MINUTES
224th Meeting of the Technical Committee
Virtual Meeting
October 6-7, 2020

Chairman Bruno Pigott, Presiding

Call to Order

The 224th meeting of the ORSANCO Technical Committee was called to order by Chairman Pigott at 1:00 P.M. on Tuesday, October 6, 2020. Seven states, three federal agencies, and four Commission advisory committees were represented (for Roster of Attendance see on page 11). Chairman Pigott welcomed all to ORSANCO's virtually-held meeting of the Technical Committee.

Minutes of 223rd Committee Meeting

ACTION: Motion passed to accept the minutes of the 223rd Technical Committee meeting.

Chief Engineer's Report

Director Harrison reported on the Ohio River Basin Alliance's strategic plan development, and introduced steering Committee members Dr. Harry Stone (retired) and Jordan Lubetkin with the National Wildlife Federation. The strategic plan is aimed at securing Congressional geographic program funding. ORSANCO is chairing an abundant clean water section of the Ohio River Basin Strategic Plan, and he discussed the multiple objectives of the goal. A work group has been established of the chairs of each of the plan's multiple goals. There is a need to develop a broad Ohio River Basin work group to develop the abundant clean water goal, and invitations have been sent to Technical Committee members. He then outlined the subcommittee needs for the abundant clean water goal and the implementation steps.

Director Harrison remarked that Tracy Mehan with AWWA has reached out to ORSANCO and drinking water utilities regarding the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018. The act requires approximately $4 billion be spent over ten years on agricultural source water protection activities. A call is planned to discuss the topic in more detail.

The Watershed Organization Advisory Committee has inquired as to what monitoring ORSANCO conducts related to the Petrochemical Industry on the Ohio River. In the past, ORSANCO conducted a broad scan project to monitor for over 100 constituents that are not normally sampled through ORSANCO's routine programs. Staff will be working through the Program and Finance process to repeat the broad scan process to collect data on constituents not routinely sampled.

Status of ORSANCO's Monitoring Programs Resulting from the COVID-19 Shutdown

Staff provided a status report on all of its current and planned monitoring programs resulting from the COVID-19 shutdown, including: Bimonthly/clean metals sampling, contact recreation bacteria monitoring, HABs continuous monitoring network, biological pool surveys, fish tissue contaminants, ODS and emergency response. Staff developed sampling guidelines for the protection of staff and to minimize the potential spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. In general, all field sampling activities conducted from March through early July were limited to those activities that could be completed as a day trip by a one-person field crew. Beginning in mid-July, sampling requiring a multi-person crew or overnight travel was permitted on a case-by-case basis. Activities requiring staff to work within six feet for prolonged periods have remained prohibited.

Specific program impacts as a result of the pandemic are listed below:

- Emergency Response – Some planning meetings cancelled. Full spill response readiness maintained throughout the pandemic.
- Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Continuous Monitoring – One site visit to the Markland & Newburgh stations was shifted from March to April. All sampling and site maintenance visits were completed.
- Bacteria Monitoring – No sampling was completed in April. Four of the six CSO communities were sampled in May. Five of the six communities were sampled June through October. In total, 320 of the originally planned 455 samples were collected (~70% completion).
- Organics Detection System (ODS) – Station repair visits that could be completed by a single staff member as a day-trip were completed. Repair visits requiring overnight travel resumed in September. Preventative maintenance visits were suspended during March and April. Training visits resumed in September.
- Bimonthly and Clean metals sites sampled in the months of May and July were restricted to main stem and tributary sites that could be effectively sampled by one person, in a single day. After protocols were approved for overnight travel, sampling in September returned to normal effort, save those stations with restricted access.
- The Biological Water Quality Subcommittee WQSC agreed to postpone electrofishing surveys of probabilistic pools and fixed stations until 2021, as standardized sampling methods violated safe social distancing protocols. The BWQSC agreed to a similar postponement of macroinvertebrate surveys, as they are less efficient with day-trips and smaller crews, and are most useful for assessments when paired with electrofishing and associated abiotic data. Biological staff instead focused resources to dedicated fish tissue collections which could be completed with 2 person crews adhering to distancing protocols.

