

ORBA Steering Committee Notes

June 26, 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 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
- ORBA Travel Policy

New business

- Working Groups and Charters Required by Bylaws

Adjournment

Call to Order

Roll Call

Present: Harry Stone, John King, Chuck Somerville, Sarah Hippensteel Hall, Brian Farkas, Chris Lorentz, Ted Lozier, Mike Steinmaus, John Stark, Kari Mackenbach, Richard Harrison, Meagan Barnes, Megan Thomson, Brandon, Jim Lazorchak.

Meagan Barnes introduced Superior Marine - Port of South Point IRPT. She chairs the ORB private sector group.

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted by consensus.

Approval of minutes from the previous meeting

Approval of the minutes by consensus.

Report from the Chairperson- Harry Stone

Presented on regional collaboration at first multistate Silver Jackets Meeting. Well received. Looking to expand region-wide and actively engaged in identifying regional challenges. (Brandon)

Meeting with USACE Stakeholders this week Richard Harrison and I.

Steering Committee Meeting will be chaired by Chuck in July. Harry asked to be excused

Reports from other committee members

Update from Financial Chairperson (Brian Farkas)

- No change from last month

Update from Website Team (Megan Thompson/Chuck Somerville/John King)

- Still need to get website moved. Chuck is working on it.

Update from AWI Liaison (Chuck Somerville).

- Report card subcommittee met on Wed. Early on working on details for 2020. Much up in the air. 3 parts - goal area grades; recommendations to raise the grade, and reports on good things in the basin. Interactions - where are efficient levers? Full meeting next Tuesday. 2015 version - decision made that the same database should be used in each basin. That hampered the grade determinations. Changing this to best data in each basin. Use only basin-wide experts for best data for each basin.

Update from ORBCRE Liaison (Chris Lorentz).

- No report - few emails. Want to collaborate. Terry coming down on Friday. More details to follow.

Reports from the working group leaders

Sustainable Growth and Competitiveness (Harry Stone)

- Harry sought collaborations for Regional Market Development for Ohio River Basin Recreation and Tourism. Kostas Skordas had told Harry about the Appalachian Regional Commission Tourism Advisory Council. In 2002, ARC formed an advisory council to help leverage regional collaboration to increase tourism in the Appalachian Region. The ARC Tourism Advisory Council works to identify and conduct activities that add value

to Appalachian states, attract multiple partners, and economically benefit Appalachian communities. Council members include representatives from all 13 Appalachian states.

- Development strategies include:
 - Capitalizing on traditional arts, culture, and heritage.
 - Leveraging ecological assets for outdoor sports such as fishing, camping, white-water rafting, and rock climbing.
 - Helping communities build stronger local food systems to revitalize their economies, improve public health, create jobs, and spur entrepreneurship.
 - Adding value to farming through specialized agricultural development, including processing specialty food items, fish farming, and organic farming.
 - Getting the most from hardwood forests by maximizing sustainable timber harvesting and value-added processing.
 - Encouraging the development of local leadership and civic entrepreneurs.
 - Converting overlooked and underused facilities into industrial parks, business incubators, or educational facilities.

- Mr. Skoda's introduced Harry to Diane Lautenschleger, Council member. She heads Partnership Development for Tuscarawas County Convention & Visitors Bureau

- Diane confirmed that there is no one point of contact for tourism in this area because of the crossover of state lines. Generally speaking, it each state is constantly looking to grow tourism through outdoor recreation offerings.

- Would tourism wish to work with ORBA to develop marketing from a new regional perspective? Is it worth ORBA's time to consider this? Absolutely. Is there any one point of contact- no. However, a new marketing collaborative to boost regional tourism sales, certainly sounds like a project worthy of everyone's consideration. Funding will always be a factor too in making the decision to market.

- Water Availability and Management (Ted Lozier)
 - Working to bring ORSANCO into the lead related to water quality; collaboration through their water management committee.

 - Working with Commission to improve collaboration with ORBA. Focus work already done by ORSANCO. 250 folks in collaborations in water quality priorities.

- Restoration and Protection (Sarah Hippensteel Hall)
 - Moving efforts forward.
 - Working to come up with priorities.

- Enterprise and Infrastructure (Kari Mackenbach)
 - Mr. Hercik made ORBA aware of an emerging collaboration focused on these challenges. Mr. Hercik introduced ORBA to the champion for this collaboration, Megan Barnes, Vice President of Marketing and Development & Port of South

Point Manager at Superior Marine Ways, Inc. Ms. Barnes is a leader in the effort to unify a coalition with a single voice to speak for the waterway in the central Ohio River Basin. In a subsequent communication, Ms. Barnes described their efforts as based with the national organization of Inland Rivers, Ports and Terminals (IRPT), Central Ohio River Business Association, Huntington District Waterways Association, and the Waterways Association of Pittsburgh. They are utilizing the long-time existing infrastructure to collaborate and focus on specific projects for the Ohio River Basin collectively. Increasing tonnage through new ventures is a focus of the group. ORBA was encouraged to engage with them. A meeting of the group is scheduled for August 8 in South Point, Ohio.

Unfinished business

- Status of fiscal sponsorship
 - Previously approved Thomas More College fiscal sponsorship, pending a legal review of the agreements. Wendy Radcliff, Attorney at Law reviewed the document on May 23, 2017. Her opinion was that no changes were needed in the ORBA fiscal sponsorship agreement with Thomas More College. Looks good for ORBA. Fees seem reasonable.
 - Ms. Radcliff said that ORBA does not need a 501(c)(3) structure. The relationship with Thomas More College is all that is needed and the agreement is clean and attractive with a clear method for severing ties. Any additional things that are needed can be built into bylaws - e.g., build fiduciary responsibility into bylaws.
 - During the last month ORSANCO Commission voted to try to negotiate a fiscal sponsorship agreement with ORBA. Richard has suggested that ORBA delay the agreement with TMC given the pending negotiations. TMC has offered to serve as a bridge while ORSANCO works on an offer to ORBA. (It will need to include the Foundation for Ohio River Education to provide the 501(c)(3), so there may be some complexities.)
- ORSANCO brings close association with states. KY involved - strong desire for ORSANCO to be engage. No fatal flaws. Positive vibes from Commission.
- Motion to approve the TMC agreement was tabled until August to provide time to negotiate the ORSANCO agreement.
- Status of proposal for Ohio River Basin Initiative
 - Still in process
- 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 (reported elsewhere)
- ORBA Travel Policy

- ACTION: Revise and Approve

New Business

- Working Groups and Charters Required by Bylaws
- ORBIT Meeting
 - USACE interest in ORBA meeting in conjunction with the Ohio River Basin Inspection Tour (ORBIT) October 17 - 19 in Pittsburgh.
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Adjournment