

ORBA Steering Committee Minutes

September 24, 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, Laurel Cornell, Tom Maier, Marty Hettel, Richard Harrison, John King

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted by consensus.

Approval of the Minutes

Minutes for April, June, July, and August were approved by consensus.

Report from the Chairperson

- Recruitment efforts generated an outstanding slate of nominees for Steering Committee Membership that filled important “holes”. We were successful at adding nominees from TVA/TN, Ohio River Basin Fisheries Management Team, Silver Jackets, and the Electric Power Research Institute. PA representation on the Steering Committee is still lacking, although we do have faithful Advisors from PA. On September 7 ballots were sent to all ORBA Members. Per ORBA By-laws: “The Steering Committee shall consist of between 9 and 15 ORBA members (...). The number of members may be increased based on a recommendation, and majority vote, of the Steering Committee.” By an e-mail vote of 11 to zero, the Steering Committee approved increasing the number of Steering Committee Members to 16. Because Chuck Somerville confirmed that the required 30% of ORBA Membership did not vote, on September 17 a follow-up email, required by the by-laws, was sent to ORBA Members who had not voted. (I did not send a follow-up to USACE Members, only to those who subscribe through MailChimp.) The votes will constitute proxies that will be included in the election during the ORBA Summit in October.
- On September 10 your Chairperson provided an e-mail update to Hank Jarboe, USACE/LRD acting Chief for Planning.
- On September 13 your Chairperson met in Nashville, TN, with USACE/Nashville District leadership including Angie Dunn, Chief Project Planning Branch, Tim Higgs, Chief Environmental Section, and Craig Carrington, Chief Plan Formulation Branch in Nashville this Thursday. The purpose was to gain a better understanding of USACE Nashville District priorities and challenges and get their guidance as to how best to engage additional Tennessee River and Cumberland River Basins leadership. Really good insight was gained and your Chairperson was invited to the State of Tennessee and USACE Partnering Meeting on November 27. It is possible, but unlikely, that we will be invited to speak. It was stated that the Corps, the state of TN, and others would benefit with ORBA’s attendance. ORBA engagement with the Cumberland River Compact and other key organizations was also recommended.
- Transition has begun from Harry Stone to Chuck Somerville as ORBA’s Chairperson. Thanks to Richard Harrison, David Bailey and Adam Scott for setting up an e-mail for Chuck. This will enable (I hope) the ORBA contacts and MailChimp service to be easily transferred to Chuck.
- Thank Megan Thomson, USACE/Huntington, for taking the initiative to update the information on Steering Committee Members. This will all be updated after installation at the Summit.

- Your Chairperson is involved with the planning calls for the Silver Jackets Flood Risk Management Workshop in 2019. This will be an important event for collaborative identification of regional priorities and strategies.

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. [During later discussions, it was suggested that ORBA expand its social media presence. This might include Twitter feed. Harry indicated that he was aware of an ORBA Facebook presence, but it was not kept up and it is unclear who owns the account. John King will take the lead with the Website Team to discuss what presence in social media ORBA might want to have. He will follow up with the Website Team this week.]
- Update from AWI Liaison (Chuck Somerville)
AWI met in Quad cities. Independent. Dan Mecklenborg, Senior VP Ingram Barge Co., is chair. Chuck has communicated that he may not serve on the AWI Board, but believes that ORBA needs representation. Chuck stated that it is not ORBA's role to appoint a member. However, ORBA could nominate folks for consideration by the AWI for election/appointment to the Board. Chuck stated that this (AWI) is an important relationship to keep healthy.
- Update from ORBCRE Liaison (Chris Lorentz)
No report.

Reports from the Working Group Leaders

- Sustainable Growth And Competitiveness (Harry Stone)

Donna Foster, Landscape Architech, US Forest Service, had informed Harry of the FY2019 Landscape Scape Restoration Grants that must occur in OH, PA, or WV. On August 28 an email was sent from Harry to State Foresters of OH, PA, and WV to (1) propose a potential path to funding for promotion of regional (OH-PA-WV) forest-related recreation, and (2) introduce the Ohio River Basin Alliance (ORBA).

Language was found in each state's Forest Action Plan related to promoting and increasing recreational opportunities. The proposal was for the states to collaborate on a regional initiative to grow recreation-based economies associated with the forests. Three goals were proposed:

Goal 1: *Understand the breadth of cultural forest ecosystem services in the Ohio River Valley*

Goal 2: *Understand the relative current and potential value of the cultural forest ecosystem services in the Ohio River Valley*

Goal 3: Promote the highest potential value cultural forest ecosystem services in order to grow businesses and jobs in the Ohio River Valley supportive of and supported by healthy and diverse forest ecosystem.

Harry reported that he did not get a response to the communication from any State Forester. This may be because there was a tight window - initial applications were due by September 14.

- Water Quality, Availability and Management (Ted Lozier/Richard Harrison)

Richard reported there were two priorities: (1) Develop GIS Mapping and Data Platform for Ohio River Water Quality monitoring site mapping and associated data including Assessment and Volunteer data, and (2) Develop funding source for Water Management and Availability work utilizing ORSANCO's existing Water Resources Committee. Creation of the GIS water atlas is a slow process. ORSANCO will meet next week in WV. Technical Committee topics are attached as an addendum to these minutes. Harry will make the Working Group aware of the upcoming ORSANCO meetings.

- Restoration and Protection (Sarah Hippensteel Hall/Chris Lorentz)

No Report.

- Enterprise and Infrastructure (Kari Mackenbach)

Marty Hettel reported on recent infrastructure progress. Olmsted Locks and Dam is now open. Lock 53 is being demolished and bids have been received to demolish Lock 52. The Corps will have its funding on first day of Fiscal Year for the first time in many years. Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) passed House and is waiting on floor time in Senate. Oct. 24 there is a meeting with USACE in Nashville for the purpose of coordinating with the Corps on a multi-year (2-3 years) maintenance plan.

Unfinished Business

- Proposed amendments to the by-laws were approved by consensus. [The amended by-laws are attached and will be uploaded to replace the old version of the by-laws on ORBA's website.]

- Proposed Research and Education Working Group

A draft charter template for the proposed Research and Education Working Group was provided to Heather Mayfield and Chris Lorentz for their initiative.

- 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

Richard Harrison reported that he was optimistic of being able to find match sufficient for a \$400k Planning Assistance to States (PAS) study. In the October ORSANCO Commission meeting they will continue dialogue about the PAS. Richard anticipated that he anticipated approval at the February Commission meeting.

- 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. An addition point that needs to be explicit was identified: Communication from organizations in the watershed to publics and decision-makers that need to hear the messages. For example, watershed groups in WV meet together annually. ORBA could present and take the opportunity to crowdsource challenges and priorities. The revised 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

Agenda for face to face Steering Committee meeting:

- Recap of year what’s accomplished/lessons learned/thoughts on path forward.
- Approve the vote

Other Steering Committee members shall be elected by the membership by a majority vote

with at least 30% of members participating. If at least 30% of the membership does not vote,

a second notice will go out from the Chairperson requesting members who have not voted to do so within 30 days. If 30% of the membership still does not vote, the current Steering Committee members can decide to accept the results of the election based on the votes cast, or to void the election.

- Priorities discussion
- Outline of strategy - writing/leadership for the areas

Adjourn