

Minutes of the 25 March 2019 Ohio River Basin Alliance Conference Call

1. **Call to Order** – CS called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM EDT, 25 March 2019

2. **Roll Call**

Steering Committee Members Present – Ron Brooks, Laurel Cornell, Richard Harrison, Chris Lorentz, Heather Mayfield, Robin Peak, Chuck Somerville, Mike Steinmaus, Harry Stone

Steering Committee Members Absent – Brian Farkas, Marty Hettel, Sarah Hippensteel-Hall, Carey Johnson, John King, Kari Mackenbach, Jeff Thomas

ORBA Advisors Present – Charles Goad, Jim Lazorchak

ORBA Advisors Absent – David Bailey, Meagan Barnes, Brandon Brummett, Peter Cinotto, Noel Clay, Michael Donahue, Gus Drum, Amy Frantz, Jeff Frey, Cullen Grasty, Hank Jarboe, Cullen Jones, Deb Lange, Thomas Maire, Andrew Reed, Ronny Sadri

3. **Adoption of the Agenda** – agenda adopted as distributed without objection

4. **Approval of the Minutes from 25 February 2019 meeting** – the minutes of the 25 February ORBA Steering Committee conference call were accepted as distributed without objection.

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

- a. **Feedback from Colonel Evers (USACE, Huntington) on Hill visits** – USACE Huntington personnel were able to hold meetings in 17 of the 24 congressional offices representing basin states; copies of the ORBA flier were distributed to representatives/senators or their staff members; ORBA collaboration was discussed and fall summit/symposium was announced; Colonel Evers recommended that ORBA host a reception/event in DC in the fall to update legislators on ORBA and the progress of the strategic plan
- b. **ORBCRE executive committee meeting on 9 March 2019** – CS met with Terry Chang and two other members of the ORBCRE Executive Committee; it was communicated that ORBA would like to co-host the symposium/summit to be held in Athens, OH from 2-4 October 2019; CS also contacted Jen Bowman who is excited to co-host with ORBA; Heather Mayfield asked if there was discussion of the education and research goals of ORBA and how ORBA would interface with ORBCRE in those areas; CS responded that attendance at the meeting was low, and that Terry Chang had mentioned that he would be retiring; it seemed to CS that it was not a good time to get a commitment from ORBCRE; CS mentioned that Terry Chang had approached Chris Lorentz as a possible person to take over as Executive Director of ORBCRE; Chris indicated that he declined to do so; Terry will retire officially in December of 2020; Chris also noted that the 2020 ORBCRE meeting would be in Louisville, KY
- c. **Reminder of upcoming FRM conference** – CS reminded attendees of the FRM meeting to be held April 10th and 11th in Erlanger, KY; CS indicated that the link for the meeting registration would be sent out to the ORBA mailing list

- d. **Request for items for monthly update** – items for the March monthly update were requested

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

- a. **Update from Financial Chairperson (Open Position)** – CS mentioned that Brian Farkas had asked to step down from the Financial Chair position
- b. **Update from the Website Team (John King)** – John was not on the phone; Harry Stone mentioned that we now have a Twitter account; he encouraged attendees to provide information to John King for distribution; Harry also noted that he will ask members for items for the monthly update and/or Twitter distribution via the ORBA mailing list; Twitter account is ORBA@OhioRiverBasin
- c. **Update from the AWI Liaison (Open Position – no report)** – CS mentioned that AWI has an advertisement out now for an Executive Director; no other report
- d. **Update from ORBCRE Liaison (Chris Lorentz)** – Chris reiterated the importance of attending the OBCRE/ORBA summit this fall (Oct 2nd-4th), and that the 2020 meeting would be held at the University of Louisville, date TBD; Terry Chang will be winding down and ORBCRE will be looking for an Executive Director in late 2020

