



Steering Committee Minutes

Steering Committee

Harry Stone, Ph.D.
Battelle (retired), ORBA
Chairperson

Craig Butler
Muskingum Watershed
Conservancy District, Vice-
Chairperson

**Charles (Chuck)
Somerville, Ph.D.**
Marshall University, Past-
Chairperson

Kari Mackenbach
Treasurer

Caren Glotfelty
Allegheny County Parks
Foundation

Richard Harrison, P.E.
Ohio River Valley Water
Sanitation Commission

Martin (Marty) T. Hettel
American Commercial
Barge Lines

**Sarah Hippensteel
Hall, Ph.D.**
Miami Conservancy District

Mekayle Houghton
Cumberland River Compact

Carey Johnson
Kentucky Division of Water

John King
West Virginia Department of
Environmental Protection

Chris Lorentz, Ph.D.
Thomas More University

Jordan Lubetkin
National Wildlife Federation

Heather Mayfield
Foundation for Ohio River
Education

Robin Peak
Tennessee Valley Authority

Annie Quinn
3 Rivers Wet Weather

Jeff Thomas
Electric Power Research
Institute

David Wicks, Ed. D.
Ohio River Recreation Trail

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

Next Meeting: March 22, 2021 at 1:00 PM

Attachments: 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, Marty Hettel, Kari Mackenbach, Heather Mayfield, Sarah Hippensteel Hall

Excused: Chris Lorentz

Advisors Present: Jim Lazorchak, Brandon Brummett

Adoption or Modification of Agenda: Agenda approved by consensus with addition of "Approval of Working Group Members."

Approval Minutes: Minutes of January 22 were approved by consensus with correction on page 3 of "Jenkins" to "Dinkins".

Unfinished Business

•Webinar Platform and support

There was discussion of the ORBA Membership list usage and the use of the list of registrants at events with multiple sponsors. At the past Discussion Series event, the list of registrants was sent to each Discussion Series sponsor that requested it. After the event, an email was sent to the registrants inviting them to join ORBA and ORRT. Only if they sign up for ORBA are they added to the ORBA member list. ORBA would provide the list to other sponsors, if requested.

•Assigned Actions Follow-up

CORBA Communication about WG participation: Richard Harrison was waiting on Harry. Richard will follow up with CORBA independently of Harry.

Send bios to Chuck for WG nominees: Bios will be requested of working group members, but are not mandatory.

Fall dates for USACE participation in Summit: Harry has been in discussion with the USACE. Final dates have not been decided. USACE availability is considered input.

Send webinar information to Shoshannah: This was done.

Chamber of Commerce (Huntington) about WG participation: Chuck Somerville reported that this was pending.

New Business

- Appointment of Working Group Members

The following Working Group Members were nominated and appointed by consensus:

Water WG:

- *Caren Glotflely, Allegheny County Parks Foundation*
- *Jeff Thomas, Electric Power Research Institute*
- *Matt Thomas Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District*
- *Jim Lazorchak USEPA.*

Ecosystem WG:

- *Mike Nerozzi, Director of Policy and Planning, Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission*
- *Scott Warner, Assistant Chief – Wildlife Diversity, WVDNR, Wildlife Resources Section*
- *Mark T. Scott, Assistant Chief of Fisheries, West Virginia DNR*
- *Katherine Zipfel, Ohio River fisheries biologist, West Virginia DNR*
- *Dan Carnahan, South Region Fisheries Supervisor, Indiana DNR*
- *Kate Parsons, Terrestrial Wildlife Diversity Program Administrator at Ohio Department of Natural Resources*
- *Scott Hale, Executive Administrator of Fish Management and Research for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources*
- *Jeremy Pritt, Fisheries Biologist, Ohio DNR*
- *Jason Wisniewski, state malacologist, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency*
- *Anna L. George, Vice President of Conservation Science and Education, Tennessee Aquarium*

- *Mike Hardin, Assistant Director, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources*
- *Tony Dinovo, vice president, Central Ohio Chapter, Izaak Walton League*
- *Jenifer Christman, Vice President, Watershed Conservation, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy*
- *Jordan R. Fischbach, Co-Director, RAND Climate Resilience Center and Senior Policy Researcher, RAND Corporation*
- *Annie Quinn, program manager, 3 Rives Wet Weather*
- *John Kanter, senior wildlife biologist, National Wildlife Federation*
- *Jan Raether, Watershed Programs Manager, Nine Mile Run Watershed Association*
- *Andrew S. Mehring, Assistant Professor of Ecosystem Ecology, University of Louisville*
- *Heather Davis Miller, director, conservation partnerships, National Wildlife Federation*
- *Mahtaab Bagherzadeh, Licking River Basin Coordinator, Kentucky Division of Water*
- *Alex Cole, community organizer, Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition*
- *Justin Mansberger, Extension Educator, Master Watershed Steward Coordinator, Penn State Extension*

Flood Risk WG:

- *Ashton Cash, River Heritage Conservancy*
- *Matt Genchur, White Township*
- *Tom Batrone, AKRF*
- *Erin Kepple-Adams, Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission*
- *Nickole Nesby, City of Duquesne*
- *Joan Centrella, West Virginia University*

- Media release for ASCE: Infrastructure needs

ORBA will be putting together a list of infrastructure needs of the Basin in response to the expected release of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Craig noted that Ohio has released its infrastructure needs and received good press. There may be other state communications of these needs. Provide feedback to Richard and Craig. Media release should link to the plan.

ASCE webinar to introduce the ratings will be held on 3 March.

