

# ORBA Steering Committee Minutes

## October 17, 2018

### Agenda:

- Call to order
- Roll call
- Adoption of agenda
- Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting
  
- Report from the Chairperson (Harry Stone)
  
- Reports from the other committee members
  - Update from Financial Chairperson (Brian Farkas)
  - Update from Website Team (Megan Thompson/Chuck Somerville/John King)
  - Update from AWI Liaison (open position - no report)
  - Update from ORBCRE Liaison (Chris Lorentz)
  
- Reports from the working group leaders
  - Sustainable Growth and Competitiveness (Harry Stone)
  - Water Quality, Availability and Management (Ted Lozier/Richard Harrison)
  - Restoration and Protection (Sarah Hippensteel Hall/Chris Lorentz)
  - Enterprise and Infrastructure (Kari Mackenbach)
  
- Unfinished business
  - Proposed change to bylaws
  - Research and Education Working Group
  - Planning for 2018 ORBA Summit
  - Proposal for Ohio River Basin Initiative
  - Identifying our priorities and shaping our communications
- New business
- Adjourn

## **Roll Call**

Present: Harry Stone, Mike Steinmaus, Chuck Somerville, Marty Hettel, Richard Harrison, Heather Mayfield, Chris Lorentz

## **Adoption of Agenda**

The agenda was adopted by consensus.

## **Approval of the Minutes**

Minutes for the September Steering Committee Meeting were approved by consensus.

## **Report from the Chairperson**

The Chairperson thanked the Steering Committee Members for their dedicated leadership over the past two years and welcomed the Steering Committee members elect for their willingness to accept the leadership role.

The following activities were reported:

- October 2 and 3, ORBA's Chairperson attended the ORSANCO Technical Committee Meeting in Lansing, WV. Peter Goodman, KY Commissioner, announce that KY has secured \$150k match for the Ohio River Basin-wide strategy USACE PAS. USACE has also confirmed that the agreement is moving forward and they expect it to be approved in the next couple of weeks. An additional meeting is needed of the principles to get the details right.
- October 8 and 9, ORBA's Chairperson attended the Tennessee River Valley Association/ Tennessee-Cumberland Waterways Council (TRA/TCWC) at the suggestion of Angie Dunn, Planning Branch Chief. This provided an opportunity to introduce ORBA via informal networking. Speakers included MAJ Justin Toole, Nashville District and Jim Haney, TN Deputy Governor, among others. Response to ORBA and our planning initiative was positive.

## **Recap of 2018**

- During 2018 there were meetings to discuss collaboration or participate in collaboration with: ORSANCO, Ohio River Fisheries Management Team, USACE, Silver Jackets, Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments, Buckeye Hills Regional Council and the developing Upper Ohio River Users Group, Inland Rivers Ports and Terminals, Headwaters Resource Council, ORBCRE, and TRVA/TCWC.

- Funding initiatives included: ORSANCO/FORE/ORBA proposal to the Heinz Endowments for \$200k (not awarded); regional forest-related recreation concept, State Foresters (OH, PA, WV) USFS FY19 Landscape Restoration Grant (not awarded, but to be revisited in 2020); budget package submitted through USACE for FY 20 President's Budget (in process); USACE/KY/ORSANCO/ORBA Planning Assistance to States \$400k proposal (Kentucky has pledged \$150k and the USACE has committed to \$200k with States, ORSANCO, and ORBA providing \$50k in-kind; this will be approved by ORSANCO at the February Commission meeting)
- ORBA participated in the following presentations and workshops: "Precipitation Changes and Related Strategies for Western Pennsylvania" (TNC/Sustainable Pittsburgh/USACE/ORBA); "Ohio River Headwaters: Local Issues and National Significance" Panel (UCoWR/NIWRC, PA); "Benthic Cyanobacteria & Cyanotoxins Workshop" (USEPA/USACE - Lazorchak)
- Silver Jackets were funded for a Basin-wide workshop to establish regional priorities.
- Olmsted Locks and Dam completed; funding secured for KY and Chickamauga Locks and Dams at favorable match (85% Federal/15% fuel tax)
- 13th Collaborative Summit is being held: "Partnerships and Collaborations toward a Single Voice for the Ohio River Basin" (Thomas More University - Lorentz)

