and shall perform such other duties as are specified in these bylaws.

Section 11: Quorum. A quorum shall consist of a simple majority of voting members of the board and include at least one representative from three (3) of the four (4) member state Leagues. Any one or more members of the board may participate by means of electronic communications, including conference telephone, allowing all persons participating in the meeting to communicate with each other at the same time. Participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at a meeting.

Section 12: Meetings. There shall be at least six (6) regular meetings of the board annually. Members of the board shall be notified of all regular meetings at least one (1) month previous to such meeting. The chair may call special meetings and shall call a special meeting upon the written request of four (4) members of the board.

Section 13: Written Consent. In accordance with Section 181.0821, Wis. Stats., any action that would be taken at a meeting of the Board, except for filling vacancies on the Board or on committees or removing any director or officer, may be taken without a meeting if initiated by the President (**Chair**) and a consent in writing setting forth the action to be taken, is signed by at least two-thirds (2/3) of all of the Directors, provided all Directors receive notice of the text of the written consent and of its effective date and time. Any such consent signed by two-thirds (2/3) of all of the Directors has the same effect as a two-thirds (2/3) vote taken at a duly convened meeting of the Board at which a quorum is present and may be stated as such in any document filed with the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions. For purposes of this section, pursuant to § 181.0821(1r) of the Wisconsin Statutes, “in writing” includes a communication that is transmitted or received by electronic means, including electronic mail (“email”), and “signed” includes an electronic signature, as defined in §181.0103(10p) of the Wisconsin Statutes, as amended from time to time.

Section 14: Attendance. An officer or director who misses two consecutive meetings may be removed by a vote of a simple majority at a regular Board meeting. State Board Presidents will be asked to have their Boards appoint a replacement representative to the LWV UMRR ILO Board if a state representative has two consecutive unexcused Board meetings.

Section 15: Vacancies. If a vacancy **of an officer or director** **in an officer position or the position of Director of Communications** occurs, the Board will appoint an individual to fulfill that position until the term is completed.

ARTICLE V- ANNUAL MEETING

Section 1: Date. The date of the annual meeting shall be determined by the LWV-UMRR ILO board.

Section 2: Place. The location of each annual meeting shall be determined by the LWV-UMRR ILO board. The place shall rotate around the four states.

Section 3: Composition. The annual meeting shall be composed of the following voting delegates:

- (a) One delegate from each member League that is current in its dues payment. Any League may designate a member of another League to serve as its proxy.

(b) Members of the board.

Section 4: Qualification and Voting. Each delegate shall be a member and shall be entitled to one vote.

Section 5: Powers. The annual meeting shall consider and authorize a program for study and action, shall elect officers, shall adopt a budget for the ensuing year, and shall transact such other business as may properly come before it.

Section 6: Required representation at Annual Meeting/Quorum. At least one League from each member state and at least one-fifth (1/5) of the member local Leagues must be represented at the annual meeting for any actions to be taken. Decisions can be approved by a simple majority of the voting delegates registered at the annual meeting.

ARTICLE VI— NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1: Nominating Committee. The nominating committee shall consist of at least five (5) members, up to two (2) of whom may be members of the board. There shall be a member from each of the four (4) states. The chair of the nominating committee shall not be a member of the board, and shall be elected at the annual meeting. The nomination of the nominating committee chair shall be made by the current nominating committee. The other members of the committee shall be appointed by the board. Vacancies shall be filled by the board.

Section 2: Suggestions for Nominations. At least four (4) months prior to the annual meeting, the chair of the nominating committee shall request suggestions for nominations for offices to be filled. The request will be made to the president of each member League. Suggestions shall be sent to the chair of the nominating committee at least two (2) months before the annual meeting.

Section 3: Report of the Nominating Committee and Nominations from the floor. The report of the nominating committee of its nominations for officers, directors, and the nomination committee chair shall be sent to the member Leagues at a minimum of one (1) month before the date of the annual meeting. The report of the nominating committee shall be presented to the annual meeting during the business session. Immediately following the presentation of this report, nominations may be made from the floor, provided that the consent of the nominee shall have been secured. The election shall be conducted at the time specified in the Annual Meeting Agenda.

Section 4: Election. The election shall be by a written ballot except when there is but one (1) nominee for each office in which case the convention can move to accept the slate by acclamation. A majority of the votes cast shall constitute an election.

ARTICLE VII – PRINCIPLES AND PROGRAM

Section 1: Principles. The Principles are concepts of government adopted by the national convention and supported by the League as a whole. They are the authorization for the adoption of national, state and local program.

Section 2: Program. The program of the LWV-UMRR ILO shall consist of:

- (a) Activities in support of the Principles and program of the LWVUS
- (b) Those environmental issues that affect the Upper Mississippi River Region and are chosen by the annual meeting for concerted study and focused activities.