Biological Programs Update

With the postponement of probabilistic and fixed station surveys to 2021, staff detailed efforts related to fish tissue collections. A sizeable gap existed in the fish tissue data to be used during the 2022 Biennial assessment, which will cover the years of 2016-2020. Staff collaborated with state and federal partners to collect necessary data from 14 of the 18 Ohio River pools prior to the end of the calendar year. Relying on day-trips, this multi-agency effort has filled half of the data gap thus far, with the remaining data scheduled for collection in October. In lieu of other normal field activities, staff participated in remote professional training efforts (e.g. taxonomy, statistics, and data management) and devoted time to biological trends analyses and equipment maintenance and upgrades. The results of the 2019 Smithland macroinvertebrate data were delayed due to staff restrictions at the contract laboratory and are currently under review by ORSANCO biologists. Staff will reconvene the Fish Consumption Advisory Group and the Biological Water Quality Subcommittee prior to next spring to discuss results and pool schedule moving forward.

Source Water Protection Programs Update

Staff provided an overview of the ongoing activities associated with the Commission's Source Water Protection and Emergency Response programs. This included an update on the Organics Detection System (ODS) detailing the operational status of the system, software upgrades and ODS equipment replacement. The Committee was also briefed on efforts to maintain spill response readiness, including updating the Commission's Emergency Response Directory and beginning efforts to develop an Industrial Intake Directory to enhance spill notification and response efforts.

Three of the 17 ODS stations remained inoperable. The St. Albans (WV) station was inoperable due to instrumentation issues; however, staff has been unable to make repairs due to facility access restrictions due to COVID. The instrumentation at Midland, PA was not functioning properly. Staff is working to make repairs to get this site back on-line. The site in Parkersburg, WV at the Chemours was functional, but was not being run by facility staff due to COVID staff restrictions. Two additional sites (Hays Mine on the Monongahela and West View in Pittsburgh) were operational, but were running at limited capacity due to staff restrictions from COVID.

Software upgrades were completed at the ODS sites in Louisville and Evansville. Additional upgrades will be made after the new year at the stations in Huntington and Wheeling, WV.

Two CMS 5000 gas chromatographs (GC) are scheduled to be purchased in FY21. The first has been ordered and should arrive in October. This unit is scheduled to replace the GC at Ashland, KY. The second unit will be used as a backup unit to quickly swap out units when they need to be repaired. This will greatly reduce the instrument down-time when units malfunction.

Many of the Emergency Response planning meetings scheduled for spring 2020 were cancelled due to the pandemic. The Commission staff, however, maintained full readiness to respond to spills as needed. Fortunately, no major spills requiring an ORSANCO field response occurred since the pandemic started. Staff is also nearing completion on an updated Emergency Response Directory and is in the beginning stages of developing an inventory of industrial intakes along the Ohio River.

Harmful Algae Blooms

Staff presented the updated HAB Monitoring, Response and Communications Plan, which has gone through its first full update since 2016. The updates were due to several changes in Federal and State drinking water standards and recreational advisory levels for algal toxins since the Plan was first written.
The Technical Committee requested more time to review the plan, therefore it will be reconsidered at the February meeting. Staff asked for comments by November 20, 2020 to allow time to incorporate the comments prior to the February Technical Committee meeting.

Staff provided a demonstration of a new online HAB app which predicts the likelihood of an HAB occurrence on the Ohio River. This has been a two year effort by USEPA and ORSANCO. The app shows the results of two HAB prediction models which are updated daily, as well as providing a platform for the display of real-time water quality data. Access has been provided to State and Federal partners as well as the Water Users Advisory Committee. The goal is to make this app public, although currently it is available by invitation only.

The first significant Ohio River HABs event occurred in 2015. Prior to that time the Ohio River was not experiencing HABs. Subsequent to the 2015 event, the 305b Workgroup decided not to list the Ohio River based on that one-off event in the 2016 305b. There were no new Ohio River HABs occurrences for the 2018 305b. The second Ohio River HABs event occurred in 2019. The 2020 305b did not list HABs as an Ohio River impairment, however there was recognition that a protocol is necessary for future 305b assessments. Therefore, staff will begin engaging the 305b Workgroup to develop a protocol prior to the 2022 305b Report.

