

# BUILDING ORSANCO'S CAPACITY TO ENGAGE IN WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Commission Roundtable  
June 13, 2012

# Background

- June 2010 – Commission created the Water Resources Committee
- Feb 2011 – WRC met for the first time in Cincinnati
- Mar 2011 – Met with Pittsburgh foundations to discuss Commission's role in water resources management.
- June 2011– Second meeting of the WRC (Pittsburgh). Invited to submit proposal to foundations for funding consideration.
- Nov '11 – Apr '12 – Grants received from five foundations for Water Resources Initiative
- May '12 – WRC met for third time

# Water Resources Initiative Outline



1. Characterization Studies
  1. Water resources inventory and characterization
  2. Examination of laws and regulations
  3. Evaluation of expanded Commission role
2. Agency Visits to Build Support
3. Support of Water Resources Committee Operations

# Characterization Study #1

- Water Resources Inventory and Characterization
  1. General characterization of the water resources
  2. Quantify uses of water resources
  3. Inventory of water resources monitoring
  4. Identify critical gaps in assessment capabilities
  5. Characterize major factors which may significantly impact the sustainable use of water resources in the Basin
- Climate change, natural gas extraction, inter-basin transfers, and increased consumptive uses

# Characterization Study #2

- Examination of Laws and Regulations
  - 1. Inventory existing state and federal regulation of water resources in the Basin
  - 2. Identify gaps in existing authorities to address critical needs
    - ▣ Including inter-basin transfers, water withdrawals, and environmental flows
  - 3. Evaluate unique water management issues in the Ohio River Basin, including the headwaters region
    - ▣ Identify appropriate mechanisms to address needs

# Characterization Study #3

- Evaluation of Commission's Role in Water Resources
  - 1. Define desired Commission role in water resources management
  - 2. Identify expanded authorities necessary to fulfill the desired role
  - 3. Recommend strategy to achieve necessary authorities and propose sustainable funding mechanism

# Agency Visits to Build Support

- Primarily a travel budget to support visits to state offices and other interested parties
- Visits will serve to:
  - ▣ Keep states apprised of the Commission's activities
  - ▣ Build support through demonstration of benefits to the states of an expanded Commission role in water resources management
  - ▣ Advance Governors' MOU
  - ▣ Gather information for characterization reports and other water resources activities

# Water Resources Committee Operations

- Committee must be financially self-supporting
- Supports Committee operations during transition stage while more sustainable funding mechanisms are identified
- Allows for three meetings to be held each year
  - ▣ Can be held in conjunction with regularly scheduled Commission meetings or stand-alone meetings



# Timeline



- Total Project Period – Three Years
- Characterization studies would be front loaded
  - ▣ Completed in first 18 months
- Additional time period allows for:
  - ▣ Building states' support and implementing recommended strategies
  - ▣ Identifying and establishing sustainable funding mechanisms

# Budget

□ Characterization Studies		
1.	Water Resources Inventory	\$140,000
2.	Examination of Existing Authorities	\$40,000
3.	Expanded Commission Authorities	\$60,000
□	Agency Visits	\$60,000
□	Water Resources Committee Operations	\$100,000
□ <b>Total Budget</b>		<b>\$400,000</b>

# Foundation Support

- Total Budget - \$400,000

Current Foundation Funding Commitments				
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Colcom	\$30,000	\$30,000*		\$60,000
Heinz	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$60,000
Mellon	\$30,000	\$30,000*		\$60,000
Benedum	\$60,000			\$60,000
Pulliam	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$75,000
	\$165,000	\$105,000	\$45,000	\$315,000
*Contingent on securing full funding support				

- Funding Gap – \$85,000

# Grant Reporting Requirements

- Grants from multiple foundations
  - ▣ Each foundation has its own reporting requirements
  - ▣ Timing spread out based on when award was received
  - ▣ Translates into frequent status reports
- Status Reports
  - ▣ 6 reports due each year
  - ▣ Approximately every two months
- Final Reports due for each foundation

# Funding Prospects

- Virginia Environmental Endowment
  - ▣ Small grant possible
- Local foundations
  - ▣ Generally do not like large geographic focus
- Gund Foundation
  - ▣ Initially sounded positive; however, have elected to focus on water quality impacts associated with shale gas development
- Pittsburgh foundations suggested targeting large, national foundations
  - ▣ Coca-Cola
  - ▣ Ford Foundation
  - ▣ Others?

# WRC Meeting

- Third meeting of WRC held May 29-30, 2012
- Attendance
  - ▣ Representatives from 5 states and 3 federal agencies
- Main Discussion Topics
  - ▣ Water Resources Initiative
  - ▣ Headwaters Resource Committee
  - ▣ Special presentations
    - Corps Ohio River Basin Comprehensive Reconnaissance Report
    - Ecosystem flows study in PA
    - USGS proposal for water use inventory
  - ▣ Governors' MOU
    - Finalized language

# Governors' MOU



- Acknowledges the Ohio River Basin as a vital, shared water resource
- Serves as States' endorsement of a Commission role in water resources management
- Encourages the Commission to engage in five specific activities previously performed by the Ohio River Basin Water Resources Association

# Governors' MOU (continued)

1. Provide a forum for States to study and discuss water resources issues
2. Coordinate water resources planning and encourage coordinated and cooperative action by state and federal agencies
3. Provide representation of the regional interests of the Ohio River Basin before Congress and federal agencies
4. Investigate, study, and review water related problems and issues of interest to the States
5. Assist in providing training on effective water resources management



# Next Steps

- Continue to pursue foundation support
- Compile data for characterization reports
  - ▣ Visit state and federal agencies
- Advance MOU
  - ▣ Hold conference call to finalize procedure for signatures
  - ▣ MOU advanced for Governors' signatures
    - Support for MOU expressed by PA, OH, WV, OH, KY
- Next meeting to be held in late October



# Committee Discussion