



Steering Committee Minutes

Time and Date of Meeting: March 22, 2021 1:00 PM

Next Meeting: April 26, 2021 at 1:00 PM

Attachments: Abundant Clean Water Working Group Members; Transportation and Commerce Working Group Report; Knowledge and Education to Inform Decisions Working Group Report; Chairperson's Report

Call to Order: Approximately 1:00 PM

Steering Committee Members Present: Harry Stone, Chuck Somerville, Richard Harrison, Caren Glotfelty, Carey Johnson, John King, Annie Quinn, Jeff Thomas, Craig Butler, Jordan Lubetkin, David Wicks, Mekayle Houghton, Robin Peak, Kari Mackenbach, Heather Mayfield, Chris Lorentz

Excused: David Wicks, Marty Hettel, Sarah Hippensteel Hall,

Absent:

Advisors Present: Brandon Brummett, Sally Gutierrez, Charles Goad, Hank Jarboe, Latonya Jackson

Staff: Shoshannah Stone

Adoption or Modification of Agenda: Agenda approved by consensus.

Approval Minutes: Minutes of February 22 were approved by consensus.

Unfinished Business

- Richard Harrison
 - CORBA Communications
 - Engaging with other Port Authority leads along the river
 - Future planning for economic analysis
 - Commerce and transportation
 - Next step is to set up a call with Marty, Harry, etc.
- Chuck Somerville
 - Chamber of Commerce (Bill Bisit, President of COC Huntington)
 - Bill will ask specifically for any members of his chamber that want to partner with Basin
- Distribution of draft communications to the Ohio River Basin Caucus Co-chairs

- Completed
- Craig Butler
 - Potential media release for ASCE on Civil Engineer's Infrastructure Needs
 - No action done on that yet
- Briefing for legislators (Richard and Craig)
 - In the court of the co-chairs now. We have sent them the drafts and letters
 - Invite members of basin to hear plan (late April or May)
 - Significant interest in helping us do this... on the right track
 - Working Group leaders should begin drafting what they want to cover in these communications with these legislators. Each Working Group will get 5 to 10 minutes.
 - Listing as priority for US chamber of commerce

New Business

- Kari Mackenbach talking about Funding Opportunity called "BRIC"
 - BRIC: Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities
 - Lots of applications focus on funding, specifically pre-disaster mitigation funding (flooding is number 1 hazard)
 - \$10 billion in funding
 - In your community, co-governments required to adopt a plan. Community must have a plan for \$ for natural hazards. Your proposal must match the community plan. WWTP in hundred year flood plain is a potential project.
 - Submitted 6 applications last year
 - We can do a phased project and can retroactively get money back.
- Sally Gutierrez Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Subcommittee
 - How is diversity better represented and how do we better reflect these views?
 - Focus is on how to engage poorer communities, communities of color and tribes in the implementation of the plan
 - Environmental Justice
 - Try to connect with this part of the EPA
 - There is a need to listen and connect (don't be a white savior, we have been cautioned)
- Latonya Jackson (Atakapas-Ishak Tribe)
 - Tribal Engagement
 - Don't want to parachute in trying to "save" tribe and then not listen to the tribe. The tribes know more about what they want than we give them credit for, so listening is imperative
 - Should know something about tribal culture before going in. Do not just send them an email
 - Currently trying to get in touch with Seneca Tribe and Eastern Band of Cherokee
 - Don't use connection with tribe as publicity. It doesn't help the tribe. Confirm with them before publishing anything
- Accept new Working Group Members

- Proposed and approved by consensus to add Sally Gutierrez and Latonya Jackson as ORBA Steering Committee Advisors
- Proposed and approved by consensus to approve additional working group members and, for Abundant Clear Water Working Group Members, approval pending receipt of names from Richard Harrison.

Healthy Productive Ecosystems:

- Art Parola, University of Louisville, Director of the Stream Institute and Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering.
- Bob Hawley, principal scientist, Sustainable Streams LLC.
- Steven J Evans, Assistant Director, Kentucky Water Resources Research Institute, University of Kentucky
- Yu-Feng F. Lin, Director, Illinois Water Resources Center, University of Illinois
- Esman, Laura, Managing Director, Indiana Water Resources Research Center, Purdue University
- Chris Lorentz Thomas More (I think you know Chris) Bunny Hayes, student, University of Louisville
Mark Long, student, University of Louisville
- Brian Rahm, Director, New York State Water Resources Institute, Cornell University
Henriette Jager, senior scientist, Oak Ridge National Lab to the Healthy and Productive Ecosystem
- Steve Evans, Associate Director of the Kentucky Water Resources Research Institute, University of Kentucky,
- Jennifer Orr-Greene, Eastern Policy Director, Trout Unlimited.
- Andy McAllister, Regional Coordinator, Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation
- Paul Ziemkiewicz, Director, Water Research Institute, West Virginia University
Melissa O'Neal, Associate Director, Water Research Institute, West Virginia University
- Jason A. Hubbart, Director, Institute of Water Security and Science, West Virginia University
- Jeff Skousen, Professor of Soils and Reclamation Specialist, West Virginia University
- Carl Zipper, Professor, Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences and School of Plant and Environmental Sciences, Virginia Tech University
- Shannon O'Quinn, Watershed Specialist for Tennessee Valley Authority

