

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

2. **Roll Call**

Steering Committee Members Present – Richard Harrison, Sarah Hippensteel-Hall, Carey Johnson, John King, Jordan Lubetkin, Kari Mackenbach, Heather Mayfield, Robin Peak, Chuck Somerville, Harry Stone, Jeff Thomas, David Wicks

Steering Committee Members Absent – Laurel Cornell, Brian Farkas, Marty Hettel, Chris Lorentz, Mike Steinmaus

ORBA Advisors Present – Craig Butler, Peter Cinotto, Charles Goad, Mekayle Houghton, Jim Lazorchak, Laura Mattingly

3. **Adoption of the Agenda** – Chuck Somerville (CS) requested the following alterations to the standard agenda:

- a. Proceed through item 4, review and approval of 27 July minutes. Also distributed corrected 22 June minutes
- b. Skip item 5 and reports under item 6.
- c. Go to discussion on item 9.a. – increasing number of SC seats
- d. Continue to item 9.b. – status of ORBA Steering Committee elections
- e. Go to reports under item 7 – focusing primarily on nominations and summit plans, and taking up approval of nominees at that time (instead of under 8.f.).
- f. Go to items 8.a., 8.b.i., 8.d.
- g. Discuss September meeting (item 9.b.)

4. **Review and approval of minutes of the 27 July 2020 Meeting**

5. **Report from the Chairperson** (Chuck Somerville) – skipped due to revised agenda

6. **Regular Reports from Other Committee Members** – reports skipped due to revised agenda

- a. Financial Update (Kari Mackenbach)
- 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** (Groups in Alphabetical Order) [Third item of business at this meeting]

- a. Abundant Clean Water (Richard Harrison) – RH has been working to engage people from the TN River Basin. Still working on getting ready for the summit, including getting video comments from members of the ORB congressional caucus.
- b. Healthy & Productive Ecosystems (Jordan Lubetkin) – JL has been working with National Wildlife Federation staff scientist Michael Murray and a graduate research to compile ORB ecological reports in order to have a science-based structure for an Ohio River Restoration Initiative (ORRI). JL is planning for a 2-hour session during the ORBCRE meeting (Friday morning, 2 Oct) to engage people to work toward the goals of H&PE work group. This group will have a relatively small number of nominees for SC approval, but will engage a larger number of people to engage in the work. Two goals of the group are to establish a restoration plan, and then to seek federal funding to implement the plan. The immediate goal is to give the strategic plan more visibility to a broader audience, including targeting NGOs through webinars. Asked WG leaders to join in webinars for broadening participation.
- c. Nation's Most Valuable Transportation & Commerce Corridor (Marty Hettel) – MH was not available for the meeting – no report.
- d. Knowledge & Education to Inform Decisions (Heather Mayfield) – HM has reached out to all of the potential KI WG members. She has created a matrix for WG members for feedback on each of the goals and actions. She has also started working with David Wicks on overlapping interests and activities for the two working groups. ORBA summit session will be mostly about prioritizing goals and actions. CS noted that there would also be synergy with the H&PE WG and their interest in what research has been done in the basin. HM indicated that she would contact JL for discussions.
- e. Reliable Flood Control & Risk Reduction (Sarah Hippensteel-Hall) – SH is preparing to send out a letter of information to people who will be asked to be members of the RFC&RR group. She has collected the names of several people who will be asked to participate and will follow up.
- f. World-Class Nature-Based Recreation (David Wicks) – CS circulated a document including 17 names of people who DW has nominated for the Recreation work group. The SC has already approved seven of those, and number 17 is DW, who has also been confirmed by the SC. DW mentioned his communication with HM, and that though there are similarities in the goals of the two groups, there are also important differences. "Education is recreation with a purpose." DW noted that HS had made several suggestions on group members and had encouraged participation from a broad geographic area within the basin. DW has asked all nominated members to get approval of their employers or families, and noted that several nominees had asked for an official letter from ORBA indicating that they have been confirmed as NBR WG members. DW directed SC members to the list to review the nominees. This WG will meet the 4th Tuesday of every month at 4:00 PM ET via Zoom. The first meeting of the group will be 25 August 2020. DW announced that there will be a webinar on 10 September to interest people in the summit. DW

made brief remarks about each nominee, and CS noted whether or not the person had been approved at the previous meeting. SHH noted that the Miami Conservation District had been approached for involvement with this work group, but that they did not have sufficient personnel to designate another person for ORBA initiatives, but that they would engage and help as time allowed. DW asked if ORBA could provide cloud access for data/minutes/etc. to be stored and shared. CS asked for approval of the slate of nominees: Russel Clark, Brad Collett, Victor Elam, Lizzie Hessek, Trish Howison, Jack Sutton, Bridget Taylor, Perry Thomas, Seth Wheat. Hearing no questions/discussion/objections, the slate of nominees was adopted as distributed. HS has prepared certificates for WG members that will be signed by CS. HS recommended that we prepare similar certificates for all ORBA advisors.