Member Updates and Interstate Water Quality Issues

Illinois
Scott Twait reported that most Illinois EPA employees are currently working from home at this time. They have people back working in the field again with certain safety precautions. Their chloride water quality variance is currently under consideration by the IL Pollution Control Board, and after their decision it will be sent to USEPA for approval. The 2018 Integrated Report will be sent to USEPA soon and they are making progress on the 2020 report. They are considering derived criteria for PFAS, or developing water quality standards for PFAS. However, the main discharge of concern in the state is showing promising results for PFAS treatment using a reverse osmosis treatment system.

Indiana
Eileen Hack reported on the following items:
Monitoring – the Assessment Monitoring Programs completed IDEM's fifth probabilistic assessment cycle with the survey of the West Fork of the White River and the Lower White River. Despite a short pandemic related pause in March, surveys were completed with the assistance of seasonal staff. Fish tissue collections were obtained from the tributaries of the White River. A multi-agency effort (IDEM, IDNR, and City of Muncie Sanitation District) was also focused within the White River watershed, sampling from the headwaters of the West Fork to the confluence with the Wabash River. This effort was scheduled for completion within a few weeks of this report and consisted of 59 sites of water chemistry, 62 sites of fish population, and 11 sites of multi-habitat macroinvertebrate samples obtained.

IDEM staff, along with assistance from Region 5 USEPA and TetraTech, are currently developing a diatom index of biotic integrity (IBI). Staff are also working towards a cool-water IBI and perform sampling to support this effort. The 2020 integrated monitoring report has been submitted to USEPA and made available on IDEM's website.

PFAS – IDEM has plans to collect source and finished water samples from drinking water facilities within the state. The first phase of this project will focus on facilities servicing populations between 3,300 – 10,000 individuals; the QAPP is under review. Purdue and Indiana Universities each received $1.6 million grants to investigate PFAS. Purdue's work will investigate the occurrence of PFAS in water sources of rural communities in Indiana, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, while focusing on the relative contribution of biosolid and wastewater application. Indiana University will also focus on rural communities with the development of a predictive model of PFAS in private water sources.

Rulemaking and Permitting - A draft metals rule was scheduled for review by the Environmental Rule Board on November 18th, which includes the 2016 Selenium criterion and intermittent criteria for stormwater application. The 2012 Recreation Criteria were not adopted as required statistical thresholds were not met. However, multiple CSO communities have petitioned IDEM to reconsider adoption of the criteria as a 90-day rolling average, stating that it would provide them with a mechanism to meet water quality standards. Review of this petition was scheduled for September 28th.

IDEM received its second ever CSO wet-weather limited use designation application from the Great Lakes region. As for NPDES, Duke Gallagher Plant scheduled for closure in 2022 is now on a compliance schedule for entrainment and impingement. The permit applications of three other Ohio River facilities (ALCOA Warrick, Clifty Creek, and Vectrin) have been received and are under review.

United States Environmental Protection Agency

Dave Pfeifer reported that most Region 5 employees continue to work from home. For the most part they have also not been conducting field work due to COVID and travel restrictions. Navigable waters and 404 rulemaking are completed and EPA is now shifting to developing implementation guidance. Nationally, they are working on an economic analysis tool for small municipalities. They are working on internal performance measures such as reducing the backlog of 303(d) listing approvals, putting TMDL restoration approaches in place, and reducing the backlog of water quality standards approvals. There was a recent kickoff meeting of a multi-agency chloride implementation workgroup to begin addressing increasing chloride levels in surface waters thought to be primarily from deicing roadways. And finally, at the regional level, EPA approved Indianapolis' CSO UAA.

