



## Steering Committee Minutes

**Time and Date of Meeting:** October 26, 2020 1:00 PM

**Next Meeting:** November 23, 2020 at 1:00 PM

**Call to Order:** Approximately 1 PM

**Steering Committee Members Present:** Harry Stone, Chuck Somerville, Kari Mackenbach, Sarah Hippensteel Hall, Richard Harrison, Marty Hettel, Jordan Lubetkin, David Wicks, Heather Mayfield, Caren Glotfelty, Mekayle Houghton, Carey Johnson, John King, Chris Lorentz, Annie Quinn, Jeff Thomas

**Excused:** Craig Butler

**Absent:** Robin Peak

**Advisors Present:** Jeff Frey, Hank Jarboe, Jim Lazorchak, Branden Brummett

**Adoption or Modification of Agenda:** Agenda approved by consensus.

**Approval Minutes:** Minutes of September 28, 2020 were approved by consensus.

### Reports:

#### *Chairperson:*

- Much thanks to Chuck Somerville for his service as ORBA Chairperson. Chuck continues to provide support through this Teams link and through participation in a weekly “Chairs Call” that includes the Vice Chair, Chair, and Past-Chair. Chuck has also set up the Teams site for posting our documents.
- We wrapped up the Plan for the Ohio River Basin, but funding remains at the Corps. Richard and I are coordinating with USACE on follow-on work.
- Summit was outstanding beginning with tcomments from the bipartisan Co-Chairs of the Congressional Caucus, Congressman Bill Johnson (OH) and Congressman John Yarmuth (KY), and Senator Shelly Moore Capito (WV) in support of our planning efforts, to the facilitation by the National Wildlife Federation of an interactive discussion about a proposed science-based framework for ecosystem restoration. Speakers were excellent. We are awaiting the final information on participants. Much thanks to Tamara Sluss and David Wicks who led this effort along with the planning team.
- The Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission met and continues to support ORBA through leadership from Richard Harrison, Executive Director and by serving as fiscal sponsor.
- A monthly coordination and collaboration meeting is scheduled for Working Group Leaders on November 13, 2020 at 10 AM.
- The Chairperson presented the Plan to the Tennessee River Valley Association Annual Meeting.

- A letter and hard copy of the Plan for the Ohio River Basin was sent to the governors of the 15 Basin States. Thanks to Richard and Tracy at ORSANCO for getting these collated and mailed. With help from ORSANCO Commissioners and Richard Harrison's connections in the southern states, governors were made aware of the plan and timing for its release to the media.
- Lisa Cochran at ORSANCO helped with the distribution of the media release for the plan. There were at least five media interviews and placements in at least four states including a nice article in the Sunday Cincinnati Enquirer.
- ORBA membership is 285 before addition of Summit attendees.
- Bylaws were reviewed and changes proposed to make them consistent with our practices. We remain in the 30 day review period before they can be approved.

*Treasurer:*

- Questions were raised by the Treasurer about how to access the financial information from ORSANCO. Richard will follow up with Kari.

*Water WG:*

- Discussions are underway with potential working group members including TN, NC, and IL.
- Discussions are underway with USACE on the concept of a Basin-wide GIS mapping platform where many different features [layers] could be added.

Richard raised the question of how to structure Steering Committee subcommittees to address issues that cut across all plan goals. Example was GIS. [Not discussed at this time.]

*Ecosystem WG:*

- Recruiting for the working group continues. Feedback on restoration priorities is being sought. The communications are trying to get the plan more visibility.

*Flood Risk WG:*

**DECISION:** Five new working group members were nominated and approved by the Steering Committee:

- Brandon Brummett, USACE
- Boris Slogar, Muskingum Conservancy District
- Abram DaSilva, Hydrologist, NOAA - National Weather Service
- Miles Herbert, Director, Water Resources Engineering, EMH&T
- Steve Ferryman, Ohio Emergency Management Agency Sarah will send biographical information on nominees to the Steering Committee.
- Planning for the first working group meeting is underway.

*Knowledge WG:*

**DECISION:** Three new working group members were nominated and approved by the Steering Committee:

- Errin Howard, Director, Riverworks Discovery and Regional Director, Environmental Education Council of Ohio
- PJ Donovan, Chief, USACE Planning Center of Expertise for Inland Navigation and Risk-Informed Economics Division (PCXIN-RED)
- Autumn Crowe, Staff Scientist, West Virginia Rivers Coalition

- Working Group meeting tentatively scheduled for Monday, November 9, 2020
- Currently collecting and compiling Plan matrix responses from working group members that will be used to prioritize objectives and strategic actions, as well as to establish subcommittees if needed.

*Recreation WG:*

- Monthly time for the Working Group call has been established.
- Committees are being established. A work plan will be developed for each strategic action.
- At the Working Group meeting the ORBA Chairperson will discuss the end product.
- Risa Shimoda, Executive Director of the River Management Society, is helping facilitate.
- A display for the Ohio River will at Louisville Library for 2-4 months beginning Nov 24th. ORBA is a sponsor.

