



OHIO RIVER BASIN  
ALLIANCE

# **Knowledge and Education to Inform Decisions**

Approved by the

Ohio River Basin Alliance Steering Committee

on

27 July 2020

and

Amended 5 October 2020 as required:

- (1) To match the language of the final Plan for the Ohio River Basin; and
- (2) To include Working Group Members by reference to the *List of Working Group Members Appointed by the Steering Committee* in the Steering Committee records.

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## **1. Purpose**

This Working Group is created by the ORBA Steering Committee (ORBA Bylaws VIII(a)) for the purpose of executing ORBA's role with respect to the Knowledge and Education to Inform Decisions (hereinafter referenced as "Knowledge") goal of the Ohio River Basin Strategy. This documents the Steering Committee's charge to the Working Group as required by the ORBA Bylaws VIII(d).

## **2. Working Group Leader**

In accordance with ORBA Bylaws VIII(a)(2), the Steering Committee appoints Heather Mayfield to serve for a period of two years, corresponding to the period of performance of this charter, as the Leader of the Knowledge Working Group. The Working Group Leader is an ex officio voting Member of the ORBA Steering Committee during their tenure (ORBA Bylaws VIII(a)(2)).

## **3. Working Group Members**

Working Group Members are ORBA Members meeting the qualifications of ORBA Bylaws VIII(a)(1) who are selected to serve a two year term (ORBA Bylaws VIII(a)) corresponding to the period of performance of this charter.

The Knowledge Working Group Members are included by reference to the *List of Working Group Members Appointed by the Steering Committee* in the Steering Committee records.

## **4. Requirements for All Working Groups**

Working Groups shall (Bylaws VIII(b - d)):

- Meet or conduct conference calls at the request of their Leader to study, advise, and report on the specific charges from the Steering Committee;
- Keep and submit within 30 days to the Steering Committee written minutes of meetings and conference calls;
- Report to the Steering Committee during monthly calls; and
- Execute the charge from the Steering Committee.

Note Bylaws VIII(c): All written reports shall be submitted to the Steering Committee and no report shall be published or released for public information without approval from the Steering Committee.

## **5. Charge from Steering Committee to Knowledge Working Group:**

The Knowledge Working Group is charged with developing and executing a detailed action plan to accomplish the following strategic actions in the Ohio River Basin Strategy. Action plans must include ownership (what organization and person) responsible to carry out the action; key organizations collaborating on execution; action steps specifying responsible person; funding source; start and end dates; and milestones.

- Serve as ORBA's liaison to leadership of each strategic action for this goal, keeping the Steering Committee apprised of progress and opportunities for ORBA to be supportive of strategic actions.

Objective 1: Regularly facilitate collaboration among stakeholders to identify and prioritize Ohio River Basin challenges that need to be addressed through research and/or education.

Strategic Actions:

- Hold an annual symposium for Basin stakeholders to present Ohio River Basin challenges that need to be addressed through research and/or education.
- Encourage communities to host an Ohio River discussion series where river scientists and enthusiasts can share their knowledge and passion for the river with the general public.

Objective 2: By 2021, establish coalitions to address Basin-wide research needs and map out an Ohio River research investment strategy that can be funded and implemented.

Strategic Actions:

- Facilitate collaboration and pursue funding to establish a comprehensive Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) program at Basin scale with broad participation of both research institutions and comprehensive colleges and universities.
- Facilitate regional forums and collaboratives working to develop effective invasive species prevention and control in support of the Asian Carp National Plan and other invasive species initiatives of the Ecological Restoration Goal.
- Create a research agenda that can be distributed to university research centers that examines the intersection of ecosystem health with community health that can help identify challenges to vulnerable communities and solutions that can be adopted.
- Develop and implement educational trainings geared toward increasing awareness of strategic Goals 1 – 5 (See Appendix 1). Examples of projects include Silver Jackets Education Initiatives.

Objective 3: By 2025, create a Basin-wide communication/marketing plan that will unify the Basin, educate the public on the value of natural resources and increase pride in the Ohio River Basin.

Strategic Actions:

- Encourage research, disseminate information, and collaborate with regional leaders to quantify the economic value of the Ohio River Basin water resources, the return on investments in environmental restoration and water-related infrastructure, the ecosystem benefits and services generated by the waters of the ORB and the quantitative value of ORB nature based recreation; advocate for funding to support the development of science-based tools and practical applications that quantify the value of the ORB.
- Identify similar program elements within the work of student education organizations in the Ohio River Basin. Pursue opportunities for groups to collaborate on education/ curriculum development in order to capitalize on existing educational resources, and identify Ohio River/water resource issues that could be better addressed through education and communication programs.
- Promote water wealth for development by showing value of water to businesses, recreation, and culture in the Basin through a detailed water budget and a study or Supplemental Environmental Project to document economic impacts of river usage including recreation projects.
- Pursue collaboration and funding to develop a branding, outreach, and marketing campaign for the Ohio River Basin to increase pride of place and to increase tourism, so that the Ohio River Basin is as well-known as Florida Everglades.
- Identify and promote existing citizen science activities and volunteer opportunities in the Ohio River Basin, such as bird counts, water quality monitoring, and clean-up days.
- Identify and develop collaborative approaches to deliver Ohio River Basin education opportunities to underserved geographical areas within the Basin.
- Create outdoor education spaces in conjunction with restoration projects along the Ohio River and its tributaries, including interpretive signage where appropriate.
- Pursue funding to support interdisciplinary approaches to increase citizen engagement in the Ohio River. (See Appendix 1). Examples of projects include Silver Jackets Education Initiatives, Watershed Assessment Studies, River Feasibility Studies and Planning Assistance to States Studies.

## **6. Deliverables and Milestones**

- Working Group teleconferences or face-to-face meetings
- Timely submission of minutes to the Steering Committee
- Report on progress at the Steering Committee teleconference - monthly
- Action plan, with tasks required to complete each strategic action, including responsible person, team members, deadlines and milestones, resources needed, and success metrics - January 1, 2021

- Milestones from the action plan are incorporated by reference into these “Deliverables and Milestones.”
- Timely advice to the Steering Committee of speakers, panels and breakout groups recommended for the summits, and symposia.
- Annual written report on progress for each strategic action including milestones, success metrics, and challenges July 31, 2021 and July 31, 2022.

## **7. Duration**

This Working Group is scheduled to last 24 months, from August 1, 2020 through July 31, 2022.

## **8. Participation**

Participation in Working Groups is open to ORBA Members (ORBA Bylaws VIII(a)). To join a Working Group, an ORBA Member should submit an e-mail expressing interest to the ORBA Steering Committee Chairperson. The Chairperson will submit to the Steering Committee for consensus approval and, upon approval, will notify the ORBA Member and the Working Group Leader of their addition to the Working Group. Working Group Members are expected to participate in the teleconferences, meetings, and activities of the Working Group. The Working Group Leader may recommend to the Steering Committee the removal of inactive Members from the Working Group.