

ORBA Steering Committee Notes

March 27, 2017

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 (Sherry Adams/Gus Drum/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 Availability and Management (Ted Lozier)
 - Restoration and Protection (Sarah Hippensteel Hall)
 - Enterprise and Infrastructure (Kari Mackenbach)
- Unfinished business (45 minutes)
 - Status of Thomas More College fiscal sponsorship
 - Status of proposal for Ohio River Basin Initiative
 - ORBA 2017 Summit agenda and logistics planning (Chuck Somerville/Chris Lorentz)
 - Outreach plan to engage more organizations/individuals in ORBA to collaborate on high priority challenges
 - Need for communications and public relations leadership
- New business
- Adjournment

Call to Order

Roll Call

Present: Harry Stone, Mike Steinmaus, Chris Lorentz, Ted Lozier, Sarah Hippensteel Hall, Brian Farkas, Megan Thompson, Brandon Brummett, Richard Harrison, Jim Lazorchak

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted by consensus.

Approval of minutes from the previous meeting

Minutes for February 27, 2017 were approved with the following change:

The following line was deleted from the Chairperson's report:

"If possible, the CEO of Rural Action, Michelle Decker, and I would like to highlight the work our organization has undertaken that has applicability to ORBA's evolving role and the challenges identified."

Report from the Chairperson

- Along with USACE Louisville district leadership, Harry met with Kentucky Secretary of Energy and Environment Cabinet Snavely and Deputy Secretary Bruce Scott on March 7 in Frankfort, KY to introduce ORBA and explore ways to work with states. Deputy Secretary Scott is also an ORSANCO Commissioner. Introduction went well - lots of questions. A follow-up meeting is anticipated.
- Harry had a teleconference with Rural Action CEO Michelle DECKER and Terry Van Offeren on March 7, 2017 to discuss the work that they were doing and to discuss their interest in greater connection with ORBA. They are particularly interested in collaboration that can lead to restoration tied to economic development in coal country.
- Richard Harrison, Executive Director of ORSANCO, and Harry have had good dialogue over the past month looking for a way to make this successful. Richard initiated a meeting with COL Secrist, to include some ORSANCO Commissioners and Harry to discuss a way forward for developing a common forum to synchronize Ohio River Basin messages and resources. The Huntington District is hosting the meeting on April 12. If additional Steering Committee Members would like to participate in that meeting, please let me know and Harry will request an invitation.
- Harry attended the website review in Huntington on March 13 along with Chuck Somerville and John King with Laurel Cornell joining by webinar.
- Harry has secured an e-mail address to use on the website: OhioRiverBasinAlliance1@gmail.com.
- Harry learned that the USACE had meeting with legislators in early March and there is much interest from Congressional Members in knowing the Ohio River Basin priority challenges.

Reports from other committee members

Financial Chairperson (Brian Farkas)

- Nothing new to report.

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

- There was a website review in Huntington on March 13.
- Committee would like to see screen shots of the website.

AWI Liaison (Chuck Somerville)

- Chuck was unavailable.

ORBCRE Liaison (Chris Lorentz)

- Nothing new to report.

Reports from working group leaders

Sustainable Growth and Competitiveness (Harry Stone)

- Webinar was held on March 9 by USACE - Mike Saffran on GIS Resource Atlas as a Common Platform for Ohio River Basin Data and Communication
- Want to establish a user group.
- Postponed pursuing other outreach and seeking champions until the website is up. We need the website for credibility when talking to organizations that do not know ORBA.

Water Availability and Management (Ted Lozier)

- No report.
- Would like to talk about thoughts and ideas for moving forward. Will be holding a teleconference. Utica and Marcelles Shale drilling are picking up, and need to think about supplying water to that industry.

Restoration and Protection (Sarah Hippensteel Hall)

- Based on input from the December meeting there are plans to engage the volunteers in a call in April. Will then move forward with ideas.
- Harry was requested to send the most updated list. Harry agreed to send each working group leader their updated group.

Enterprise and Infrastructure (Kari Mackenbach)

- Kari was unavailable.

Unfinished Business

- Status of Thomas More College fiscal sponsorship
 - The President of Thomas More College approved the draft agreement. The ORBA Steering Committee by consensus approved the draft agreement pending legal review. The Chairperson was authorized to get a legal review of the document and recommendations on incorporation.
- Status of proposal for Ohio River Basin Restoration Initiative
 - The Initiative, being led by Kentucky, is still moving forward - although slowly.
- ORBA 2017 Summit agenda and logistics planning (Chuck Somerville/Chris Lorentz)
 - Outreach plan to engage more organizations/individuals in ORBA to collaborate on high priority challenges
 - We still need to recruit a few champions.
 - We need to help identify and engage strategic organizations - as soon as the website is up.

- Below is the current list of ORBA High Priority Regional Challenges showing champions or suggestions for identifying champions.
 - Collaborative Development of Regional Flood Risk Assessment and Actionable Priorities
 - [Brandon Brummett - USACE]
 - ORBA High Priority Regional Challenges: Regional Collaboration Related to Intermodal Transportation Nodes and Freight Plans; Inland Navigation Capital Development Plan (WRDA)
 - [NEED THIS PERSON - Recommendation from Marty? Jay Ruble? Appalachian Regional Commission?]
 - ORBA High Priority Regional Challenge: Collaboration for Regional Restoration and Protection Prioritization, Planning, and Execution
 - [Chris Lorentz, Thomas More College]
 - ORBA High Priority Regional Challenges: Regional Market Development for Ohio River Basin Recreation and Tourism; GIS Resource Atlas as a Common Platform for Ohio River Basin Data and Communication
 - [Mike Saffran, USACE]
 - ORBA High Priority Regional Challenge: Regional Marketing of ORB to Industry Needing Low-cost Energy, Water (consumptive or non-consumptive), and Water Transportation
 - [John Molinaro, Appalachian Partnership for Economic Growth]
 - AWI Goal: Abundant Clean Water: Ensure the quality and quantity of water in the [Ohio River Basin] is adequate to support the economic, social and environmental functions that are dependent on it.
 - ORBA High Priority Regional Challenges:
 - Regional Training and Data Quality Program for Volunteers (Citizen Science);
 - Regional Water Quality Monitoring Capital Development Plan;
 - Regional Development of Approaches for Converting Excess Nutrients to Profit
 - [NEED THESE PEOPLE. Could ORSANCO help with these?]
- Chris Lorentz announced the National Fish Habitat Partnership Meeting is to be held on May 31st- June 1st at Thomas More College Focused on restoration projects. This is an open meeting he will share with ORBA.
- Website is approved and ready to go live. Website suggestion (for the future) to incorporate logos of collaborating organizations with a live link to their website. This will need to be coordinated with other organizations and ORBA can ask for reciprocal placement of its logo.
- Need for communications and public relations leadership

New Business

There was no new business.

Adjournment