



Steering Committee Minutes

Time and Date of Meeting: August 23 2021 at 1:00 PM

Next Meeting: September 27, 2021 at 1:00 PM

Enclosures: Chairperson's Report (August); Financial Report (June and July)

Call to Order: Approximately 1:00PM

Steering Committee Members Present: Harry Stone, Richard Harrison, Sarah Hippensteel Hall, David Wicks, Jen Bowman, Chuck Somerville, Craig Butler, Jeff Thomas, Kari Mackenbach, Anne Quinn, Mekayle Houghton, John King,

Excused: Marty Hettel, Jordan Lubetkin, Chris Lorentz

Absent: Robin Peak, Caren Glotfelty, Carey Johnson

Advisors Present: Jeff Frey, Peter Cinotto, Brandon Brummett

Staff: Shoshannah Stone

Adoption or Modification of Agenda: Agenda approved by consensus.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from July 26, 2021 were approved by consensus.

Unfinished Business

Summit

- By consensus, the ORBA Summit will be an all virtual event on the same dates. The
- It was recommended to consider engaging a firm who does virtual meetings on a regular basis to improve performance at the Summit.

ORBIT

- Harry reported that USACE invited seven ORBA presentations at the virtual Ohio River Basin Inspection Tour. ORBA was named in the invitation. This was seen as an important win.
- The approach to presentations was discussed. Harry indicated that presenters should coordinate with the USACE POCs on their presentations. Some of the ORBA presenters are paired with USACE presenters. ORBA presenters should coordinate with the USACE co-presenters.

- Harry recommended focusing on the goal at a Basin-wide level and think about what we want to ask from the USACE. Harry will present a brief overview daily. Introduce ORBA, Challenge, Solution, Progress, Next Steps with USACE goals.
- Approaches to avoid “death by PowerPoint” while having a one-page leave behind to link to ORBA.
- Jen Bowman reported that the federal budget earmark proposal did not get picked up. The feedback was that the proposal had to match up with an eligible federal agency account and the legislator’s community project request.

ACTION: Update the ORBA Steering Committee Members on the website

Summit

- Harry suggested approach: goal, what’s been accomplished, next steps and how this group can engage - get interaction
- Harry or Craig should talk about how the ORBA plan and the restoration plan fits together.
- Mekayle, Richard and Jordan will coordinate on their presentation
- Needs for research, gaps in data that working groups have identified.
- Summit can be used for recruiting and as a deadline to bring forward ideas for focus.

ACTION: Working Group leaders - please identify data gaps and research needs that can be shared with the audience

ACTION: Would like more discussion of a research agenda at a future meeting.

- Dr. Wicks described the exhibit that is being presented at the Kentucky State Fair. This has been effective community outreach and has provided networking opportunities.
- Appalachian Regional Commission Meeting and meeting with Director Mary Mertz of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

By consensus, all other business was postponed.

Adjourned at 2:00pm

Chairperson's Report

20 August 2021

With help from many of you, this has been a very busy and productive month. This summarizes the work that I have done.

