



## Steering Committee Minutes

**Time and Date of Meeting:** July 26 2021 at 1:00 PM

**Next Meeting:** August 23, 2021 at 1:00 PM

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

**Call to Order:** Approximately 1:00PM

**Steering Committee Members Present:** Harry Stone, Carey Johnson, David Wicks, Anne Quinn, Richard Harrison, Jordan Lubetkin, Sarah Hippensteel Hall, Mekayle Houghton

**Excused:** Marty Hettel, Jen Bowman, Jeff Thomas, Chuck Somerville, Caren Glotfelty,

**Absent:** Kari Mackenbach, Craig Butler, John King, Robin Peak, Chris Lorentz,

**Advisors Present:** Brandon Brummett

**Staff:** Shoshannah Stone

**Adoption or Modification of Agenda:** Agenda approved by consensus.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from June 28 were approved by consensus.

### Unfinished Business

- Economic Development and Commerce (Harry)
  - Harry sent a follow-up email to Gayle Manchin, Federal CoChair of the Appalachian Regional Commission. Harry met with PJ Donovan, Chief, Planning Center of Expertise for Inland Navigation and Risk-Informed Economics Division at the Huntington District Change of Command Ceremony. PJ offered to make a connection to his contacts in ARC: Jim Sinnette Program Manager - Transportation at Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and Guy Land, Office of the Federal Co-Chair, Congressional Liaison Specialist ARC. Those connections have been made. If there is no positive feedback, Harry will work with CORBA, PJ, Marty and others to plan a collaborative event to discuss basin wide commerce initiatives.
- Communications with legislators (Richard, Harry)
  - Richard says there is a communication gap in time causing problems getting the legislative briefing. A date between Aug 23-27 is being sought for the legislative briefing.

- No one joined the Ohio River Basin Caucus as a result of recent activity by the CoChairs and ORBA. Getting legislators to join the Caucus will come down to individual outreach. ORBA needs to be persistent .
- The sign-on letter supporting the infrastructure bill inclusive of an Ohio River Basin restoration initiative has 10 organizations so far.
- A motion was made by David, seconded, and passed unanimously (with one abstention) for ORBA to endorse the support letter to legislators
- ORBIT planning (Harry)
  - Plans are being developed by the US Army Corp of Engineers with input from ORBA. USACE plans are in version 8. ORBA is expected to have a speaking part within the agenda. In most cases, Harry will be checking with Working Group Leaders about speaking roles. Some working group goal areas - recreation and research and education - are not included in the USACE agenda. We will look for ways to include those in the other goal areas.
  - The purpose of ORBIT is to hear from stakeholders and to provide one-on-one access to the Commanders. ORBA has limited opportunity to invite stakeholders. Let Harry know if there are any who would particularly benefit the *Plan for the Ohio River Basin* by talking with these high-level USACE folks.
- Guidance: Speaking for ORBA (Chuck and Craig)
  - Not yet finalized - postponed
  - This will be sent to the Steering Committee for final review
- ORBA Support guidelines (Chuck and Craig)
  - Not yet finalized - postponed
  - This will be sent to the Steering Committee for final review

#### New Business

- Good Samaritan law - what should ORBA support?
  - ORBA Member requested ORBA's support of this law.
  - It was decided ORBA should stay out of this policy area and focus on our goals (funding especially). ORBA would be better served to stay focused and not get distracted by things that may limit our capabilities. Specifically, ORBA lacks the capacity to vet such policy issues.
  - ORBA will not take a position on the Good Samaritan Law, but ORBA will share information about the law in the next ORBA Update.
- Search for Assistant
  - Shoshannah is helping Harry draft a job description. Harry will share it with universities that have been most active with ORBA.
  - Steering Committee recommended looking for funding/grants (maybe through AmeriCorp) to provide payment to an assistant.

