

Recommended Websites to Inform Our Work in the Upper Mississippi River Region.

1. For information about the LWV-UMRR ILO (our “Ummer”)

One of the first tasks for the LWV-UMRR ILO (the “Ummer”) will be to develop a website of its own. Until that occurs, please check your state LWV’s websites for information about the “Ummer.”

The LWV of Minnesota has dedicated website space to news and information about our ILO. To access it, go to LWVMN and look under Where We Stand (Natural Resources).

LWVIL has an ILO menu item at the top of its website with information about all the ILOs to which its member LWVs may belong including the “Ummer.”

LWVIA featured news about the “Ummer” right on its homepage this month.

LWVWI featured the “Ummer” news under the menu item “New and Events.”

2. For conservation news and stories about the Mississippi River Basin, go to www.nature.org, the Nature Conservancy’s website.

Check out the current article about the first-ever Report Card for the entire Mississippi River Basin, recently released by America’s Watershed Initiative. An overall grade of a D+ was based on an evaluation of clean, abundant water; transportation; flood control and risk reduction; the economy; recreation; and ecosystem health.

3. For information about The Upper Mississippi River Basin Association (UMRBA), a regional interstate organization formed by the Governors of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin to coordinate the states' river-related programs and policies and to work with federal agencies that have river responsibilities, go to www.umbra.org.

UMRBA is involved with programs related to commercial navigation, ecosystem restoration, water quality, aquatic nuisance species, hazardous spills, flood risk management, water supply, and other water resource issues.

4. For information about how a local LWV is undertaking watershed and water resource management planning, go to:

<https://sites.google.com/site/jodaviesscountywatershedplan/>

This site has several YouTube presentations (slides with voice over) that you may find useful for your LWV’s programming. Look under “Presentations.”

5. For information about a civic engagement model for water protection, go to www.pca.state.mn.us

Look for “Civic Engagement in Watershed Projects – Minnesota Pollution Control Agency” for many resources for using this model.

6. For information about economic options for encouraging farmers to reduce nitrate losses in corn production, check out this story:

“USDA ERS – Reducing Agriculture’s Nitrogen Footprint: Are New Policy Approaches Needed?”

View on www.ers.usda.gov

7. For up to date information about water issues across the globe including current and relevant information about water issues facing our region, check out Circle of Blue.

Founded in 2000 by leading journalists and scientists, Circle of Blue provides relevant, reliable, and actionable on-the-ground information about the world’s resource crises. With an intense focus on water and its relationships to food, energy, and health, Circle of Blue has created a breakthrough model of front-line reporting, data collection, design, and convening that has evolved with the world’s need to spur new methodology in science, collaboration, innovation, and response. To document emerging and recognized crises, Circle of Blue collaborates with leading scientists and data experts. Through its partnerships, Circle of Blue then dispatches top journalists to map and define the region where the change is occurring. Making connections from localized occurrences to global trends, Circle of Blue publishes these reports online — free of charge — to inform academics, governments, and the general public, catalyzing participation across disciplines, regions, and cultures.

For several good articles on the nutrient pollution that is one of our Ummer’s program items next year, go to **circleofblue.org** and check out **Water News**.

8. Go to 1mississippi.org to become a River Citizen. 1 Mississippi is supported by the Mississippi River Network (MRN) to encourage River Citizens through education, inspiration and opportunities to embrace the Mississippi River.

The goal of the Network is to protect the land, water and people of the United States’ greatest River. Founded in 2005, the Network has grown into a diverse coalition of 49 nonprofit organizations and businesses from the River’s headwaters in Minnesota, to where it drains into the Gulf of Mexico.