

MINUTES

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

2. **Roll Call**

Steering Committee Members Present – Richard Harrison, John King, Chris Lorentz, Kari Mackenbach, Chuck Somerville, Mike Steinmaus, Harry Stone

Steering Committee Members Absent – Laurel Cornell, Brian Farkas, Marty Hettel, Sarah Hippensteel-Hall, Carey Johnson, Heather Mayfield, Robin Peak, Jeff Thomas

ORBA Advisors Present - none

3. **Adoption of the Agenda**

a. CS requested to move items 9a and 8d to follow approval of minutes of previous call. No objections were made to the changes. Agenda order was altered as requested.

4. **Discussion/Approval of the Minutes of 27 January 2020** – no request for editorial changes to the minutes was made. Minutes of the 27 January meeting were adopted as distributed.

5. **Report from the Chairperson** (Chuck Somerville) – no report in favor of other discussions

6. **Regular Reports from Other Committee Members** – [no reports were made due to the alteration of the agenda]

- a. Financial Update (Chuck)
- b. Update on Website/Social Media (John King/Heather Mayfield)
- c. Update from the AWI Liaison (Marty Hettel)
- d. Update from the ORBCRE Liaison (Chris Lorentz)

7. **Reports from Working Group Leaders** – [no reports were made due to the alteration of the agenda]

- a. Sustainable Growth & Competitiveness (Harry Stone)
- b. Water Quality, Availability, and Management (Richard Harrison)
- c. Restoration and Protection (Sarah Hippensteel-Hall/Chris Lorentz)
- d. Enterprise and Infrastructure (Kari Mackenbach)
- e. Research & Education (Heather Mayfield/Chris Lorentz)

8. **Unfinished Business**

- a. PAS Agreement – Next Steps (H. Stone/Laura Mattingly) – [not addressed due to the alteration of the agenda]
- b. ORBA Strategic Planning for 2020-2023 – [not addressed due to the alteration of the agenda]
- c. ORBA Reception/Visits on Capitol Hill – [not addressed due to the alteration of the agenda]
- d. How should ORBA engage with ORBCRE 2020 meeting? – ***Due to the altered agenda, this was the second topic discussed on the 24 February call.*** Chuck Somerville (CS) directed Steering Committee members to the document headed “VERY VERY PRELIMINARY DRAFT CONCEPT” regarding ORBA engagement at the 2020 ORBCRE Symposium.

CS reviewed from the last call the ORBA would work with USACE on ORBIT in late August 2020, would encourage attendance at the ORBCRE meetings in October, and then hold a summit meeting sometime later in the fall/winter of 2020.

More recent discussions still include ORBIT in late August, but moving toward a co-located meeting with ORBCRE in which ORBA has 1 to 2 days of meeting in Louisville directly prior to the ORBCRE symposium.

RH was in favor of moving the dinner cruise to Wednesday evening, so that both groups could attend. RH also mentioned that income to the organization of at least \$3,000 was an important goal for our summit.

CS asked if there were any objections or concerns among the SC members in attendance. HS recalled the earlier decision of the SC to hold meetings in even-numbered years in Cincinnati, and this idea would violate that decision. But HS also noted that the SC was free to change that decision, and that he was personally in favor of the co-located meetings with ORBCRE in Louisville.

No objections were raised to the co-located meetings.

- e. Seeking Partnerships with Mitigation Banks – [no discussion on this call]

9. New Business

- a. ORBA Steering Committee Terms – ***Due to the altered agenda, this was the first item discussed.*** CS noted that a Word file headed “ORBA Steering Committee Terms” had been distributed in advance of the meeting. All of the regular Steering Committee members’ terms are due to expire this year, and member elections can be held at the ORBA Summit in the fall of this year.

We do have an open seat created by the resignation of Ron Brooks, and nominations are needed for that seat.

Harry Stone (HS) has audited the Working Group charters, and noted that four of the five working group charters have expired. Leaders for the Working Groups with expired charters are no longer Steering Committee members at this time.

CS noted that Chris Lorentz (CL) is a co-leader for the Research & Education Working Group, and the charter for that group does not expire until 25 August 2021, so CL remains an active member of the Steering Committee. Heather Mayfield is in the same situation.

Kari Mackenbach (KM) is Chair of the Enterprize & Infrastructure Working Group, and the charter for that group expired on 31 December 2019. The same is true for Sarah Hippensteel-Hall (SH), co-chair of the Restoration & Protection Working Group.

The charter for Water Quality & Availability also expired on 31 December 2019. However, Richard Harrison, as Executive Director of ORSANCO remains as an *ex-officio* member of the Steering Committee.

The charter for the Sustainable Growth & Competitiveness Working Group expired on 31 December 2019. However, HS, as the elected Vice-Chair of the Steering Committee remains as a member of the Steering Committee through the election of new members in the fall of 2020.

CS opened the meeting for discussions. HS reviewed the ORBA by-laws, which establish the working groups, and make the Working Group leaders members of the Steering Committee. All other members of the Steering Committee are elected at the last meeting of the committee in even-numbered years, except for the Executive Director of ORSANCO. Working Group charters expire at two years after approval.

