

ORBA Steering Committee MINUTES for 27 January 2020

1. **Call to Order** – approximately 1:04 PM EST

2. **Roll Call**

Steering Committee Members Present – Sarah Hippensteel-Hall, Carey Johnson, Chris Lorentz, Heather Mayfield, Robin Peak, Chuck Somerville, Jeff Thomas

Steering Committee Members Absent – Laurel Cornell, Brian Farkas, Richard Harrison, Marty Hettel, John King, Kari Machenbach, Mike Steinmaus, Harry Stone

ORBA Advisors Present –

3. **Adoption of the Agenda** – adopted without changes by consensus

4. **Discussion/Approval of the Minutes of 23 December 2019** – accepted as distributed by consensus

5. **Report from the Chairperson** (Chuck Somerville)

a. PAS Budget Expenditures and ORBA Commitment to HS WIK – invoices from USACE to KY via ORSANCO have not changed since the last ORBA SC call (23 Dec 2019), and are reflected in the minutes of that call. CS reported that ORSANCO was confident that it could provide the WIK hours needed to meet the match requirement for the PASd grant. Harry Stone has also been tracking his WIK hours. ORBA has not made a payment to Harry to make those hours reportable under the terms of the PAS, and may not need to in order to satisfy the requirements of the grant. However, the Steering Committee was asked to consider a payment to Harry as recognition of the many hours of work that he has done on behalf of ORBA. Richard Harrison had previously mentioned that a payment of \$5,000 to Harry would be within the organization's current budget (balance of approximately \$12,000 at the time of the call), and should be considered. CS did not make a formal motion regarding a payment to Harry, but did ask the SC members on the call to consider this suggestion, and be prepared to vote on it at a future meeting.

b. Request for information for Chair's Update – no Chair's Update was prepared for January, but was expected to go out soon, and items to be included in the update were solicited.

6. **Regular Reports from Other Committee Members**

a. Financial Update (Chuck) – ORBAS balance stands at approximately \$12,000. CS asked that SC members consider payment to HS, but no other changes to the budget were reported at the time of the call.

- b. Update on Website/Social Media (John King/Heather Mayfield) – HM and JK reviewed comments on the five mock-up website pages prepared for the new site. The new website will be hosted by ORSANCO. HM asked for further comments on the work that has been done to date. New website will not go live until PAS work has been completed. SC members can review pages that were sent out with meeting materials in December 2019. Pages are live, but are not accessible until the pages are completed. Also, menus will not be accurate until the site is fully updated.
- c. Update from the AWI Liaison (Marty Hettel) – no report
- d. Update from the ORBCRE Liaison (Chris Lorentz) – CL has been in contact with Tamara Sluss, and will meet with her on Feb 7th to discuss the upcoming ORBCRE conference. This meeting will be regarding the upcoming ORBCRE symposium, but probably will not address the larger question of ORBCRE’s role in the strategic plan for the basin. CL asked how ORBA planned to engage with the upcoming ORBCRE symposium. CS noted that the ORBA SC had previously agreed to hold annual meetings in even-numbered years in Cincinnati, and that that would make it difficult to co-sponsor the October meeting in Louisville. However, discussions with General Whittle indicated that USACE was planning for an Ohio River Basin Inspection Tour (ORBIT) in late summer, and that USACE encouraged ORBA engagement with ORBCRE followed by an ORBA summit later in the year.

7. Reports from Working Group Leaders

- a. Sustainable Growth & Competitiveness (Harry Stone) – no report
- b. Water Quality, Availability, and Management (Richard Harrison) – Heather Mayfield reported that on 21 January 2020, Richard and Harry briefed ORSANCO staff on the PAS grant and process. They sought input from ORSANCO staff into the objectives and strategic actions under Abundant Clean Water.
- c. Restoration and Protection (Sarah Hippensteel-Hall/Chris Lorentz) – nothing new to report.
- d. Enterprise and Infrastructure (Kari Mackenbach) – no report
- e. Research & Education (Heather Mayfield/Chris Lorentz) – HM reported that she had submitted some comments under the Research & Education section of the strategic plan. CL reported that he planned to attend the R&E focus group to be held in Cincinnati on January 29th. CS reminded SC members that the R&E focus group in Pittsburgh was currently going on, that there would be a second R&E workshop in Cincinnati on January 29th, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM in the Peck Federal Building (550 Main St.), and that the third R&E workshop would be held in Nashville on January 31st, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM CST in the Estez Kefauver Federal Building (110 Ninth Ave South). CS encouraged attendance, and asked SC members to share the information

with other stakeholders. HM indicated that Laura Mattingly did create an agenda for the meetings, and it was distributed with the SC meeting documents.

8. Unfinished Business

- a. PAS Agreement – Next Steps (H. Stone/Laura Mattingly) – CS reported that the strategic plan, with the exception of the R&E section, seemed to be approaching a final form, and has been distributed to some groups, from whom we hope to seek endorsement of the plan, for comment. PAS looks to be on track for the March 2020 completion date. CL asked about the genesis of the focus groups specific to R&E. CS reported that coming out of the meetings at OU, HS and LM had felt that there was still work to do to arrive at workable strategic actions in that area. SH asked if there was a schedule of remaining work to do with the PAS in case there were things that individual SC members or working groups could do to help complete the plan. CS added that it would be helpful to review the schedule for completion of the strategic plan annotated with the expected budget expenditures.
- b. ORBA Strategic Planning for 2020-2023 – CS reminded SC members of earlier discussions on strategic planning for the organization. CS and HS have taken the position that work on the future of the organization should not wait until the PAS strategic plan is completed
- c. ORBA Reception/Visits on Capitol Hill – no updates for this call.
- d. How should ORBA engage with ORBCRE 2020 meeting? This was discussed briefly earlier in the call. At the time of the call, the proposal is to engage in ORBIT with USACE, participate in ORBCRE, and hold a separate ORBA summit later in the year.
- e. Seeking Partnerships with Mitigation Banks – no update for this call

9. New Business

- a. Next SC Call – 24 February 2020
- b. Other – Jeff Thomas provided an update from EPRI. EPRI has applied for an EPA grant to work on avoidance of HABs. EPRI is proposing to focus nutrient trading efforts on part of the Miami River. JT also provided an update on activities of the Fish Habitat Partnership, which has prioritized projects for funding in 2020. CS asked JT to provide brief write-ups of both topics for the Chair's Update.

10. Adjourn – approximately 1:42 PM EST