



World-class Nature-based Recreation Opportunities

Approved by the

Ohio River Basin Alliance Steering Committee

on

27 July 2020

and

Amended 5 October 2020 as required:

- (1) To match the language of the final Plan for the Ohio River Basin; and
- (2) To include Working Group Members by reference to the *List of Working Group Members Appointed by the Steering Committee* in the Steering Committee records.

Table of Contents

World-class Nature-based Recreation Opportunities	1
Table of Contents	2
1. Purpose	3
2. Working Group Leader	3
3. Working Group Members	3
4. Requirements for All Working Groups	3
5. Charge from Steering Committee to Recreation Working Group:	3
6. Deliverables and Milestones	5
7. Duration	5
8. Participation	5

1. Purpose

This Working Group is created by the ORBA Steering Committee (ORBA Bylaws VIII(a)) for the purpose of executing ORBA's role with respect to the World-class Nature-based Recreation Opportunities (hereinafter referenced as "Recreation") goal of the Ohio River Basin Strategy. This documents the Steering Committee's charge to the Working Group as required by the ORBA Bylaws VIII(d).

2. Working Group Leader

In accordance with ORBA Bylaws VIII(a)(2), the Steering Committee appoints Dr. David Wicks to serve for a period of two years, corresponding to the period of performance of this charter, as the Leader of the Recreation Working Group. The Working Group Leader is an ex officio voting Member of the ORBA Steering Committee during their tenure (ORBA Bylaws VIII(a)(2)).

3. Working Group Members

Working Group Members are ORBA Members meeting the qualifications of ORBA Bylaws VIII(a)(1) who are selected to serve a two year term (ORBA Bylaws VIII(a)) corresponding to the period of performance of this charter.

The Recreation Working Group Members are included by reference to the *List of Working Group Members Appointed by the Steering Committee* in the Steering Committee records.

4. Requirements for All Working Groups

Working Groups shall (Bylaws VIII(b - d)):

- Meet or conduct conference calls at the request of their Leader to study, advise, and report on the specific charges from the Steering Committee;
- Keep and submit within 30 days to the Steering Committee written minutes of meetings and conference calls;
- Report to the Steering Committee during monthly calls; and
- Execute the charge from the Steering Committee.

Note Bylaws VIII(c): All written reports shall be submitted to the Steering Committee and no report shall be published or released for public information without approval from the Steering Committee.

5. Charge from Steering Committee to Recreation Working Group:

The Recreation Working Group is charged with developing and executing a detailed action plan to accomplish the following strategic actions in the Ohio River Basin Strategy.

- Serve as ORBA's liaison to leadership of each strategic action for this goal, keeping the Steering Committee apprised of progress and opportunities for ORBA to be supportive of strategic actions.

Objective 1: From 2021 - 2025, grow the Basin's outdoor recreation economy at a rate that exceeds the national average.

Strategic Actions:

- Facilitate collaboration and advocate for funding to establish multipurpose terrestrial and water trails (i.e. Greenways and Blueways) along the Ohio River interconnecting with Tennessee RiverLine and tributary trails, and increase access in underserved areas, to promote nature-based recreation, corresponding economic growth, providing diverse recreation options for different types of users.
- Identify and encourage collaboration among water trail organizations to engage relevant river cities, agencies, businesses, associations, and NGOs on approaches and plans to promote outdoor recreation with particular emphasis on reaching new participants, including providing easy opportunities to “try out” activities such as boating or camping.
- Encourage Mayors along rivers to collaborate on the local or regional strategies that are being pursued in their area, in order to create a more comprehensive and coordinated approach.
- Collaborate with USACE to identify existing operating, abandoned or vacant federal and state lock houses and grounds that could be used or expanded for river access, camping and day use educational activities (See Appendix 1). Example projects include park restoration plans, local recreation plans and use of water quality data monitoring to enhance boater experience.
- Advocate for policies and funding supportive of fishing, hunting, and paddle sport education to expand nature-based recreation and economic growth, and to encourage the stewardship of natural resources that make such recreation possible.
- Pursue funding and an organizational structure for a comprehensive water trail on the Ohio River and its tributaries.

Objective 2: By 2025, create a Basin-wide communication plan for recreation that encompasses recreation safety as well as the benefits to public health and quality of life.

Strategic Actions:

- Pursue funding for expansion of geographic coverage and marketing of the Ohio Kentucky Indiana Regional Council of Governments GIS-based Digital Guide to the Ohio for the Ohio River Basin recreation opportunities and amenities that includes comprehensive information about real time river stage/current, boat ramps, marinas, fuel docks, pump out stations, campgrounds, bike trails, historical points of interest,

river safety, AIS barge location tracking, difficulty levels, average trip times between destinations, etc.

- Facilitate Basin-wide collaboration to coordinate outreach to the general public to share information on existing trails, events, points of interest, and safety related to outdoor recreation and ensure inclusion of historically vulnerable populations and non-English speaking people.
- Although not the primary reason for dam removal, advocate for funding to locate and safely remove low head dams throughout the Basin to restore historical flow and ecological function, to reduce danger to boaters, and improve recreational access and connectivity.

6. Deliverables and Milestones

- Working Group teleconferences or face-to-face meetings
- Timely submission of minutes to the Steering Committee
- Report on progress at the Steering Committee teleconference - monthly
- Action plan, with tasks required to complete each strategic action, including responsible person, team members, deadlines and milestones, resources needed, and success metrics - January 1, 2021
- Milestones from the action plan are incorporated by reference into these “Deliverables and Milestones.”
- Timely advice to the Steering Committee of speakers, panels and breakout groups recommended for the summits, and symposia.
- Annual written report on progress for each strategic action including milestones, success metrics, and challenges July 31, 2021 and July 31, 2022.

7. Duration

This Working Group is scheduled to last 24 months, from August 1, 2020 through July 31, 2022.

8. Participation

Participation in Working Groups is open to ORBA Members (ORBA Bylaws VIII(a)). To join a Working Group, an ORBA Member should submit an e-mail expressing interest to the ORBA Steering Committee Chairperson. The Chairperson will submit to the Steering Committee for consensus approval and, upon approval, will notify the ORBA Member and the Working Group Leader of their addition to the Working Group. Working Group Members are expected to participate in the teleconferences, meetings, and activities of the Working Group. The Working Group Leader may recommend to the Steering Committee the removal of inactive Members from the Working Group.