RH suggested that Working Group charters should be revised with implementation of the ORB Strategic Plan (outcome of the PAS project) in mind. HS noted that the expiration of several charters created an opportunity to revisit the Working Group charters so that they reflect the goals of the ORB Strategic Plan. There will be a draft of the Strategic Plan ready for circulation near the end of the current week (i.e. by 28 February 2020), and we could pull ORBA actions from the plan by goal area. HS also thought that Working Group leaders (or their organizations) should have a strategic interest in the actions stated in the Strategic Plan.

CS noted that the Steering Committee is not required to reconstitute the same Working Groups. CS also supported alignment of new Working Groups with the Strategic Plan.

CS made the following motion – “Rather than renew the existing charters, we suggest taking a month to develop new charters to reflect the Ohio River goals and strategies, and to set expectations of real work to be done per the charters. Working Group leaders should be chosen who reflect ownership of the goal area, and they could help revise the charters.” Discussion was opened on the motion.

Chris Lorentz (CL) spoke in support of the motion, and the alignment of Working Groups with the outcome of the PAS process. RH agreed.

CS noted that the motion required work to be done prior to the next SC conference call. That discussion could occur during the time of the regular, weekly call between CS and HS. CS asked SC members to join the regular call.

Kari Mackenbach (KM) noted that she has been a working group leader since 2008, and that the amount of work done by the groups has declined over the years, due in part to turnover in membership of the group. The lack of work done in the working group has been frustrating. Re-alignment of the groups, with possible merger of some, would be helpful.

Mike Steinmaus (MS) noted that one month might not be sufficient time to accomplish the changes needed in the charters. HS said that the draft strategy would be finished by Friday (28 February), and that it will include action items. Our task will be to determine the ORBA role in each of the action items, so it will be easier to come up with what the working groups should be doing. In many cases, other organizations will have responsibility for action items called for in the Strategic Plan. HS thought that initial drafts could be done in one month, but that vetting might require an additional month.

RH asked why the names of the Working Groups do not match the names of the major goal areas in the Strategic Plan. HS noted that the Working Group names pre-dated the Strategic Plan, and the decision on goals to be included in the plan. RH reiterated that the Working Group names should match the goals in the Plan.

After further discussion, HS offered as a friendly amendment that expiring charters for E&I and R&P could be extended to keep existing Working Group leaders on the Steering Committee until a new set of charters are adopted. RH agreed.

KM indicated that she is willing to continue engagement with ORBA, but that she would need to have clear indications of what work should be done. After the initial

phase of data gathering, the expected function of the Working Groups was not clear. KM is willing to step away as a group leader, but to remain engaged with the work to be done.

CS summarized the discussion to this point and clarified that the “motion” made initially was not a true motion, since the SC functions by consensus. The sense of the pseudo-motion is to restructure the ORBA Working Groups so that they align with the Strategic Plan, which will then provide clear actions to be undertaken by the new groups. In the meantime, the two existing Working Group charters that impact membership on the SC are extended so that there is no lapse in membership for KM and SH.

CS checked for consensus on the pseudo-motion. No objections were made.

CS informed SC members regarding the timing of the weekly working call between HS and CS (2:00 PM Eastern Time on Mondays), and invited others to join the call on 2 March 2020. CS agreed to set up a Skype call-in meeting, and to distribute the number to the entire SC.

RH asked that HS and CS write up a common charge for the working groups.

CL noted the need for a face-to-face meeting of the Steering Committee/Working Group leaders to work on new groups and new charters. RH agreed for the need for a face-to-face meeting, even if not all are able to attend.

- b. Steering Committee Talking Points and Guidance
- c. Next SC Call – to be held on 23 March 2020
- d. Compensations for Harry Stone from ORBA funds [*added to the agenda during the call*] – ***this was the third topic discussed due to the alteration of the agenda.*** HS left the call prior to this discussion.

RH briefly discussed matching funds required under the PAS agreement, and that there should not be a problem meeting the match requirement without bringing in state personnel time from ORSANCO member states.

RH estimated that HS has provided \$30-40,000 in potential WIK on the PAS project to date. The ORBA balance is approximately \$11,000. ORSANCO could write a check to Harry from ORBA funds, and those funds would then become acceptable as actual WIK. RH proposed a \$5,000 payment to HS from ORBA funds.

CS provided a brief budget update. We anticipate an \$844 payout from the ORBCRE-ORBA meetings, minus 15% overhead to ORSANCO leaving \$717, minus HS travel expenditures in January of \$874.79, leaving a balance of approximately \$11,800.

The supporting arguments were that HS has spent a great deal of time on the PAS project, and that even though this would not be anything like fair compensation, it would at least be a recognition of Harry's efforts, and it would make some of his time acceptable as WIK toward the match requirements.

CS asked for objections or other comments. John King spoke in favor of the payment to HS. Mike Steinmaus and Chris Lorentz also spoke in favor.

Having heard no objections, CS stated that he would start the process of making the payment to HS.

- 10. Adjourn** – prior to adjournment, RH brought up the topic of ORBIT and asked whether or not there had been discussion of the plan with the Steering Committee.

The ORBIT concept includes the use of a USACE vessel traveling down the Ohio River and making stops in approximately five cities to talk about the Strategic Plan and do press briefings. RH wanted to be sure that the Steering Committee was informed and ready to engage in the planning.

Adjournment was at 2:05 PM EDT