

ORBA Steering Committee Notes

July 24, 2017

Items for Discussion:

Call to order

Roll call

Adoption of agenda

Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting

Report from the Chairperson (Chuck Somerville for 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

- Status of fiscal sponsorship
- 2017 Summit agenda and logistics and planning
- Working Groups and Charters Required by Bylaws
- ORBA Travel Policy
- Identification of regional resource-based economic development
- ORBA presentation at ORBIT
- Outreach
- Ohio River Basin Initiative

New business

Adjournment

Call to Order

Roll Call

Present: Brandon Brummett, Laurel Cornell, Richard Harrison, Megan Thompson, Sarah Hall, Jeff Frey, Ted Lozier, John King, Chuck Somerville

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- Chuck Somerville for Harry Stone

The Chair's Report introduced three topics that were discussed in more detail later in the meeting:

1. The ORBA/ORBCRE joint symposium (draft schedule, call for abstracts, and registration form sent to Steering Committee members prior to the call);
2. The website www.ohioriverbasinalliance.com is now properly redirecting to www.lrh.usace.army.mil/Missions/ORBA/;
3. The sponsorship agreements provided by Thomas More College and ORSANCO.

Reports from other committee members

Update from Financial Chairperson (Brian Farkas)

- Brian was unable to join the call today, but did distribute the edited draft version of the travel policy Update from

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

- Chuck noted again that the “.com” website was properly redirecting to the USACE-hosted site. John King asked that the full climate change study be linked to the site. Chuck asked that a reminder of the early registration deadline be added to the ORBA calendar, and that the symposium Call for Abstracts, and Registration documents be linked to the website to the right of the calendar.

Update from AWI Liaison (Chuck Somerville).

- Chuck shared two screen shots that represented recent discussions about the AWI 2020 report card. The first screen shot indicates that changes anticipated from the 2015 to the 2020 report card, and the second screen shot shows the relationships among the goal areas, if all goals are determined to impact either Economy, Ecosystem Health, or both. The idea of the relationship diagram is that it can help to inform which management decisions will have the most far-reaching impacts. Asked for an example, Chuck mentioned how Recreation/Tourism directly impacts Economy, and that negative impacts on Ecosystem Health can result in negative economic impacts, whereas positive improvements in Ecosystem Health can have positive economic impacts via tourism.

Update from ORBCRE Liaison (Chris Lorentz).

- No report

Reports from the working group leaders

- Sustainable Growth and Competitiveness (Harry Stone)
 - No Report
- Water Availability and Management (Ted Lozier)
 - Ted mentioned that he has been working with Harry to arrange for ORSANCO representation in panel discussions scheduled for the ORBA/ORBCRE meetings
- Restoration and Protection (Sarah Hippensteel Hall)
 - Sarah has reached out to Chris Lorentz.
 - Working with others is the best approach to move priorities forward.
- Enterprise and Infrastructure (Kari Mackenbach)
 - No Report

Unfinished business

- **Thomas More College and ORSANCO fiscal sponsorship offers** – The text of the two proposed sponsorship agreements was distributed the evening before the call. Chris Lorentz was not on the phone, so he could not comment on the Thomas More proposal. Chuck asked Richard Harrison if he wanted to make any comments about the ORSANCO proposal. Richard commented that the ORSANCO agreement was patterned on, and was very similar to, the agreement prepared by Thomas More. Chuck noted that the overhead rate for contracts was specified in both proposals, but that the Indirect Cost Recovery Rate (ICRR) was not specified. The ICRR would be come into play for grants submitted via the fiscal sponsor. Chuck suggested that the ICRR would need to be known for each potential sponsor in order to make a final decision. Chuck urged SC members to read the proposals and be prepared to vote at the next meeting.
- **ORBA 2017 Summit agenda and logistics planning (Chuck Somerville/Chris Lorentz)** – The draft schedule for the ORBCRE/ORBA meeting was distributed the night before the call, and Chuck quickly reviewed the planned events, sessions and meals. Chuck also shared the Call for Abstracts, and the Registration form. Chuck noted that two three invitations had been made for Keynote speaker, but all had been unable to accept. He asked for recommendations.
- **Working Groups and Charters Required by Bylaws** – the draft bylaws for the Sustainable Growth & Competitiveness work group were distributed the evening before the call, and Chuck reminded working group leaders to produce bylaws for their groups.
- **ORBA Travel Policy** – Brian Farkas was unable to join the call, but did distribute the edited draft of the travel policy. Chuck asked the Steering Committee to review it, and commented that the policy was very close to being ready for adoption. He suggested that Steering Committee members read the document and be prepared to vote on it at the next call.
- **Approach to develop ORBA identification of regional resource-based economic development** – Harry's document entitled Areas for Ohio River Basin Blue Collar Job Potential was distributed the evening before the call. The document was not discussed on the call.

- **ORBA presentation at ORBIT** – The Ohio River Basin Inspection Tour (ORBIT) Concept Plan for 2017 was distributed the evening before the teleconference. It was discussed briefly in conjunction with comments from Richard Harrison and Brandon Brummett (see under new business).
- **Outreach plan to engage more organizations/individuals in ORBA to collaborate on high priority challenges** – not discussed
- **Status of proposal for Ohio River Basin Initiative** (no update)
- **Need for communications and public relations leadership** (tabled until fiscal sponsorship is in place)

New Business

- Richard Harrison reported on a stakeholder collaboration meeting held on 29 June that was attended by him, Brandon Brummett and Harry Stone. He noted that there were representatives present from USACE Huntington and Louisville, the barge industry, congressional staff, along with other stakeholders. Richard suggested that ORBA should participate in creating a document that clearly communicates ORBA actions in each of the strategic goal areas.
- Harry will attend the ORSANCO meeting to be held in Columbus in October
- The goal of the USACE Ohio River Basin Inspection Tour (ORBIT) will be to identify and connect with a broader range of stakeholders outside of the Louisville District. ORBA is expected to participate and present during ORBIT
- Richard Harrison attended a meeting about the Allegheny Front radio program (<http://www.alleghenyfront.org/about/>), which is producing a 6-month long series of programs on headwaters in the ORB. There may be an opportunity for ORBA to contribute to the series. Richard mentioned that the House of Representatives' budget did not eliminate categorical grants to states, unlike the President's budget.
- John King and Sarah Hall provided recommendations about people who might be interested in hosting a panel of recreation and tourism at the ORBA/ORBCRE meeting in September
- John King mentioned that some WV ORB cities were exploring the formation of a collaborative to increase tourism opportunities and marketing. Chuck suggested that John contact the Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative (MRCTI) for guidance.
- Jeff Frey mentioned that MRCTI was considering expanding membership into the ORB
- Jeff Frey mentioned that KY, IN and OH water centers were combined [in process of combining], which will provide better opportunities to work across state borders.
- Richard Harrison suggested that ORBA reach out to USGS to invite participation in the September meeting

Adjournment