

ORBA Steering Committee Conference Call

MINUTES – 22 April 2019

1. **Call to Order** – 1:02 EDT
2. **Roll Call**

Steering Committee Members Present – Laurel Cornell, Richard Harrison, Marty Hettel, Sarah Hippensteel-Hall, Carey Johnson, John King, Chris Lorentz, Heather Mayfield, Chuck Somerville, Mike Steinmaus, Harry Stone

Steering Committee Members Absent – Ron Brooks, Brian Farkas, Kari Mackenbach, Robin Peak, Jeff Thomas

ORBA Advisors Present – Brandon Brummet, Charles Goad, Jim Lazorchak, Michael Saffran

3. **Adoption of the Agenda** – no requests to alter the agenda, meeting proceeded with the agenda as distributed
4. **Approval of the Minutes from 25 March 2019 meeting** – no corrections to the minutes were recommended. Minutes accepted as distributed with notation from CS that minor typos would be corrected
5. **Report from the Chairperson** (Chuck Somerville)
 - a. **Changes to ORBA Advisors** – welcome to Michael Saffran, Dan Vogler, Laura Mattingly; Deb Lange is stepping down due to inaction of the Headwater Resource Committee at CMU; efforts to establish connections in upper basin needed; CS recommended that we maintain active contacts in the Pittsburgh area.
 - b. **PAS Meeting in Louisville, April 2nd** – meeting with Laura Mattingly and several others from USACE Louisville district. CS takeaway from the meeting was that ORBA payments to Harry would not count as WIK because ORBA is not, independently, a party to the PAS agreement. Harry had a different understanding, and stated that since any payment to Harry as ORBA PM would come from an ORSANCO account, that the payment would count toward the match. It was still unclear from the meeting whether or not uncompensated time/effort provided by Harry could be counted as match.
 - c. **Thanks/Congratulations to Charles on the FRM Conference**; thanks to Harry for representing ORBA as the Keynote speaker
 - d. **Request for items for monthly update** – CS requested items from people on the call for the next monthly update

CS asked for questions/comments on the report – RH asked if we were able to ascertain what would happen if ORBA was unable to meet the WIK projection, and whether that would lead to a corresponding reduction in overall time/scope from USACE. CS believed that that would be the case. Harry did not comment further. Brandon Brummett also said that he was not certain, but thought that a reduced scope would be the outcome if the in-kind match was less than initially projected. CS said that his understanding of the meeting was that any ORSANCO member, not restricted to KY, who worked on the project could have that work counted as WIK

for the purpose of the PAS. The person did not have to be on the commission, or ORSANCO payroll, but would qualify if he/she was from a member state. HS agreed that the employee could be from any state agency as long as the state is an ORSANCO member and as long as the work hours are documented. However, a person from a state that is not a member of the compact, e.g. Tennessee, could work on the project, but that work could not be counted as WIK for meeting the budget requirements. The timing for turning in WIK time sheets was also discussed during the meeting in Louisville. Carey Johnson noted that many states use federal funding to carry out their federally delegated or state programs. If the state agency is contributing to the PAS process, but is using federal dollars, can it be counted as PAS WIK? Harry stated that such work would not count as match because it would be matching federal funds with federal funds. In addition, it would not be allowable to count WIK that was performed in support of another federal project, i.e. the same WIK could not be counted for two different federal projects. RH clarified that an agency that receives federal funding could still provide WIK to the PAS, but that the specific time counted as WIK could not be paid for with federal funding. RH asked if the PAS clock has started. Harry stated that the PAS timeline started on the day of the kickoff meeting (2 April 2019). CS recollection was that the PAS clock would start with the first time charged against the grant by Laura Mattingly, and that she probably did charge the April 2nd meeting to the PAS. RH requested to confirm that Laura Mattingly had replaced Andrew Reed as USACE PM for the PAS project. Both CS and HS confirmed that Laura Mattingly is now the POC for communication about the PAS.

6. Regular Reports from Other Committee Members

- a. **Financial Update (C. Somerville)** – Budget information provided by RH and Joe (ORSANCO) was sent out with the meeting materials. It included a balance sheet as of 3/31/19, a statement of revenues and expenditures from 1 July 2018 to 3/31/19, and a page identifying travel expenses paid from the ORBA account. Current status is a balance of \$12,593.78.
- b. **Update on Website/Social Media (John King)** – There was an ORBA tweet about the FRM workshop, and John is considering additional tweets with general information about the river and ORBA. CS said that he considered tweeting about the Rivers of Opportunity meeting to be held in the Pittsburgh area on July 31st-August 1st. Items for tweeting can be sent to John King. Heather Mayfield asked whether or not any changes have been made to the hosting and organization of the web site. Heather has immediate access to the FORE River Learning website, which has the same hosting as ORSANCO. Chris Lorentz has also said that the site could be hosted by Thomas More. BB agreed that working through a USACE website has security restrictions that make the site less friendly. CS asked for practical considerations for moving website. RH said that ORSANCO personnel would discuss the move offline, and would report back at the next call.
- c. **Update from the AWI Liaison (Open Position – no report)** – CS reported that AWI was currently searching for an Executive Director, and stated that he felt it was important for ORBA to have someone serving as an AWI board member, or otherwise acting as a liaison to the group.
- d. **Update from ORBCRE Liaison (Chris Lorentz)** – nothing to report