Section 3: Annual Meeting Action.

- (a) At least five (5) months in advance of the annual meeting the board shall send to the presidents of local and state Leagues a status report of the current positions with explanations of activities taken under each position, and a request for program recommendations for the next year. The board shall ask for evaluation of the current positions, may ask for suggestions for study and/or focus and may make its own suggestions for study and/or focus.
- (b) Local and state League boards may make recommendations for a program to the board at least three (3) months prior to the annual meeting.
- (c) The board shall consider these recommendations and formulate a proposed program, which shall be sent to the members at a minimum of ~~two (2) months~~ 45 days before the annual meeting.
- (d) The annual meeting shall be given a list of all program items submitted to the board but not selected by the board in addition to the board proposed program. The annual meeting may amend or modify the board proposed program by adopting a program item by a two-thirds vote of those present, which must include that of delegates from all four (4) state Leagues
- (e) The annual meeting shall adopt a program by a majority vote of those present, which must include that of delegates from all four (4) state Leagues.
- (f) Between annual meetings the board may choose to pursue an issue not selected at the previous annual meeting.

Section 4: Action on LWV-UMRR ILO Program.

Action may be taken in the name of the **LWV-UMRR ILO** only when authorized to do so by the appropriate board(s). Such action must be in conformity with, and not contrary to, positions taken by the **LWV-UMRR ILO**, the LWVs of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin and the LWVUS.

ARTICLE VIII – FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION:

Section 1: Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of **LWV- UMRR ILO** shall conform to that of the League of Women Voters of the United States

Section 2: Dues. Annual dues per each member League shall be determined by the Board. Any change in dues will be voted on at an annual meeting and will need to be approved by a 3/5's majority of the delegates voting.

Section 3: Budget Committee. The budget shall be prepared by a committee appointed for that purpose at least four (4) months before the annual meeting. Committee members shall represent the geographic diversity of the member state and local Leagues. The treasurer shall be, *ex officio*, a member of the budget committee but shall not serve as chair. The chair shall be a board member. At least one (1) non-board member shall serve on the committee.

Section 4: Budget. The board shall submit to the annual meeting for adoption by a three-fifths (3/5) vote a proposed budget to provide support for **LWV-UMRR ILO**. A copy of the proposed budget shall be sent to each state League president and to each local League president not less than ~~two (2)~~ **months 45 days** before the annual meeting.

Section 5: Distribution of Funds on Dissolution. In the event of the dissolution of the **LWV-UMRR ILO**, all moneys, securities, and all funds shall be distributed equally among the four (4) member state Leagues after all debts and other obligations have been met.

Section 6. Nonliability of Directors. The directors shall not be personally liable for the debts, liabilities, or other obligations of the corporation.

Section 7. Indemnification by Corporation of Directors and Officers. The directors and officers of the corporation shall be indemnified by the corporation to the fullest extent permissible under the laws of the state in which the ILO is incorporated as a not for profit corporation.

Section 8. Insurance for Corporate Agents. Except as may be otherwise provided under provisions of law, the board of directors may adopt a resolution authorizing the purchase and maintenance of insurance on behalf of any agent of the corporation (including a director, officer, employee, or other agent of the corporation) against liabilities asserted against or incurred by the agent in such capacity or arising out of the agent's status as such, whether or not the corporation would have the power to indemnify the agent against such liability under the articles of incorporation, these bylaws, or provisions of law.

ARTICLE IX – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

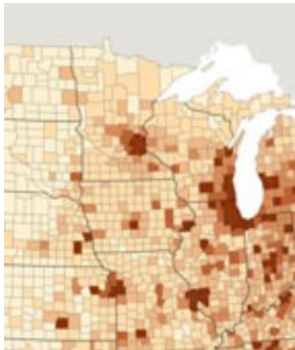
Parliamentary Authority. The rules in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern this organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws.

ARTICLE X– AMENDMENTS

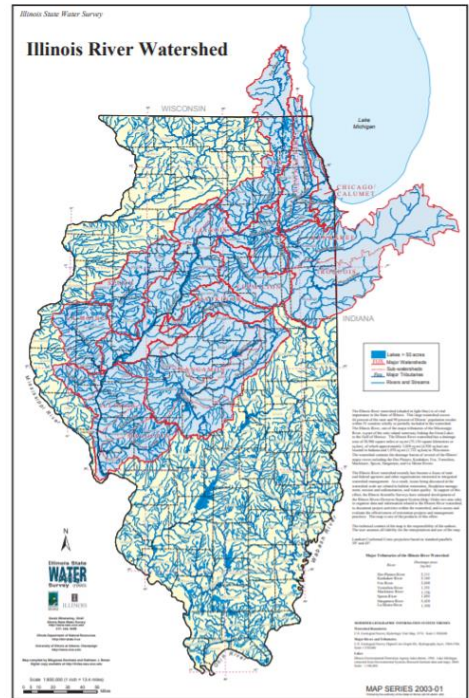
Amendments to Bylaws. These bylaws may be amended at any annual meeting by three fifths (3/5s) vote provided that the proposed amendment was submitted by a member to the board at least three (3) months prior to the annual meeting. The board may appoint a bylaws committee to review and make recommendations for amendments for consideration at the annual meeting. The board shall send any proposed amendments to the presidents of the member Leagues at least ~~two (2) months~~ **45 days** prior to the annual meeting. Failure of presidents of local Leagues to notify their members, or of state Leagues to notify their boards, of the proposed amendments shall not invalidate the adoption of such amendments by the annual meeting.

