

# ORBA Steering Committee Notes

## July 23, 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 (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
  - Planning for 2018 ORBA Summit
  - Outreach plan to engage more organizations/individuals in ORBA to collaborate on high priority challenges -Status of proposal for Ohio River Basin Initiative
  
- New business
- Adjourn

### Call to Order

### Roll Call

Present: Richard Harrison, Chuck Somerville, Mike Steinmaus, Jim Lazorchak, Heather Mayfield, Kari Mackenbach, Megan Thompson

### Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted by consensus.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Voting needs to take place on the minutes from April and June, approval was tabled until next meeting.

## **Report from the Chairperson**

Harry Stone was unable to attend the call, but sent the following report via email. This report was discussed during the call.

(1) I presented ORBA and our strategy development approach to the Ohio River Fisheries Management Team in Dayton, OH on July 10. This group, consists of Fisheries Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs from the basin states (Tennessee River Valley was not represented). I invited their engagement with ORBA specifically to help us identify the regional challenges, priorities, strategies, and near term actions needed to address regional fisheries challenges. This was to be discussed in their business meeting. I also presented ORBA and our strategy development approach in a panel at the University Council on Water Resources in Pittsburgh on June 26th. Potential reinvigoration of the Headwaters Resource Council is being explored by Deborah Lange (Carnegie Mellon University) that could be an important collaboration on water resource issues for input to the Ohio River Basin strategy.

(I will separately send you a portion of a presentation that shows the regional collaborations we are currently engaging at some level - some are much more engaged than others. It also includes the priorities that are formally being communicated by some of these collaborations. This may be helpful in today's discussions of ORBA gaps.)

(2) Chris Lorentz (Thomas More Center for Ohio River Research and Education), Heather Mayfield (Foundation for Ohio River Education), Rich Cogen (Ohio River Foundation), and Terry Chang (Ohio River Basin Consortium for Research and Education) are collaborating on the potential to establish an ORBA Research and Education Working Group. I will stay in touch with their effort and, if appropriate, assist them in preparing a draft charter for our Steering Committee to review and approve.

(3) I have sent an e-mail to those Steering Committee Members whose terms expire this year to determine if they would like to be nominated for the 2019-2021 term. John Stark (TNC), who has served faithfully for many years, indicated that he will not stand for election because of demands of a Great Lakes Fisheries Project. To date, I have not heard back from anyone else. If your term is ending, please let me know if you wish to be nominated for the next term.

(4) A meeting with Carey Johnson and other Kentucky folks, Amy Babey and other USACE folks, Richard Harrison (ORSANCO), and me (ORBA) is planned for Frankfort, KY on July 31 to continue partnership discussions with Kentucky for a possible USACE PAS study to complete the initial strategic planning for the Ohio River Basin Restoration Initiative.

(5) The Silver Jackets are funded to develop and execute a flood risk management workshop. They are shaping the workshop around ORBA's goals and needs. Many on the planning

committee are ORBA Members and ORBA is formally invited to participate in the planning. The output from the workshop will be an important addition to the Ohio River Basin strategy.

(6) Molly Woloszyn, Regional Drought Information Coordinator (NOAA), has introduced ORBA to the regional strategy for the Drought Early Warning System. Doug Kluck (NOAA) regularly provides links to "This Week on Climate.org" and "Monthly North Central U.S. Climate and Drought Update Webinar Series". Drought seems to fit as an element related to the Climate Change Adaptation goal.

(7) ORBA has about 200 active members. Of these, 141 have signed onto MailChimp or are @usace.army.mil <Blockedhttp://usace.army.mil> who cannot sign onto MailChimp. I will follow up with the roughly 60 people other members to ensure that we do not lose them.

### **Reports from other committee members**

- Update from Financial Chairperson (Brian Farkas)
  - N/A
- Update from Website Team (Megan Thompson/Chuck Somerville/John King)
  - Need to update Steering Committee members on the website.
- Update from AWI Liaison (Chuck Somerville)
  - AWI is now its own 501(c)(3). Working on raising money for a \$5,000 start, will then need a \$250,000 operating budget. Need a subgroup to work on marketing.
- Update from ORBCRE Liaison (Chris Lorentz)
  - N/A

### **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 GIS water atlas development. It is compatible with other Federal partners. Need to engage with headwaters groups. Working on funding.
  - ORSANCO's role in developing pollution control standards redundant with the Clean Water Act and NPDES. There is a hearing on this in Erlanger, KY. ORBA will stay neutral on this topic.
- Restoration and Protection (Sarah Hippensteel Hall/Chris Lorentz)
  - No Report
- Enterprise and Infrastructure (Kari Mackenbach)
  - Kari is working with Mike Donahue to determine what Enterprise and Infrastructure should be focusing on and how we should prioritize the needs.

### **Unfinished business**

- Planning for 2018 ORBA Summit
  - Heather gave an update on the ORBA Summit planning.
  - Abstracts will be due on 1 August 2018.
  - Field trips are set.
  - The Banquet will be on a sternwheeler.

- Seeking sponsorships. There is information about this on the website
- The keynote speaker has been arranged.
- Working on hotel room rates.
- ORBA Working Groups will have a session on Friday. We will discuss where do we go from here and keeping connections strong.

### **New business**

- Steering Committee will meet before the Summit on October 17<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-7:00pm. Discussion on using ORBA funds to cover a meal for the 13 Steering Committee members.
- Steering Committee business meeting with Working Groups. There will be a quick meeting around noon on Friday, no lunch.
- Harry has asked for nominations for the Steering Committee.
- An update was given on the Planning Assistance to States project with USACE.
- The next meeting will be on Monday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 1:00pm.

### **Adjourn**