7. Reports from Working Group Leaders

- a. **Sustainable Growth & Competitiveness (Harry Stone)** – Harry reported that he has been putting together emails that will go out to key people who have been involved with working group collaborations. He sent out an email to people associated with recreation and tourism, and is working on a second draft to go to Economic Development people. This draft is waiting on review by Laura Mattingly. The idea is to send an email to people in each of the goal areas. Harry will work with Sarah and Kari to identify recipients and craft the message. He will leave the communication in Water Quality, Availability and Management to Richard. Richard responded that USACE personnel were very cautious about sending out communications without clearance by USACE. Richard thought that a meeting of working group leaders with Laura would be important so that everyone would know how to proceed. Harry responded that all communications related to the PAS were being vetted/approved by Laura first. In addition, any communications that are going out are copied to Laura and Dan, and Harry has also been copying Richard and Chuck on these communications. Richard was concerned about the possibility of getting out ahead of USACE on PAS activities, and Harry thought that Laura's activities at this point were primarily dedicated to creating the PM plan, schedules, etc. that are necessary for the project. He expects that there will be more interaction with Laura after those items are in place. The next step will be identifying as many stakeholders in the basin as possible. Harry's email to existing collaborators in the attempt to identify stakeholders (in addition to existing known collaborators) have been approved by Laura. Richard asked if a meeting of working group leaders was still being planned, and Harry responded that it was.
- b. **Water Quality, Availability and Management (Richard Harrison)** – Richard said that he planned to use ORSANCO technical committee model to engage stakeholders, and has reached out to the southern states so that they would be aware of what was going on. He said that ORSANCO was in overtime with respect to the standards review, which may be finalized at the 6 June meeting in Covington, KY. Now engaged with a large project to monitor for perfluorinated compounds and mercury. CS noted that he is working on a guidance document on PFAS for USACE, and asked for a point of contact. Richard said that Jason Heath, Sam Dinkins, and Melissa Neal (Three Rivers Quest) were engaged. RH said that single site complete sampling could take an entire day using USGS cross-sectional sampling techniques
- c. **Restoration and Protection (Sarah Hippensteel Hall/Chris Lorentz)** – nothing to report at this time.
- d. **Enterprise and Infrastructure (Kari Mackenbach)** – no report

8. Unfinished Business

- a. **PAS Agreement – next steps (H. Stone/R. Harrison/L. Mattingly)** – Harry had covered much of the PAS process in earlier comments. To summarize, we are in a holding pattern while USACE establishes the groundwork for the process. HS will send out an email draft to Chris, Sarah and Kari that asks known collaborators for information on additional key stakeholders. HS said that he would be presenting on April 23rd at the EPRI Ohio River Ecological **Research** Program meeting. He will seek contact information for people in that group, who are **interested in engaging in the PAS project**. CS asked if we had clear guidance on how we can get feedback from people at meetings. HS said that we are restricted from using questionnaires, so Harry has been telling groups that we are asking for names/contact information for stakeholders, for existing planning documents, and for

existing/known priorities. That information can be sent to orsanco@usace.army.mil for receipt of comments or other information. Michael Saffran noted that he will have a scheduled call with personnel at IWR to follow up on the use of questionnaires. He felt that it would be the best approach to gathering information. USACE regulation is that a sponsor cannot distribute questionnaires on behalf of USACE, but that USACE may be able to do something.

- b. **ORBA/ORBCRE Meeting 2019** (<https://www.ohio.edu/engineering/civil/orbcre/>) - CS noted that the ORBCRE/ORBA meeting planning was underway for the meetings to be held from 2-4 October in Athens, OH. Having a broad invitation list will be very important. October 3rd morning will be a keynote address or panel, followed by break-out sessions to include scientific talks, and ORBA sessions organized around each goal area. The goal will be to push attendance. Harry recommended that USACE and ORSANCO be engaged to drive attendance at the symposium. He hoped that we will have some preliminary information to share/vet at that meeting. CS will reach out to district offices to see if they can help us reach out to stakeholders.
- c. **ORBA Social Media Presence (J. King)** – held over for future discussion
- d. **Working Group Leaders Face-to-Face Meeting** – held over for future discussion
- e. **Rivers of Opportunity Event** – held over for future discussion
- f. **ORBA Reception/Event in Washington DC** – held over for future discussion

9. New Business

- a. **Strategic Plan for ORBA (Harry Stone)**
- b. **Revised Steering Committee Call Schedule** – normal call for May was planned to be on May 27th (Memorial Day), and the June normal June call is planned for June 24th. CS has a personal conflict on the 24th. So, Monday June 10th will be scheduled as the next Steering Committee call for both May and June. Marty Hettel noted that there is a change of command ceremony planned for the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division on July 12th in Cincinnati, General Toy will be moving out of the Mississippi Valley Division and will be replaced by General Bob Little.

10. Adjourn