

# **Water Quality, Availability and Management (WQA&M) Working Group Charter**

Approved by the

Ohio River Basin Alliance Steering Committee

on

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## **1. WQA&M Working Group Mission Statement**

The Ohio River Basin Alliance WQA&M working group will support and help ensure and promote the wise use and protection of high quality, water resources within the basin. The working group will collaborate with other organizations, agencies and groups who have these parallel objectives as part of their missions, authorities, and activities that effectively manage high quality water resources to create an environment that supports: a safe and abundant water supply; aquatic life; fish consumption; recreation; economic development; transportation; flood damage reduction; to help improve the quality of life of those living, working and visiting within the Ohio River Basin.

## **2. Objectives and Deliverables**

### **The main objectives of the WQA&M Working Group are to:**

- Support ORSANCO's mission to protect the water quality of the rivers, streams and waters of the Ohio River basin.
- Incorporate Ohio River Basin water quality, availability and management recommended priorities, strategies and actions developed by the Ohio River Basin Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) leveraging its numerous partnerships and extensive stakeholder involvement process.
- Support the development of sustainable funding to help protect the water quality, availability and management of the Ohio River basin water resources.

### **Deliverables of the WQA&M Working Group include:**

- Participation with ORSANCO's Technical Committee, which meets in February, June and October of each year
- Participation with ORSANCO's Water Resources Committee, which meets semi-annually or more frequently if needed
- For each high priority, strategy or needed action developed by the Working Group
  - Utilize an existing collaboration such as ORSANCO to help identify the recommended priority, strategy or needed action.
  - Utilize the strategic organization's contact list for organizations and individuals involved in the established collaboration.
  - Effectively invite participation of such strategic organizations in the Working Group including during ORBA Summits.
  - Utilize key individuals in the water quality, availability and management arena as speakers for ORBA Summits.
  - Plan, in collaboration with the Steering Committee, and execute effective Working Group breakout panels and discussions at Summits.
  - Led by the champion and existing collaborations, define the recommended priority, strategy and needed action for the recommended priority expressed as a regional value proposition.

## **Goals and Preliminary Priorities**

Goal: Develop GIS Mapping and Data Platform for Ohio River Water Quality monitoring site mapping and associated data including Assessment and Volunteer data

*ORBA High Priority Regional Challenges:*

- Regional Training and Data Quality Program for Volunteers (Citizen Science);
- GIS Resource Atlas as a Common Platform for Ohio River Basin Data and Communication

Goal: Develop funding source for Water Management and Availability work utilizing ORSANCO's existing Water Resources Committee

*ORBA High Priority Regional Challenge:*

- To be determined

### **3. Duration**

This Working Group is scheduled to last 24 months, from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2019.

### **4. Success Criteria**

- Success will be measured by progress milestones towards developing the GIS Mapping and Data Platform that include: 1) Developing consensus among Federal Stakeholders (Corp, USGS, USEPA, etc.) towards a collaborative GIS Base Map; 2) Identifying process to add monitoring sites and adding associated assessment and volunteer water quality data; 3) Establishing a schedule for implementation.
- Develop Water Resources Committee plan and meet with funding partners.

Timely achievement of milestones listed below.

### **5. Milestones**

For the first year only:

- Minutes for quarterly teleconferences and meetings received by April 30, 2018, July 30, 2018, and October 30, 2018.
- Champions identified and recruited for each assigned preliminary high-priority challenge assigned to the Working Group by April 30, 2018.
- Identify (in collaboration with the champions and the Steering Committee) speakers for the Summit for each preliminary high-priority six months prior to the Summit.
- Vision and value proposition developed under leadership of champion for each preliminary high-priority challenge submitted to Steering Committee at a time to be determined for inclusion in the draft strategy.
- Summit panels or discussions for each high-priority challenge.

### **6. Confidentiality**

The Working Group and its meetings and discussions are open to the public. Per Section VIII(d) of the bylaws: *Working groups shall report to the Steering Committee. 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.*

## **7. Dependencies/Relationship With Other ORBA Activities**

The success of the WQA&M Working Group is heavily dependent on the active participation of ORBA members in the Working Group and on the Steering Committee coordinating with the Working Group regarding strategic planning and the planning of the 2018 Summit.

## **8. Coordination With External Groups**

The key to the successful production of strategies for the high priority challenges is the identification and effective engagement of existing collaborations (ORSANCO) focused on respective challenges. Being able to leverage their priorities and strategies will give credibility and weight as these are incorporated into the Collaborative Ohio River Basin Strategy.

## **9. Communication Mechanisms**

### Email

The mailing list for the Working Group is maintained by the Chairperson is the primary means of discussion within the group. The Chairperson will provide the mailing list to the Working Group Leader on request.

### Web

The ORBA website (<http://www.lrh.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/ORBA/>) can be used to post meetings to the calendar and to post documents after approval by the Steering Committee. The ORBA Chairperson serves as the “gatekeeper” to the website.

### Phone Meeting

The SG&C Working Group meets every quarter (time and call-in information determined quarterly) by phone for one hour.

### Face-to-face Meetings

Face to face meetings will occur at ORBA Summits.

### Communication with the Public

See Section 6 “Confidentiality”.

## **10. Voting Mechanisms**

The Working Group normally makes decisions by consensus, defined as “when no party objects to the proposed action or decision”. However, in situations where consensus cannot be reached on questions of unusual urgency, importance, or contentiousness, voting on such questions may be conducted upon the agreement of the Working Group.

## **11. Participation**

Participation in Working Groups is open to ORBA Members. 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.

## **12. How to Join the Working Group**

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.