



OHIO RIVER BASIN
ALLIANCE

Reliable Flood Control and Risk Reduction

Approved by the

Ohio River Basin Alliance Steering Committee

on

27 July 2020

and

Amended 5 October 2020 as required:

- (1) To match the language of the final Plan for the Ohio River Basin; and
- (2) To include Working Group Members by reference to the *List of Working Group Members Appointed by the Steering Committee* in the Steering Committee records.

Table of Contents

Reliable Flood Control and Risk Reduction	1
1. Purpose	3
2. Working Group Leader	3
3. Working Group Members	3
4. Requirements for All Working Groups	3
5. Charge from Steering Committee to Flood Working Group:	3
6. Deliverables and Milestones	5
7. Duration	6
8. Participation	6

1. Purpose

This Working Group is created by the ORBA Steering Committee (ORBA Bylaws VIII(a)) for the purpose of executing ORBA's role with respect to the Reliable Flood Control and Risk Reduction (hereinafter referenced as "Flood") goal of the Ohio River Basin Strategy. This documents the Steering Committee's charge to the Working Group as required by the ORBA Bylaws VIII(d).

2. Working Group Leader

In accordance with ORBA Bylaws VIII(a)(2), the Steering Committee appoints Dr. Sarah Hippensteel Hall to serve for a period of two years, corresponding to the period of performance of this charter, as the Leader of the Flood Working Group. The Working Group Leader is an ex officio voting Member of the ORBA Steering Committee during their tenure (ORBA Bylaws VIII(a)(2)).

3. Working Group Members

Working Group Members are ORBA Members meeting the qualifications of ORBA Bylaws VIII(a)(1) who are selected to serve a two year term (ORBA Bylaws VIII(a)) corresponding to the period of performance of this charter.

The Flood Working Group Members are included by reference to the *List of Working Group Members Appointed by the Steering Committee* in the Steering Committee records.

4. Requirements for All Working Groups

Working Groups shall (Bylaws VIII(b - d)):

- Meet or conduct conference calls at the request of their Leader to study, advise, and report on the specific charges from the Steering Committee;
- Keep and submit within 30 days to the Steering Committee written minutes of meetings and conference calls;
- Report to the Steering Committee during monthly calls; and
- Execute the charge from the Steering Committee.

Note Bylaws VIII(c): All written reports shall be submitted to the Steering Committee and no report shall be published or released for public information without approval from the Steering Committee.

5. Charge from Steering Committee to Flood Working Group:

The Flood Working Group is charged with developing and executing a detailed action plan to accomplish the following strategic actions in the Ohio River Basin Strategy. Action plans must include ownership (what organization and person) responsible to carry out the action; key organizations collaborating on execution; action steps specifying responsible person; funding source; start and end dates; and milestones.

- Serve as ORBA's liaison to leadership of each strategic action for this goal, keeping the Steering Committee apprised of progress and opportunities for ORBA to be supportive of strategic actions.

-

Objective 1: By 2025, prepare a Basin-wide investment plan that addresses high flood risk areas, including areas where dams and local protection projects exist.

Strategic Actions:

- Advocate for the preparation of a Basin-wide reinvestment plan that addresses the existing Corps-designed and constructed flood risk management structures including both single-purpose dams, multi-purpose reservoirs and local protection projects operated by third parties (USACE 2009).
- Examine high risk areas that may benefit from a feasibility study and structural or non-structural measures, with an emphasis on wetlands and floodplains that could reduce risk within those areas.
- Advocate for the divestiture of un-needed infrastructure (dams and levees) and potentially target for green spaces and ecosystem restoration efforts. Whenever possible, seek ways to incorporate innovative, forward thinking solutions such as green infrastructure (e.g., bio swales, green roofs, man-made wetlands, and native planting efforts) that work with nature and are better designed to handle changing climate patterns. (See Appendix 1). Examples of projects include Silver Jackets Green Infrastructure, Continuing Authority 205 projects, Dam Removal Projects, River Feasibility Studies, System Analysis and River Feasibility PAS Studies and FPMS Studies.

Objective 2: By 2025 USACE, USGS and NWS jointly prepare a Basin-wide plan to update and expand components of an adequate flood warning system incorporating climate change considerations.

Strategic Actions:

- Advocate for operation and maintenance financial support to update and expand components of the current flood warning systems, such as stream gages and other early warning systems.
- Advocate for agencies and stakeholders, to incorporate climate change considerations into flood frequency estimates and related outreach efforts (USACE 2009).
- Advocate for the update of the USACE climate change adaptation report by 2025.

Objective 3: Hold regular collaborative stakeholder meetings to discuss and identify opportunities and issues with flood risk management and increase overall communication between Flood Response Groups.

Strategic Actions:

- Encourage the Basin-wide Silver Jacket collaboration to pursue funding for a future PAS study, which would provide county Emergency Management Agencies below dams and other flood prone areas with best practices and template warning messages to ensure timely evacuations following flood warnings.
- Encourage Silver Jackets to facilitate a multi-state, collaborative approach to flood risk management that accounts for downstream impacts of rain events and explore and promote projects that consider sustainable flood risk management opportunities such as wetland restoration and removal of impervious surfaces.
- Encourage Basin-wide Silver Jackets workshops to identify collaborative opportunities for flood risk management and to share information on flood risk and flood control methods with focus on pre-disaster mitigation through non-structural methods.
- Create a centralized location for stakeholders to share data that is developed for flood related purposes.
- Advocate for Silver Jackets to encourage pre-disaster mitigation through FEMA and promote non-structural measures for flood risk management such as Basin-wide riparian tree planting and other green infrastructure, buy-outs and controlled development within the flood plain.
- Encourage USACE to develop a briefing that can be shared throughout the Basin so that Silver Jackets coordinators can educate stakeholders and the public on other USACE programs that may be beneficial to them, including Floodplain Management Services, Section 205 flood risk management projects and major flood risk management projects.

6. Deliverables and Milestones

- Working Group teleconferences or face-to-face meetings
- Timely submission of minutes to the Steering Committee
- Report on progress at the Steering Committee teleconference - monthly
- Action plan, with tasks required to complete each strategic action, including responsible person, team members, deadlines and milestones, resources needed, and success metrics - January 1, 2021
- Milestones from the action plan are incorporated by reference into these “Deliverables and Milestones.”

- Timely advice to the Steering Committee of speakers, panels and breakout groups recommended for the summits, and symposia.
- Annual written report on progress for each strategic action including milestones, success metrics, and challenges July 31, 2021 and July 31, 2022.

7. Duration

This Working Group is scheduled to last 24 months, from August 1, 2020 through July 31, 2022.

8. Participation

Participation in Working Groups is open to ORBA Members (ORBA Bylaws VIII(a)). To join a Working Group, an ORBA Member should submit an e-mail expressing interest to the ORBA Steering Committee Chairperson. The Chairperson will submit to the Steering Committee for consensus approval and, upon approval, will notify the ORBA Member and the Working Group Leader of their addition to the Working Group. Working Group Members are expected to participate in the teleconferences, meetings, and activities of the Working Group. The Working Group Leader may recommend to the Steering Committee the removal of inactive Members from the Working Group.