

ORBA Steering Committee Notes

February 26, 2018

Items for Discussion:

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 (Chuck Somerville) -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)
- Enterprise and Infrastructure (Kari Mackenbach)

Unfinished business

- Working Groups and Charters Required by Bylaws
- Outreach plan to engage more organizations/individuals in ORBA to collaborate on high priority challenges
- Status of proposal for Ohio River Basin Initiative
- Securing a near-term win: impact of loss of pool and prioritization of 2009 ORB Recon recommendations
- Planning for 2018 ORBA Summit

New business

Adjourn

Call to Order

Roll Call

Present: Harry Stone, Chris Lorentz, Chuck Somerville, Laurel Cornell, Richard Harrison, Sarah Hippensteel Hall, Megan Thompson, Heather Mayfield

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted by consensus.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the minutes from the 22 January 2018 by consensus.

Report from the Chairperson

Two calls with USACE planners from the four districts were held to seek ORBA input on water resource priorities for potential inclusion in the FY 2020 budget. Your Chairperson called various organizations to get input. However, it was clear that we needed longer lead time and a process to provide such input. The Chair asked that the Steering Committee begin thinking now about the best way to coordinate input to the federal budget requests. A key aspect will be completion of the ORB strategic plan. The Chairperson will work through Working Group leaders to seek input on process and priorities for input to decision makers.

ORBA Members Dr. Jeane Van Briesen and Dr. Deborah Lange (Carnegie Mellon University) will lead a special session entitled, Ohio River Headwaters: Local Issues and National Significance at the 2018 Universities Council on Water Resources/National Institute of Water Resources Conference on June 26th in Pittsburgh, PA. Dr. Chuck Somerville submitted an abstract on behalf of Dr. Harry Stone for a presentation on the Ohio River Basin Alliance initiative; it was accepted.

A motion was made and approved by consensus for Harry Stone to make the presentation on behalf of ORBA. It was approved for Harry Stone to be reimbursed for the travel expenses.

Inland Rivers Ports and Terminals (IRPT) is holding its 2018 National Conference in Cincinnati in April. As part of this annual conference on Thursday, April 26 IRPT will host Shippers Day and invite industry to learn about river transportation. The Chairperson will share this invitation with ORBA members.

Reports from other committee members

Update from Financial Chairperson (Brian Farkas)

- Transfer underway

Update from Website Team (Sherry Adams/Gus Drum/Chuck Somerville/John King)

- Update summit

Update from AWI Liaison (Chuck Somerville)

- Chuck indicated that AWI is planning to spin off as a separate 501(c)(3). They are pursuing marketing research as part of this effort.

Update from ORBCRE Liaison (Chris Lorentz)

- Chris announced the joint meeting with ORBA in October 2018. Thomas More College is also hosting the ORBCE Board meeting in June at Field Station.

Reports from the working group leaders

- Sustainable Growth And Competitiveness (Harry Stone)
 - No report
- Water Quality, Availability and Management (Ted Lozier/Richard Harrison)
 - Richard reported on the Commission meeting. He provided an update on ORBA to the technical committee. The technical committee provides a focal point for the Water Quality, Availability, and Management Working Group. Discussions centered around GIS for the basin and jump-starting the water resources effort for the basin. The Corps climate change report was also discussed.
 - Follow up is planned with EPRI to explore interest in projects around climate change with power industry.
 - Mapping conversations will be coordinated with USACE and others.
 - Rich Cogen, chair of the Watersheds Advisory Group, will be asked to consider expanding efforts to be ORBA's contact for watershed groups and citizen science.
- Restoration and Protection (Sarah Hippensteel Hall)
 - No Report, but will schedule a teleconference.
- Enterprise and Infrastructure (Kari Mackenbach)
 - No report

Unfinished Business

- Working Groups and Charters Required by Bylaws
- The Restoration and Protection Charter was approved by consensus. All four working groups now have a charter.
- Status of proposal for Ohio River Basin Initiative
- The proposal to the Heinz Endowments for funding to support Ohio River Basin strategic planning will be submitted through the Foundation for Ohio River Education on behalf of ORBA. Please let the Chairperson know of any in-kind or cash contributions, including offers of sites for focus groups.
- Securing a near-term win: Ideas welcomed regarding ORBA actions that could result in near-term wins.
- Planning for 2018 ORBA Summit
- The dates for the 2018 ORBCRE Symposium and ORBA Summit have been confirmed for October 17-19. This joint meeting will be held on the main campus of Thomas More College, with field trips to various other locations. (NOTE: This is a couple of weeks before the International Symposium of the North American Lake Management Society which will be held in Cincinnati from Oct. 30-Nov. 02.)The tentative theme for the

conference is: “Partnerships and Collaborations towards a Single Voice for the Ohio River Basin.”

New business

- The Chairperson requested advice on how to improve efforts to connect with key regional organizations. One recommendation was to use more telephone calls rather than to rely on e-mail.
- The next meeting will be on Monday, March 26, 2018 at 1:00pm.

Adjourn