Transportation and Commerce:

- Brad Stout, USACE

Abundant Clean Water: [Names were subsequently received on 23 March and then accepted by consensus]

- Summer Kunkle – PA Department of Environmental Protection
- Ryan Argo – ORSANCO
- Chris Bobay – Louisville Water Company
- Sherry Wang – Tennessee Department of Department of Environment and Conservation

- Karina Bynum – Tennessee Department of Department of Environment and Conservation
- Alex Novak – Louisville Municipal Sewer District

Reports:

Chairperson:

- See attached report.

Water WG

- Coordination with the USACE with respect to the GIS focus continues.

Ecosystem WG

- The first workgroup call was scheduled for Thursday, April 15, 10:30-noon Eastern.

Flood Risk WG [submitted by e-mail]

- A very successful working group meeting was held. Regular meeting dates for every other month were set. A co-chair and a secretary were approved. There was a lot of active involvement. Minutes of the meeting will follow.

Knowledge WG [submitted by e-mail]

- Heather held individual calls with subcommittee leads this month.

Recreation WG

- Subcommittee was formed to look into abandoned lock houses and grounds.

Transportation WG [submitted by email]

- Marty has a mandatory business meeting that directly conflicts with the ORBA monthly Steering Committee Meeting. He will therefore not be able to attend. Marty will keep ORBA updated on what is transpiring in the Ohio River Basin, as it pertains to the waterway system.

Adjourned at 2:00pm



Chairperson's Report 16 March 2021

- The Chair participated in several Working Group and subcommittee virtual meetings.
- A virtual meeting was held on 23 FEB with the USACE PAS Project Manager and staff working on the three follow-on studies: *Plan to Establish and Sustain an Ohio River Basin-wide GIS*; *A Study of Basin-scale Water Resource Management*; and *Study and Planning for Ohio River Water Trail*.
- The Chair has followed up on the funds from the Summit. With help from Dr. Terry Chang, ORBCRE, and Dr. Tamara Sluss, University of Louisville, all funding has now been received.
- The Chair participated in a Community and Restorative Justice - Covington webinar facilitated by ORBA's Pam Mullins.
- The chair attended part of a USEPA Webinar Series entitled *Managing Harmful Algal Blooms in Tribal Waters*
- The Chair presented ORBA and the *Plan for the Ohio River Basin* and participated in a call facilitated by Dr. David Wicks with Eric Oberg, Midwest Regional Director and other leadership of Rails to Trails Conservancy to discuss the *Plan for the Ohio River Basin and Connecting America's Active Transportation System Act*.
- The Chair attended a virtual *Ohio Wildlife Diversity Conference*.
- The Chair prepared a media release announcing the funding received by Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge for access ramps and road resurfacing that was partially credited to the *Plan for the Ohio River Basin* and ORBA.
- The Chair drafted an ORBA letter for inclusion in the documents sent to the Ohio River Basin Caucus Co-chairs and other documents were reviewed and comments provided to Richard Harrison.
- The Chair had several communications with the Sister Francis Maag, Chairperson for the Environment Committee of the Northern KY Justice and Peace Committee.
- The Chair has had several communications with USACE Division on a variety of topics including the planning of a quarterly leadership meeting and engagement in the ORBA Summit.
- The Chair drafted a concept for mayoral engagement that was provided to Craig Butler for consideration by the Communications to Elected Officials Subcommittee.
- Sally Gutierrez, USEPA and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Subcommittee leader, facilitated a call, and the Chair participated in the call, with the EPA Region 5 Environmental Justice (EJ) leads - Kathy Triantafillou and Kathleen Kowal. Near term EJ grants were discussed along with how EPA could be of benefit to ORBA. The Chair subsequently participated in a public engagement call to determine if ORBA should pursue the EJ grant opportunities. Because the grants were for local projects, the funding was determined not to be appropriate for ORBA.
- The Chair is invited to present the *Plan for the Ohio River Basin* at a virtual meeting of the Beaver County [PA] Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs on Friday, April 9, 8-9 AM.
- Shoshannah has actively updated the Facebook page to keep it fresh and interesting. She has also been very helpful with a variety of administrative challenges.