



Steering Committee Minutes

Time and Date of Meeting: May 24, 2021 at 1:00 PM

Next Meeting: June 28, 2021 at 1:00 PM

Attachments: Chair's Report

Call to Order: Approximately 1:00PM

Steering Committee Members Present: Caren Glotfelty, Heather Mayfield, Anne Quinn, Harry Stone, Jeff Thomas, Carey Johnson, Jordan Lubetkin, Mekayle Houghton, Richard Harrison, Sarah Hippensteel Hall, Chuck Somerville

Excused: David Wicks, Marty Hettel

Absent: Chris Lorentz, Kari Mackenbach, Robin Peak, John King

Advisors Present: Peter Cinotto, Jim Lazorchak

Staff: Shoshannah Stone

Adoption or Modification of Agenda: Harry Stone made a motion to add the topic of BurnOut to the agenda. Agenda approved by consensus.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes approved by consensus.

Unfinished Business

- Economic Development in Commerce, including CORBA Communication: Richard Harrison
 - Marty and Harry facilitated a call with CORBA. CORBA seems interested in the transportation corridor, but doesn't appear to want to spearhead anything at the moment. There is room for continued engagement; Harry is making followup calls with CORBA, who suggested we get in touch with Inland River Ports and Terminals, but they haven't shown interest in ORBA
 - Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Communication
 - Focused on economic development of Appalachian region

- New ARC co-chair: Gayle Manchin
 - They are working on their strategic plan. We asked to talk about how we can be helpful to them and discuss how their plan may be of value with our goals
- Briefing for Legislators (Craig Butler, Richard Harrison) - communications with the Ohio River Basin Congressional Co-chairs continues.

New Business

- Infrastructure support letter was sent to the legislators of the Ohio River Basin
- Ohio River Basin Inspection Tour (ORBIT) Planning
 - Dates are set to meet in September in Pittsburgh. Other meetings will be along the river and will include meetings on the MV Mississippi with stakeholders (Huntington, Cincinnati, Kentucky Lock).
- Guidance for Speaking for ORBA
 - ORBA Support Guidelines need to be updated because ORBA has a plan now.
 - Jordan suggests talking about ORBA as an entity with an emphasis on our strategic plan that we are pushing forward. Adding two points about those ideas would provide clarification ORBA as an organization and the plan. Chuck says he will work on this with Craig and Jordan on their Monday call next week.
- ORBA Support (Heather Mayfield)
 - The Steering Committee read the first draft guidelines that establish criteria for an organization requesting ORBA's support or engagement with a proposal.
 - First guideline, they must be an ORBA member in order to have our support
 - Goals and mission of the proposal must be consistent with and must enhance the goals of ORBA. The goals and missions must not be in dramatic opposition.
 - Anne Quin suggested listing the Steering Committee Members on the document as a reference. This information might enhance quick communication.
 - ORBA, through its members, will have the capacity to decide if support can be given.
 - Jordan suggested requiring ORBA's access to their data is too onerous, but Peter shared that we need all data before giving support in order to confirm the project isn't controversial.
 - Harry will clean up and edit this draft for the next meeting.
 - Next meeting, the Steering Committee will produce TWO new documents.
- Anti-BurnOut Topic

- There are so many meetings for each group. Consensus of the group was that in the future we may try to meet less, but that should not happen until the case for the restoration initiative document for January is complete.

Reports:

Chairperson (Harry Stone)

- See attached report.
- Harry moved to approve Heather Mayfield as an Advisor for the Steering Committee. The motion passed by consensus.

Treasurer (Kari Mackenbach)

- \$39.98 spent for Assets and Operating Cash (ORBA MailChimp subscription)

Elected Officials Communication SubC (Richard Harrison)

- “Dear Colleague” Letter from Congressional Co-Chairs inviting congressional members in Basin to join the caucus was sent last week. Next letter will talk about having a meeting and a briefing. Follow-up item: when should we reach out to politicians individually through ORBA Membership to get their support? Richard will be scheduling calls for the rest of the summer with the politician’s environmental staffers. Each committee member should pick politicians in their area to reach out to. The ORBA Update update will tell members to encourage their Legislators to join the Congressional Caucus.

GIS SubC (Richard Harrison)

- In the next month’s call more information will be presented about hosting the GIS mapping system

Water WG (Richard Harrison)

- No report.

Ecosystem WG (Jordan Lubetkin)

- No report.

Flood Risk WG (Sarah Hippensteel Hall)

- No report.

Knowledge WG (Heather Mayfield)

- Heather will be stepping down as the Working Group leader. She is beginning new work for the USEPA.

Recreation WG

- No report

Transportation WG (Marty Hettel)

- No report

Adjourned at 2:00pm



Chairperson's Report

24 May 2021

- Drafted and, with Steering Committee approval and assistance from ORSANCO, distributed a letter to Ohio River Basin legislators supporting elements of a potential infrastructure bill that would address priorities in the *Plan for the Ohio River Basin*.
- Participated in discussion with Mr. Todd Ambs, past Director of the Healing our Waters - Great Lakes coalition, to gain insight on lessons learned that can be applied to an Ohio River Basin restoration initiative.
- Worked with Chris Lorentz and others on plans for the Ohio River Basin Summit and Symposium.
- Coordinated with Kim Longoria, Executive Officer, USACE Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, on the planning for the Ohio River Basin Inspection Tour to be held in September, 2021.
- Participated in call with Eric Thomas, Executive Director of the Central Ohio River Business Association (CORBA), and several CORBA Board Members to discuss how best to address the *Plan's* goal of increasing water-related business and water-borne commerce. Based on this discussion, reached out to the Executive Director Inland Rivers Ports and Terminals to gauge interest in a potential leadership role for their organization. Plans to reach out to the Appalachian Regional Commission are also underway. An approach to the economic development aspects of the River Navigation and Commerce Goal was drafted and is under review.
- Prepared presentation on the *Plan for the Ohio River Basin* for the Electric Power Research Institute Ohio River Basin Ecological Research Interest Group Annual Meeting.
- Participated in ORSANCO - USACE Planning Assistance to States meetings related to water resource management, a Basin-wide GIS system, and access points and needs for the Ohio River Trail.
- Participated in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion subcommittee and multiple Working Group virtual meetings.
- Received notice from Heather Mayfield that she has accepted a new job with USEPA that will require her to step down from the ORBA Steering Committee and her leadership of the Knowledge Informed Decisions Working Group (KID WG). (Please join me in thanking Heather for her outstanding leadership on behalf of ORBA - and gratitude that she will continue as a Working Group Member.) Efforts have begun to identify a nominee for the KID WG leadership with the rare combination of expertise, strategic interest, and sufficient "band-width". (My thanks to our outstanding Working Group Leaders.)
- Important communications were initiated by Mark Wilson of the American Farmland Trust that may help ORBA better understand needs and opportunities of agriculture, particularly at the nexus of farm productivity and abundant clean water.
- Shoshannah Stone, Assistant to the Chair, has regularly updated ORBA's Facebook page and assisted in many other ways. Please join me in congratulating Shoshannah on her graduation from the University of Pittsburgh and her acceptance for graduate school at the University of London. (ORBA will be seeking a new volunteer to fill the gaping hole that will be left by Shoshannah's departure this Fall.)