*Transportation WB:*

- Cline Jones, Executive Director of the Tennessee River Valley Association, has joined the Working Group. Others are being recruited.
- Lock Maintenance:
  - Emsworth Lock: Main Chamber under repairs has been extended through December 2nd.
  - Hannibal Lock: Auxiliary Chamber to close for repairs November 21st through December 22nd.
  - Greenup Lock: Main Chamber is scheduled for Intermittent Closures November 8th through December 18th
  - McAlpine Lock: North Chamber is closed through November 14th.
- Legislation:
  - WRDA2020: Conference negotiations are taking place between the House T&I Committee and the Senate EP&W Committee on IWTF Cost Share Change to 65% General Revenue and 35% IWTF. House WRDA has a 7 year sunset on the cost share change while the Senate makes the 65%/35% Cost Share Change permanent.
  - Continuing Resolution: With the Office of Management and Budget applying their "Least of Rule", while the government is funded under a CR, Kentucky and Chickamauga will not receive any construction funding through at least December 11th, which is the time frame for the current CR to expire.

**Unfinished Business:**

*ORBA Strategic Planning for 2020-2025 - ORBA Critical Success Factors*

- Harry recommended discontinuing work on the strategic plan at this time. Rather, based on discussions to date, subcommittees would be established that will address critical success factors. Subcommittees may include ORBA Members who are not Steering Committee Members. The needed subcommittees will be selected based on Steering Committee input. Input to date suggest they may include: Governance; Diversity Inclusion, and Equality; Communication to Elected Officials; Organizational Communications; and Summit.
- Richard suggested adding a GIS subcommittee because of its overarching importance.
- Discussion began on the purpose for the proposed subcommittees.

- (1) Governance: vet bylaws; review and improved processes being used, e.g., voting; processes for addressing conflicts; organizational sustainability. Caren noted that the Governance committee might not need to be on-going, but could be activated as needed. Initial member suggestions and volunteers: Caren, Harry

- (2) Diversity Inclusion, and Equality; increase participation with people of color and Native Americans; action plans being developed must take this into consideration; identify and share tools, research, and information that would be help for for all teams. Some of the existing tools include Environmental Justice screen (<https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen>) and the CDC Social Vulnerability Index (<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/svi/index.html>). Environmental justice values must be incorporated into everything. These should be made more specific and concrete. Initial member suggestions and volunteers: Annie, Heather, Harry Jim, and Jordan
- (3) Communication to Elected Officials: Organizaing visits to Capitol Hill. This would include legal guidance for supporting a bill - advocacy versus lobbying. Initial member suggestions and volunteers: Jordan, Richard, Caren, Craig, Harry, Chuck, Mekayle
- (4) Organizational Communications: This would include social media; updated ORBA handout piece; defining messages and messengers. Initial volunteers: working group leaders can speak. Initial member suggestions and volunteers: Heather, Harry, John, Jordan, David, and Lisa Cochran
- (5) Summit Planning. Initial member suggestions and volunteers: Heather
- (6) GIS

- Further discussion was tabled until the next meeting. Opportunities for input on the charge to the subcommittees will be provided to the Steering Committee and advisors before the next meeting.

*Partnerships with Mitigation Banks* (tabled) [Per John King, drop from the agenda.]

*Organize visits to Capitol hill* (tabled) [Chair recommendation: Move to appropriate subcommittee.]

## **New Business:**

### *Steering Committee Advisors*

Harry sent an e-mail to those included currently as ORBA Advisors to determine interest in continuing in that role. Eight people responded in the affirmative.

**DECISION:** Harry proposed, and the Steering Committee approved, a slate of Advisors to the Steering Committee:

- Peter J. Cinotto, Associate Director, Kentucky, USGS Ohio-Indiana-Kentucky Water Science Center
- Jeff Frey, Associate Director - Indiana Operations, USGS Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Water Science Center
- Michael J. Donahue, Ph.D., Vice President, Water Resources and Environmental Services, Director, National Coastal and Ecosystem Restoration Practice, AECOM
- Gus Drum, USACE (retired)
- Dr. Hank Jarboe, Water Resources Planner, Great Lakes and Ohio River Division
- Jim Lazorchak, Aquatic Biologist. U.S. EPA
- Brewster Rhoads, Brewster Rhoads & Associates
- Brandon R. Brummett, P.E., PMP, Outreach Coordinator, Louisville District, US Army Corps of Engineers

*ORBA Update*

Harry reported that the ORBA Update is opened by about 40% of recipients. He is seeking ideas on how to improved the update. He also expressed interest in recruiting an assistant to help with communications.

**Adjournment:** Approximately 2 PM

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**Actions assigned:**

Task	Person Responsible	Due
Help Treasurer to establish process to get the financial report from ORSANCO	Richard Harrison	ASAP
Send media release and what is published by news outlets	Harry Stone	No date

Certified as approved:



Harry J. Stone, Ph.D., ORBA Steering Committee Chairperson