EPA's needs assessment which has drinking water and wastewater infrastructure needs for next 20 year in the Ohio River Basin is \$123 billion. US Water Alliance - federal share has dropped substantially

Reports

- Elected Officials Communication and Organizational Communication Subcommittee (Craig Butler)

Richard is working with Congressional delegations. Richard and Craig have a call this week with staff of Representative John Yarmouth and Representative Bill Johnson. ORBA is asking their support for a briefing. The Co-chairs of the Ohio River Basin Congressional Caucus offices will put out a “Dear Colleague letter”.

ORBA is coordinating with USACE on messages when USACE talks to legislators.

Harry was asked to forward to the Steering Committee Richard’s communication of the plan, Harry’s letter, and the draft “dear colleague” letter. This will be sent to the Congressional offices in advance of the meeting.

Richard let the working group leaders know they would be asked to speak about their working group during the Caucus briefing.

ORSANCO has secured contacts for environmental staffers in all Ohio River Basin legislative offices.

- Diversity Equity and Inclusion (Sally Gutierrez)

Harry briefed on the launch of the working group. Kari announced the availability of a presentation that she did for the American Council of Engineering Companies on February, 11th, 2021. The topic was More Diversity=More innovation.

- Governance (Caren Glotfelty)

Subcommittee includes Caren Glotfelty, Harry Stone, Chuck Somerville, Craig Butler and Richard Harrison. The first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday. Prior strategic planning work will serve as a point of departure for the Subcommittee

- GIS (Richard Harrison)

Richard is reaching out to Federal Agencies to get their participation. There is a PAS initiative with USACE to move this forward. One of the challenges is the desire to immediately have detailed and funded GIS documents. Someone from each working group is invited to participate in the GIS subcommittee.

Chairperson:

- See attached report.
- ORBA is continuing to look at the best way to work with mayors. The Marshall Plan for Middle America, supported by eight Democratic mayors, includes clean energy

and energy efficiency. It is not a really good fit with ORBA's water resources focus. However, Harry recommended including it as part of an overall message of economic development for the mayors to support. There were no objections to this overall economic message. It was clarified that support for clean energy was not opposition to other forms of energy.

- Chuck said that Terry Goodman had spoken to the Chairs Meeting and indicated that there was a lot of value to engaging the mayors.

Treasurer:

- Kari reported that ORBA currently has \$6600 (approximately) with \$3250 of sponsorship funds having been received from ORBCRE. Money for registrations at Summit is still pending.
- Kari reported on "Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities" (BRIC) \$10 billion through FEMA that could be helpful to communities. Kari requested to discuss it on the next SC call. Kari will join the GIS working group. Carey also offered to talk about BRIC as well.

Abundant Clean Water WG

March 4 2:00 pm meeting of the Abundant Clean Water WG. Richard is coordinating with Sarah and the Flood Risk WG because of the overlap.

Knowledge WG (Heather Mayfield):

- Report is attached. The outline for the Discussion Series has been distributed. Working Group ideas for topics are welcomed.

Recreation WG (Dr. David Wicks):

- Victor Elam - USFW - used ORB as central component for grant and credits the Plan for the success. He received about \$1 million for boat access points in Williamstown WV and another location and for repaving a road.

There was a request to talk about tribes at the next Steering Committee Meeting.

Adjournment: Approximately 2:00 PM

Actions assigned:

Task	Person Responsible	Due
CORBA Communication about WG participation	Richard Harrison	22 FEB
Chamber of Commerce (Huntington) about WG participation	Chuck Somerville	MAR
Agenda items for next call: BRIC; tribal engagement	Harry Stone	22 MAR
Correct “Dinkins” in the minutes	Harry Stone	22 MAR
Forward to the Steering Committee the draft communications to the Ohio River Basin Caucus co-chairs	Harry Stone	22 MAR

Chairperson's Report

22 February 2021

ORBA-USACE Actions

- Virtual meetings were held 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*.
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Subcommittees

Communications to Elected Officials Subcommittee. Craig Butler is chairing and the first meeting was held on 3 FEB. With leadership from Richard Harrison and Craig Butler, communications in coordination with the Ohio River Basin Caucus co-chairs legislators is being planned and executed.

GIS Subcommittee. Richard Harrison (chair) is actively seeking to engage appropriate folks. Work of this Subcommittee will be coordinated with PAS work where Richard is the primary contact.

Organizational Communications Subcommittee. Jordan Lubetkin (chair) and Harry have had discussions related to a general planning approach in preparation for launching subcommittee meetings.

Governance Subcommittee. Caren Glotfelty and Harry have discussed background and documents to inform the upcoming Governance Subcommittee meeting scheduled for 24 FEB.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee. A virtual kickoff meeting was held on February 10 and the Subcommittee agreed to meet bi-weekly over the near term. Through a connection provided by Jim Lazorchak, Dr. Latonya Jackson, Assistant Professor at the University of Cincinnati, is a valued addition to the Subcommittee.

Other Activities

- Shoshannah recorded a short overview of ORBA and the Plan for the Ohio River Basin that will be used in conjunction with ORBA events.
- The Chair participated in several Working Group and committee virtual meetings.
- The Chair has followed up on the funds from the Summit that have not yet been received from the University of Louisville.
- The Chair presented virtually at the Society of American Military Engineers (Huntington) meeting.
- Jordan and Harry met with Izaak Walton League leadership from mainstem states to discuss their interest in actively engaging with ORBA.

- Harry had a call with Amy Brennan, Director of Conservation for The Nature Conservancy (Ohio) to discuss TNC interest in actively engaging with ORBA.
- With input from the Steering Committee and Advisors, Harry provided an Ohio River Basin reading list that was requested by MG Whittle's office.
- Discussions continue on the best way to engage the mayors of the Ohio River Basin.