

# ORBA Steering Committee Notes

## August 28, 2017

### Items for Discussion:

Call to order

Roll call

Adoption of agenda

Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting

Report from the Chairperson (Harry Stone)

Reports from the other committee members

- update from Financial Chairperson (Brian Farkas)
- update from Website Team (Sherry Adams/Gus Drum/Chuck Somerville/John King)
- update from AWI Liaison (Chuck Somerville)
- update from ORBCRE Liaison (Chris Lorentz)

Reports from the working group leaders

- Sustainable Growth and Competitiveness (Harry Stone)
- Water Availability and Management (Ted Lozier)
- Restoration and Protection (Sarah Hippensteel Hall)
- Enterprise and Infrastructure (Kari Mackenbach)

Unfinished business

- Thomas More College and ORSANCO fiscal sponsorship offers
- ORBA 2017 Summit agenda and logistics planning (Chuck Somerville)
- Working Groups and Charters Required by Bylaws
- ORBA Travel Policy [ACTION]
- Outreach plan to engage more organizations/individuals in ORBA to collaborate on high priority challenges
- Status of proposal for Ohio River Basin Initiative (no update)
- Need for communications and public relations leadership (tabled until fiscal sponsorship is in place)

New business

Adjournment

**Call to Order**

**Roll Call**

Present: Harry Stone, Megan Thompson, Mike Steinmaus, Chuck Somerville, Sarah Hippensteel Hall, Richard Harrison

### **Adoption of Agenda**

The agenda was adopted by consensus.

### **Approval of minutes from the previous meeting**

Approval of the minutes by consensus.

### **Report from the Chairperson- Harry Stone**

Presentation at a meeting of the Appalachian Ohio Watershed Council on August 3 in Cambridge, OH. Interest in being engaged with ORBA in many ways - stream monitoring, invasive concerns, sustainable agriculture, recreation and tourism. How do they get engaged?

Attended meeting of the Inland Rivers, Ports and Terminals, Inc. at South Point Ohio on August 8; introduction to the Central Ohio River Business Association. Strong interest in engagement expressed by many, including Aimee Andres, Executive Director of IRPT. Megan Barnes will present at the Summit. Strong interest in river commerce (containers on barge) including infrastructure.

Meeting at Ohio University on August 24th with ORBCRE's Executive Director, Terry Chang, and Chair, Chuck Duritsa. A challenge for ORBCRE has been a vision of networking that gets one to research funding. The need for a "Sea Grant" - like funding source for research for non-coastal waterbodies was identified as a priority.

### **Reports from other committee members**

Update from Financial Chairperson (Brian Farkas)

- N/A

Website Team (Megan Thompson/Chuck Somerville/John King)

- Discussion on whether to dissolve this team. Decision was no. Need to change the focus to effective website and social media.
- Please place the following on the website: Reminder of meeting and please register. Will take registrations on site. Register two weeks in advance (13 Sept) if you want meals.

Update from AWI Liaison (Chuck Somerville).

- N/A

Update from ORBCRE Liaison (Chris Lorentz).

- N/A

### **Reports from the working group leaders**

- Sustainable Growth and Competitiveness (Harry Stone)
  - Communications with economic panelists; teleconference scheduled.
  - Call with Mike Saffran, USACE, on GIS/data platform. Pilot being planned with internal funding. Potential for ORBA role.
  - Call and follow-up communication with Julie Kahlfel, Executive Director of America Outdoors Association. The key question I asked: is there strategic value for the private sector of having regional promotion of nature recreation and tourism? Based on the lack of response, I think it is clear that regional approaches to promotion of recreation and tourism lacks a champion either among states or in the private sector. Will likely be dropped.
- Water Availability and Management (Ted Lozier)
  - Presentation to committee.
- Restoration and Protection (Sarah Hippensteel Hall)
  - Has been working on planning for the upcoming Summit.
  - Working on conversation with Chris.
  - Webinar idea.
- Enterprise and Infrastructure (Kari Mackenbach)
  - No Report

### **Unfinished business**

Thomas More College and ORSANCO fiscal sponsorship offers

#### ORSANCO

The ORSANCO fiscal sponsorship offer is the culmination of a lot of work by Richard Harrison. High level support from ORSANCO for ORBA is now expected. ORSANCO envisions that ORBA will carry forward all stakeholder priorities.

ORSANCO does cover the entire basin in the compact recognized by Congress. Has water resources group - ready when states are ready. ORSANCO can move right in with resources discussion basin wide.

ORSANCO does have personnel experienced with grants. There are no charges in the offer to ORBA for subcontracts or purchases.

Thomas More College  
(Quoted from Chris Lorentz)

“1) Number of grants: The Field Station submits 5-8 grants/year with a 75% success rate. The Development office for the College has yet to send me the numbers for the entire college, but suffice to say the number is much larger, though the success rate is not as high.

2) Federal Contracts: The Field Station has had two contracts with Federal agencies: MOUs with the USEPA and with the USFW. I have attached both here. Through these, we have dealt with federal regulations related to acquisitions, income and expenses and laboratory inspections. Further, I am the Chair of our IACUC (Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) which is a federally-mandated committee that oversees our animal programs, facilities and procedures. The National Institute of Health (NIH) Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) has developed policies to which we adhere, including submitting semi-annual reports.

3) Multipliers for fully-burdened direct labor rate: I'm not exactly sure if I'm understanding your question correctly, but based on what I think you're asking, ours would be approximately 50% (onsite) and 25% (offsite) to generate an hourly proposed rate for grants or other contracts. However, we are very flexible on this rate.

The last point speaks to the one of the key differences between ORSANCO and TMC's proposal that I don't think we stated explicitly in any of the documents and emails. This key difference is that we are small and private which equates to flexible and nimble. Further, we are less burdened by federal and state guidelines relative to a federal, state, regional or local governmental agency or other institution. A second key difference that you did mention in the criteria is the physical space that we are offering at the Field Station. Between the conference center, research labs, and soon-to-be built outreach center with enhance videoconference capabilities, along with our location, ORBA will have access to numerous resources and be able to host a multitude of programs on site.

On the flip side, I definitely agree that ORSANCO's name recognition, connections and extensive collaborations is a major plus that should be taken into strong consideration when choosing a sponsor. Clearly, Thomas More does not compare with ORSANCO in these aspects. But I will also add that these same benefits from ORSANCO should still apply to ORBA, regardless of who becomes the fiscal sponsor, as I hope ORSANCO will partner with ORBA in the future, with or without the role of fiscal sponsor.

Lastly, I would like to reiterate that the Field Station and Thomas More College will continue to support ORBA and the mission, regardless of the outcome of the fiscal sponsorship decision."

Ran out of time to discuss the following:

- ORBA 2017 Summit agenda and logistics planning (Chuck Somerville)
- Working Groups and Charters Required by Bylaws
- ORBA Travel Policy [ACTION]
- Outreach plan to engage more organizations/individuals in ORBA to collaborate on high priority challenges
- Status of proposal for Ohio River Basin Initiative (no update)
- Need for communications and public relations leadership (tabled until fiscal sponsorship is in place)

**New Business**

- N/A

**Adjournment**