8. Unfinished Business

- a. ORB Strategic Plan (H. Stone/Laura Mattingly) – [Fourth item of business at this meeting] LM had to leave before we reached this part of the agenda, but she emailed HS with some comments. LM thanked the ORBA Steering Committee for their patience with the PAS process and completion of the final revisions of the plan. The plan will go through USACE final review, and will be released to ORBA for final blessing in the next few weeks. RH and HS do have a copy of the near final document, and the only remaining issues appear to be minor edits. CS noted that the actual release date will coincide or very nearly coincide with the summit and ORBCRE meeting, and that this provides a very big communication opportunity. CS asked JL for comment. JL agreed that the timing is fortuitous, and recommended that we make a single communication statement from ORBA, but that we should reach out to the basin governors before the release so that they are not finding out about the plan from a press release. DW asked who would be doing the press announcement: USACE, ORSANCO, ORBA? HS thought that that was a question for further discussion, and that ORSANCO would need to have input from commissioners prior to endorsing the plan, but that ORBA could endorse the plan quickly. There might be multiple “releases” of the plan as different constituents take official action on it. HS’s opinion was that ORBA would be the ultimate owner of the plan. JL cautioned that we had one real bite at the apple regarding release; that the initial release would be the most important. JL recommended that we have a meeting of WG leaders soon to get on the same page regarding the release. CS said that he would create a Doodle poll to find a good time for that meeting.
- b. ORBA Strategic Planning for 2020-2023 [Fifth item of business at this meeting]
 - i. ORBA Critical Success Factors – HS presented an example of a timeline for developing a success factor into a timeline. HS said that we needed to spend more time to fully complete the development of the CSF for ORBA
- c. ORBA Reception/Visits on Capitol Hill – not discussed
- d. ORBA/ORBCRE Meeting, Fall 2020 [Sixth item discussed at this meeting] – HS informed the group that the agenda for the meetings has been in flux since it was decided to go fully virtual. All of the ORBA summit business will be on one day (30

September). It will start with recorded greetings from the ORB congressional delegation, followed by a 50-minute segment for each of the six working groups. We have discussed the possibility of splitting up the meeting between Wednesday and Friday in order to reduce the amount of time in virtual meetings on a single day. HS asked for comment on the idea of splitting the ORBA presentations. Jim Lazorchak liked the idea of splitting up the Wednesday meeting. DW asked if Friday morning was possible, and a review of the schedule indicated that ORBA sessions on Friday morning would conflict with either one of the keynote presentations or with the H&PE session for NGO engagement. Jordan said that avoiding burnout on Wednesday might just lead to burnout on Friday, which would mean that some of the working group sessions would not be well-attended. JL suggested that we streamline the presentations on Wednesday, rather than carrying over longer sessions to Friday afternoon. DW agreed with JL, and suggested that some of the groups could be placed in a single session. HM had concerns about combining the groups because they were in different stages of being established. JL agreed with HM, and asked if the 50-minute sessions could be shortened. JL also volunteered to have his working group meeting on Friday if some of them would be moved. Kari Mackenbach (KM) reported that she had attended virtual meetings, and that those with long sessions were not well-received. Her preference was for short and informative/impactful sessions. HS asked if 20-minute working group sessions would be possible? HM thought that some groups would need a working meeting rather than a presentation, and that more time would be more useful. DW indicated that people wanted to find out what was going on, and how the groups would interact. KM said that people might tune out of long meetings coming after the keynote talks. She also expressed interest in having someone speak about funding because no one has funding at this time, and it would be a popular topic. CS noted that the time was now 2:15 PM, and that this discussion might need to continue in another call. CS proposed to look for a time to get working group leaders together for another call. CS agreed to look for meeting times for two additional calls – one to work on a communication plan, and the second to work on the structure of the schedule for the ORBA summit day. John King announced that the West Virginia Watershed Network was also scheduling a virtual conference for watershed groups, and that they would be promoting the ORBA summit. He asked if fees could be waived for watershed groups and volunteers. CS indicated that the topic had come up, but did not provide a clear answer about whether or not fees could be waived.

- e. Seeking Partnerships with Mitigation Banks – not discussed
- f. ORBA working groups – approval of draft charters and nominated group members

9. New Business

- a. Increasing Number of Steering Committee Seats to 20 – [First item of business discussed at this meeting] CS reminded the committee that we had discussed at the previous meeting a proposal to increase the number of SC seats to 20, and asked for

discussion. Richard Harrison asked how many people would be added to the Steering Committee from the Pittsburgh area, and from the TN River Basin. CS said that a specific number had not been determined, but that two people from the Pittsburgh area had been approached, and both had been too busy to accept a nomination. So, by the time that the nominations and ballots were made public, there were no new nominations from Pittsburgh. CS noted that there were two people from TN on this call, one already a member of the SC, and one who was present as an advisor, but who is on the ballot for election to the SC (Mekayle Houghton). No further discussion was heard. CS called for objections to the change, and Harry Stone (HS) noted that the change actually required a vote. CS determined that there was a quorum of the SC, and asked for a vote. The vote was unanimous in favor of raising the number of SC members to 20.

- b. ORBA SC election – [Second item of business discussed at this meeting] Slate of nominees was sent out on the 14th of August. Twenty-five votes had been received as of the time of the meeting. CS reminded the SC that the bylaws require votes from at least 30% of ORBA members in order to be validated. Because membership is approximately 200, the required number of votes is 60. If a 30% vote is not received after two weeks, the bylaws require publication of a second invitation to vote. That second voting period is then open for an additional 30 days, in this case, through 27 September 2020. If we do have a 30% vote by the 27 September, then the vote is validated. If we do not have a 30% vote by the 27th, then the Steering Committee can vote to validate the election with the votes that have been cast. HS noted that the new officers will take their seats on 30 September 2020, so we will need to have a rapid response from Steering Committee members if it is determined that we do not have a 30% vote as of 27 September.
- c. Next SC Meeting – CS asked if the normal meeting time, which would be before the summit would be needed, or should we just do our business at the summit. The sense of the group was that the Teams meeting would be needed in order to prepare for the summit. The agenda for this meeting was incorrect in indicating that the next meeting would be on 22 September. The actual regular meeting date will be 28 September 2020.
- d. Other – DW announced reminded the SC that there would be a webinar on September 10th involving Chris Lorentz, DW, and Tamara Sluss from U of L. CS agreed to send out an announcement to the group today.

10. Adjourn – the meeting adjourned at 2:21 PM EDT