#### Outgoing Chairperson's Recommended Objectives for 2019 - 2020

- Secure and execute \$400k study to develop a consensus-based Ohio River Basin-wide strategy before 2021
- Hold annual ORB Summits to engage Basin stakeholders in collaboration to clarify and revise priorities and to realize the strategic action plan
- Plan and execute coordinated annual events for educating the ORB Congressional Caucus on ORB priorities and strategies
- Lead or support efforts to secure \$5 million prior to 2021 for states, Federal agencies, and organizations to deliver projects consistent with the collaborative OR Basin-wide strategy

#### **Reports from the Other Committee Members**

- Update from Financial Chairperson (Brian Farkas) - No report.

- Update from Website Team (Sherry Adams/Gus Drum/Chuck Somerville/John King) - No report.
- Update from AWI Liaison (Chuck Somerville) - ORBA should recommend persons for consideration by the AWI for election/appointment to the Board.
- Update from ORBCRE Liaison (Chris Lorentz) - ORBA and ORBCRE need to formalize guidelines for working together and define how to work together moving forward. We could do more together. Developing a single voice is most important piece.

## **Reports from the Working Group Leaders - *Tabled Until Working Group Summit Outbriefs***

### **Unfinished Business**

- Proposed Research and Education Working Group

ORBCRE is on board with the proposed Working group. More input/action is needed from ORBCRE. Heather Mayfield is driving the education piece. Chris is driving the research piece. Rich Cogan, Ohio River Foundation Executive Director, has interest, but health issues have prevented further engagement.

- Planning for 2018 ORBA Summit

Steering Committee Members were reminded to RSVP with Chris for the Steering Committee dinner at the Summit.

A proposal was approved by consensus to have a board at the Summit with six to ten questions related to priorities, including but not limited to, flood risk management. Attendees will be able to post their reaction to the topics. This was viewed as a good way to get broader perspectives. It was suggested that Steering Committee members post comments early in order to “prime the pump.”

- Proposal for Ohio River Basin Initiative

Andrew Reed, USACE, e-mailed: “We had hoped to have it signed by the ORBA-ORBCRE conference, of course, but at least we will be able to confidently state that the project is nearing approval and will provide extreme value to the future of the ORB.” [Note: USACE signed the \$400k PAS agreement on October 18.]

- Identifying our priorities and shaping our communications

The Chairperson reminded the Steering Committee of the current framework that he is using to discuss Ohio River Basin priorities. The adequacy of this framework was discussed. The framework for Ohio River Basin priorities follows:

- **Maintain Authorized River Pools** - navigation, ecological flows, water for human needs
- **Feed the Farms, Starve the Streams** - productive agriculture while preventing HABS, anoxic zones, toxins, and other pollutants impacting water quality
- **Stop Invasions** - prevent introduction and decrease impact of invasive species
- **Sustain Healthy Ecosystems and Economies** - restoration and protection of ecosystems (restoration projects, water quality below dams); attraction and growth of businesses (container on barge); efficiency (hydroelectric maximization)
- **Learn Things, Share What We Learned, and Help Prepare for the Future** - floods, droughts, and non-linear changes (water/natural resource related ecosystem services and values; recreation and tourism value and potential; container on barge value and potential), communication needs.

### **New Business**

- Approve the Vote

Chuck Somerville reported that less than 30% of the ORBA Members voted. Per ORBA By-laws it was therefore necessary for the Steering Committee to vote as to whether or not to accept the results of the election based on votes cast. By consensus (unanimous vote) the Steering Committee accepted the results of the election based on the votes cast.

- Outline of Strategy

It was briefly noted that the ORBA Steering Committee needs to begin outlining the strategy and identifying persons to draft the various sections of the plan. This will be discussed/coordinated with ORSANCO, USACE and Kentucky as planning moves forward.

The meeting was adjourned.