Afternoon Speakers – Topic:
Chicago’s Impact on the Mississippi River

In the Mississippi Basin, Chicago is the big dog – the largest population center in the basin. The more than nine million people of the Chicago area get drinking water from Lake



Michigan but discharge wastewater into the Illinois River. The map on the right shows the Illinois River and its footprint across the Chicago metropolitan area. Compare this to the population density map from the Census Bureau, showing 2011 population density. The Minneapolis area is the next largest metro area in the Mississippi Basin with about three million people, a third of the population of the Chicago area.



The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Chicago is responsible for treating wastewater, you can read more about this organization on their website here: <https://mwrdd.org/about> . Our first speaker, Debra Shore, will talk about how Chicago strives to reduce pollution that flows into the Mississippi River, as well as, speaking to her role as Commissioner and the role of the MWRD. Her bio information is on the following page.

Our second speaker is also Chicago-based. Kelly McGinnis will speak on will be informing us on how to support and lead advocacy in efforts to decrease pollution in the Mississippi River. Kelly is the Executive Director of the Mississippi River Network. The Mississippi River Network is a network of 57 organizations in the Mississippi Basin, working together to protect the land, water, wildlife, and people of the United States’ greatest River. The three areas where the MRN is providing education is on reducing nutrient pollution, protecting floodplains and wetlands, and promoting farm bill conservation programs. Read more about the MRN at on their website at <http://1mississippi.org/aboutus/#network>. LWV UMRR is a proud member of the MRN. Kelly’s bio is found on page 28.

We thank these speakers for being part of our Annual Meeting!

12:30: What drains into the Mississippi River is determined by decisions, actions, and choices made by many entities but precisely, Chicago's role and the role of the MWRD.

Debra Shore, Commissioner, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (Chicago)

Debra Shore is a Commissioner on the Board of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. She has been a strong advocate for cleaning up the Chicago waterways and for resource recovery, including the reuse of treated water and the generation of biogas. In recognition of her work, she received the Public Officials Award from the Water Environment Federation in 2013.

She is a past chair of the Board of Directors for the Great Lakes Protection Fund. She served as president of the Board of Directors for the Illinois Women's Institute for Leadership (IWIL), and serves on the board of the Illinois Women's Institute for Leadership Training Academy (IWILTA). Debra was the founding editor of Chicago Wilderness Magazine, is an active volunteer restoring prairies and oak woods, and was a founding board member of Friends of the Forest Preserves.

Debra graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Goucher College in Baltimore, MD with a degree in Philosophy & Visual Arts. She earned Master's degrees from Johns Hopkins University and Columbia College (Chicago).

And, on a personal note, she has climbed 42 of the 54 mountains in Colorado more than 14,000' high.



1:30: How to support and lead advocacy in efforts to decrease pollution in the Mississippi River

Kelly McGinnis, Executive Director, Mississippi River Network (Chicago)

Kelly McGinnis is the Executive Director of the Mississippi River Network, a coalition dedicated to a healthy and resilient Mississippi River. She works directly with network members in the ten-state Mississippi River region, building the coalition with the goal to protect and restore the River through policy and outreach work.

Kelly comes from a diverse professional background, starting her career as a fisheries biologist and freshwater ecologist in Washington State before moving back to the Midwest where her focus shifted to sustainability in both environment and coalition building. She brings passion and enthusiasm for protecting the environment and water to her role. When she is not busy defending water, you can find Kelly playing outside in a number of ways whether it is trail running, mountain biking, kayaking, growing a garden or playing with her two dogs. Kelly holds a B.S. in Environmental Science and Freshwater Ecology from The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington.

The Mississippi River Network is a network of 57 organizations in the Mississippi Basin, working together to protect the land, water, wildlife, and people of the United States' greatest River. The three areas where the MRN is providing education is on reducing nutrient pollution, protecting floodplains and wetlands, and promoting farm bill conservation programs. Read more about the MRN at on their website at <http://1mississippi.org/aboutus/#network> . LWV UMRR is a proud member of the MRN.