7. **Reports from Working Group Leaders**

- a. **Sustainable Growth & Competitiveness (Harry Stone)** – no report, Harry is ready and waiting for the PAS to kick off before taking next steps
- b. **Water Quality, Availability and Management (Richard Harrison)** – work has been centered around the upcoming PAS project; RH was in DC last week and visited 89 offices to secure the name of the environmental contact person for each office; ORSANCO is building a directory of contacts; met with co-Chairs of the ORB caucus; down to about 11 member of the caucus (from 20) due to elections; co-Chairs will send out invitations in mid-April for new members to join; caucus is only organized on the House side; ORSANCO is working on the effort to grow the caucus; work group will focus on visits in the fall and PAS over the next year
- c. **Restoration and Protection (Sarah Hippensteel Hall/Chris Lorentz)** – Donovan and Collin from Fish Habitat Partnership are in the process of sharing data with the working group so it can be used as a guide moving forward
- d. **Enterprise and Infrastructure (Kari Mackenbach)** – no report

8. **Unfinished Business**

- a. **PAS Agreement – next steps (H. Stone/R. Harrison)** – Concern has been about how we would establish the work in kind match required for the grant; Harry submitted a proposal for possible ways to account for his contribution of time to the project; all of the PAS documents have been signed; USACE has now moved funds into the PAS account, and is now setting-up the project, assigning personnel, establishing the QA plan, etc.; Andrew Reed had been serving as USACE project manager, but that has been moved to Laura Mattingly; Harry, Chuck and Richard have been invited to meet in Louisville on April 1st or 2nd; \$400K total project with \$200K from USACE, \$150K match from KY, and \$50K match from work-in-kind (WIK); it looks like a person must be paid in order to be credited as WIK; we will get a more definitive answer on WIK at April meeting; Harry will NOT be allowed to be paid by ORSANCO, and then donate the money back; Harry's proposed to bill ORBA for

hours to be worked on the PAS at \$125, not to exceed \$6,500 in each of two fiscal years; Harry will keep track of his hours worked on the project and will report to USACE each 6 months (or otherwise if required); Harry's work on the PAS will only be billed to ORBA if ORSANCO participants are not meeting the full match requirements; Harry left the call so that SC could discuss the proposal; Richard asked if USACE would limit their investment if ORBA failed to meet the entire match; CS asked what the ORBA balance was in order to inform the discussion about ORBA paying for part of Harry's time to work on the PAS; CS stated the opinion that ORBA would be the proper organization to provide funds to pay for Harry's time working on the PAS, and that he would support it as long as ORBA had sufficient funds; Chris Lorentz supported the proposal to pay Harry from ORBA funds; CL felt that ORBA would be short-sighted if it did not pay Harry for the work that will be done; Laurel Cornell agreed; RH asked approximately what amount of money was provided to ORBA from the last summit; RH thought that we had approximately \$10K in funds on hand, and was therefore concerned that we could make the full commitment to fund Harry's time, particularly considering that it would not leave funds available to support Harry's travel on behalf of ORBA; Richard wanted to be sure that we clarified with USACE that the entire amount of money could be spent within the project period, and that the entire \$200K match would be needed; CS asked Richard how we should approach ORSANCO for financial updates; Richard's opinion was that ORBA should identify a Financial Chair who would receive expenditure notifications from Joe Gilligan at ORSANCO and keep track of the budget balance; RH recommended that we set a minimum balance to be kept in the ORBA budget, \$2000 recommended; CS stated that there did not seem to be an objection to Harry's proposal, and that ORBA would proceed with the caveat that we would not commit funds beyond what was in the account and not beyond what would leave an emergency balance of approximately \$2000; Heather Mayfield expressed support; we left it as consensus support for Harry's proposal

b. ORBA Meetings for 2019 (C. Somerville)

c. ORBA Social Media Presence (J. King)

d. other – Chris Lorentz asked if there had been an attempt to get the Working Group leaders together in a face-to-face meeting; CS responded that we had discussed distribution of PAS efforts by working group on one WG leader phone call, and that Harry was concerned that our plan might or might not line up with USACE expectations or plans, and that because the meeting with USACE had been delayed, that a potential meeting of WG leaders had also been delayed; RH mentioned that he had heard from Amy Babey that the official kickoff of the PAS process would be mid-April; he thought that USACE would have very strict protocols about how to proceed, and that it did make sense that we should wait for direction from the Corps; CS thought that a face-to-face meeting of working group leaders should follow the April meeting with USACE; RH followed up on Col Evers recommendation to hold a reception in DC; CS expressed support for doing that meeting/reception and its value to the organization

9. New Business

a. Mechanism for receiving financial reports – [discussed above]

10. Adjourn -