- Participated in several Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Subcommittee meetings led by Sally Gutierrez, USEPA, to learn how ORBA's culture can be shaped to ensure overarching support for DEI principles and practices. The briefing for the Steering Committee is an important initial step.
- Participated in a coordination meeting with the Working Group Leaders focused on the development of an Ohio River Basin restoration plan to underpin the request for federal funding for a restoration initiative.
- Contacted Mary Mertz, Director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, who arranged a call with Eric Saas, the H2Ohio Program Manager and Rachel DeNoewer, Assistant Program Manager, to be briefed on ORBA and the *Plan for the Ohio River Basin* and to discuss the H2Ohio program. Gail Hesse and Jordan Lubetkin of the National Wildlife Federation joined Harry Stone on the productive call. Subsequently ORBA has posted information on Facebook about the Wetlands Grant Program being offered for the Ohio River Basin watershed of Ohio.
- Prepared, secured endorsements from 21 organizations and seven Chapters of the Izaak Walton League of America, and delivered a letter to legislators of the Basin supporting an Ohio River Basin restoration initiative.
- Participated in a call initiated by Dr. David Wicks with Stephan J. Nofield, National Program Manager, National Parks Service (NPS) - Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program and Russ Clark, NPS, to explore the potential for evaluating the value of the NPS projects in the Ohio River Basin.
- Prepared letters of invitation for Representative Massey, Representative Yarmuth, Senator Manchin, and Senator McConnell to speak at Summit during the Ohio River Basin Conference. These were delivered by ORBA Members with good connections to the legislators.
- With leadership from Richard Harrison, Executive Director of ORSANCO, and Craig Butler, ORBA Vice Chairperson, Laura Wilson and Katy Rowley liaisons for the respective Co-Chairs (Rep. Bill Johnson [OH] and Rep. John Yarmuth [KY]) of the Ohio River Basin Congressional Caucus invited Basin Representatives to a briefing. The ORBA briefing on the *Plan for the Ohio River Basin* and the need for a restoration initiative was presented by Harry Stone.
- Worked with Shoshannah Stone, Volunteer Assistant to the ORBA Chairperson, to develop a job description for a successor for Shoshannah as she pursues advanced educational adventures at the University of London.
- Continued to work with Richard Harrison, Executive Director, ORSANCO on the PAS initiative with USACE. The three studies include investigation of the existing and needed access points on the emerging Ohio River Trail; study of the water resources information for the Ohio River Basin; and study to establish a plan for an Ohio Basin GIS system.
- Worked through Kimberly Longoria, Executive Officer, USACE/LRD, to provide input on behalf of ORBA into USACE planning of the Mississippi River Commission's Ohio River Basin Inspection Tour. Seven ORBA Members were invited to speak on topics that cover all six goals of the *Plan for the Ohio River Basin*.
- With the help of PJ Donovan, Chief, Planning Center of Expertise for Inland Navigation and Risk-Informed Economics Division, reached out to the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). Through this connection, a meeting has been set by Jim Sinnette, ARC Program

Manager - Transportation, for ORBA to brief key ARC Transportation leaders and to map out a plan for future collaboration between the Alliance and ARC.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry Stone, Ph.D.
ORBA Steering Committee Chairperson

ORSANCO
Balance Sheet
380 - Ohio River Basin Alliance
As of 6/30/2021

	<u>Current Year</u>
Assets	
Operating Cash	
Cash--Fifth Third Checking Acc	<u>6,845.10</u>
Total Operating Cash	<u>6,845.10</u>
Total Assets	<u>6,845.10</u>
Net Assets	
Net Assets Beginning Balance	
Fund Balance	<u>5,135.21</u>
Total Net Assets Beginning Balance	<u>5,135.21</u>
Excess of Revenues Over Expenses	<u>1,709.89</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>6,845.10</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>6,845.10</u>

ORSANCO
 Balance Sheet
 380 - Ohio River Basin Alliance
 As of 7/31/2021

	Current Year
Assets	
Operating Cash	
Cash--Fifth Third Checking Acc	<u>6,845.10</u>
Total Operating Cash	<u>6,845.10</u>
Total Assets	<u>6,845.10</u>
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
Accounts Payable	<u>206.97</u>
Total Accounts Payable	<u>206.97</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>206.97</u>
Net Assets	
Net Assets Beginning Balance	
Fund Balance	<u>6,845.10</u>
Total Net Assets Beginning Balance	6,845.10

ORSANCO
 Statement of Revenues & Expenditures
 380 - Ohio River Basin Alliance
 From 7/1/2021 Through 7/31/2021

	YTD Actual
Revenues	
Other Program Funding	<u>0.00</u>
Total Revenues	<u>0.00</u>
Expenditures	
Travel	190.82
Contractual Services	<u>16.15</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>206.97</u>
Excess of Revenues Over Expenditures	<u>(206.97)</u>