#### Reports

- Treasurer (Kari Mackenbach - attached report)
- Transportation WG (Marty Hettel)

- Below is an update on the Infrastructure plan, that was put together by the bi-partisan group of 21 Senators that President Biden has approved. We are hearing that this infrastructure plan will be brought to the floor of the Senate before the end of next week. The group of 21 Senators includes: Democrats Chris Coons (DE), Maggie Hassan (NH), John Hickenlooper (CO), Mark Kelly (AZ), Joe Manchin (WV), Jeanne Shaheen (NH), Kyrsten Sinema (AZ), Jon Tester (MT), Mark Warner (VA), and Angus King (ME) and Republicans Richard Burr (NC), Bill Cassidy (LA), Susan Collins (ME), Lindsay Graham (SC), Jerry Moran (KS), Lisa Murkowski (AK), Rob Portman (OH), Mitt Romney (UT), Mike Rounds (SD), Tom Tillis (NC), and Todd Young (IN). As you can see the highlighted Senators are from states within the Ohio River Basin. The plan includes \$16.3 Billion for ports and waterways, see attachment.
- Waterways Council as issued their recommendations for a minimum of \$3.0 Billion for our Inland Waterway System, see attachment. Waterways Counsel also recommends following the 2020 Capital Investment Strategy (CSI), that was put together by the IWUB and the USACE, see page two of the WCI attachment. WCI has reached out to all 21 members with the attached recommendations. If we get this \$3.0 billion, for Inland Waterways, it would cover the remaining cost to complete the Chickamauga and Kentucky Lock projects, along with fully funding Montgomery Lock and \$104,988,000 of the \$463,180,000 for the Emsworth Lock project. The remaining cost of the Emsworth project could be covered by our Inland Waterway Trust Fund (IWTF), that is \$330,000,00 annual funding. The remaining projects, on page 2 of the WCI attachment, would be funded through our IWTF. This would allow funding for Dashields Lock, which is the final project within the Ohio River Basin, that is authorized, starting in the year 2027, if we were to follow the CIS.
- Recreation WG (David Wicks)
  - See submitted report.
  - Need printed materials (posters) by August 18.
- Knowledge WG (Heather Mayfield)
  - OEEF grant proposal has been submitted; other states are looking for opportunity to expand the citizen science platform Basin-wide.
  - Discussion Series is taking the summer off to regroup. In the interim they are seeking more speakers, staff at ORSANCO, and ideas.
- Flood Risk WG (Jordan)
  - 6 committees have been chosen, no volunteers are being chosen. Will be discussing with WG leaders to make sure those members engaged doing many different things are not being burnt out.
- Ecosystem WG
- Water WG (Richard)

- Getting arms around the size of the task. On PA water plan update. The Working Group is meeting Aug 5th. Information/knowledge gap is a key problem. GIS is big piece.
- Diversity Equity and Inclusion SubC (No report)
- Elected Officials Communication <http://ohioriverbasinalliance.com/> SubC (See above)
- Organizational Communication SubC (No report)
- Governance SubC
- GIS SubC (Richard)
  - Lots of GIS in PA, but not everywhere else
  - Trying to get funding through infrastructure bill
- Chairperson (See attached)

**Adjourned** at 2:00pm

## **Chairperson's Report**

### **22 July 2021**

- With prior consensus approval from the ORBA Steering Committee, submitted a letter of support to Ohio University for their OEEF proposal to promote use of the My Backyard Stream Program throughout Ohio on the Ohio River Tributaries.
- Attended the Change of Command Ceremony for the Huntington District. Both Commander Peeples, USACE/LRD and Commander Evers, USACE/LRH mentioned ORBA from the podium. COL Evers introduced me, and ORBA, to COL Jayson Putnam, the incoming Commander at Huntington. I also had the opportunity to introduce myself and ORBA to COL Peeples, new Commander of the Division. Mr. Joe Savage, SES and Regional Business Director of the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division assisted with the introduction.
- Drafted, circulated for comment, revised, and distributed by Mailchimp an organizational sign-on letter of support from ORBA organizations for the infrastructure bill and specifically an Ohio River Basin restoration initiative.
- Called the offices of Senators Capito, Manchin, Portman, and Brown encouraging support for inclusion of the Ohio River Basin restoration initiative funding in the infrastructure bill.
- Drafted letters to invite legislators to speak at the Ohio River Basin Conference (Symposium/ Summit)
- Continue to provide input to the Ohio River Inspection Tour being planned by the USACE.
- Worked toward holding a face-to-face meeting with Working Group Leaders to coordinate and plan for the Ohio River Basin restoration plan that will underpin the justification for a restoration initiative.
- Drafted outline and prepared some slides for the legislative briefing.
- Participated in many virtual meetings.

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>