Kentucky

Katie McKone reported the following:

<u>Water Quality</u>

- Starting to plan for 2021 monitoring; will be picking up a number of projects delayed by COVID in 2020
- We did receive an EPA grant for some of our PFAS Phase II monitoring. Sampled 40 sites so far in Phase II.
- Continue to work through the 2018/2020 Integrated Report

<u>Drinking Water</u>

- Sent out survey to Drinking Water Systems, similar to ORSANCO's, which we plan to continue on an annual basis
    - Had about a 50% response rate, but this varied by region of the state
    - 4 systems that responded withdraw directly from the Ohio
    - Part of this effort will help inform updates to assessing for the Domestic Water Supply designated use

<u>Permitting</u>

- Conducted a webinar training event in July for industry representatives covering the issued general permits (KYG11 and KYG84) for non-coal mining operations and construction material manufacturing operations.
- Developing electronic forms for our KPDES Individual Permit application forms.
- Developing KPDES permitting strategy for nutrient optimization for POTWs.

<u>Watershed Management Branch</u>

- Implementing the Water Resources Board Program (On-Farm Water Management) with the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy.

- To date the program has committed $501,000 to a variety of on-farm projects that provide water supply alternatives to municipal water, develop available on-farm water sources, manage excess runoff or increase water-use efficiency. We look for projects that will demonstrate more effective use of available water on the farm.
- Applications Submitted to Date: 20 (RDD – 5, PIP – 5, SSG – 10).

- Updating Kentucky Nutrient Reduction Strategy and beta testing Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Plan producer workbook.

Water Resources Branch

- Created Floodplain general permit to cover pipeline and other limited constructions projects in the FEMA regulated floodplain which do not have permanent impacts on ground surface elevations and have no potential to impact flood elevations. Review the Floodplain GP exclusions, eligibility and requirements carefully and contact Water Resources Branch for assistance in determining eligibility. Floodplain GP does not require pre-construction notification or public notice. Local permits and water quality certifications are still applicable.
- Floodplain GP is available at https://eec.ky.gov/Environmental-Protection/Water/FloodDrought/Documents/Floodplain%20General%20Permit.pdf
- To assists applicants for water quality certifications in complying with the newly effective changes to 40 CFR 121, the Water Quality certification section is in the process of updating the DEP web page and is working cooperatively with the USACE to implement the new administrative and procedural requirements.
- WQC web page is located at https://eec.ky.gov/Environmental-Protection/Water/PermitCert/WQ401Cert/Pages/default.aspx

New York

Commissioner Conroe reported that NYDEC staff are generally working remotely. Jeff Konsella is planning to retire in June, 2021, and they discussed finding a NY replacement to the Technical Committee and proxy Commissioner. He discussed a joint NYDEC-Corps of Engineer's pilot project on Chautauqua Lake regarding HABs interception, treatment, and transformation system. AECOM was selected as a contractor to implement their algae harvesting program to physically remove algae from surface waters, as well as nutrients, which can then potentially be used beneficially elsewhere. It was determined that this is not an effective solution for large surface waters but may be beneficial for localized problems.

Ohio

Audrey Rush reported on the following items:

Monitoring

Large river surveys successfully completed in 2020 include, the Licking, Muskingum, and the Great and Little Miami rivers. Due to pandemic related complications (e.g. no seasonal staff), the surveys of remaining large rivers will be postponed until 2021. Staff continue to make progress working through the backlog of beneficial use designations. The 2020 integrated report was approved by USEPA in May; staff have begun work on the 2022 report. Staff are also editing the agency's monitoring document under the 106 grant and will link ORSANCO activities as requested.

Rulemaking and Permitting

Evaluation of Human Health water quality standards began in 2016. Staff are preparing the responsiveness summary for final filing of the updated standards. The update includes adoption of all 94 chemicals for which USEPA has drinking water criteria, the Ohio River Fish consumption, and ORSANCO's PCS update. OEPA did not update their variance rule to coincide with USEPAs federal register updates, but are working to incorporate USEPA language. The review process will be initiate shortly with the first step being the interested party review. OEPA has moved to decouple their triennial review process from rulemaking in order to streamline the process; a publicly available website is under construction to detail this change.

Pennsylvania

Kevin Halloran reported that PADEP is still primarily teleworking and they are trying to increase the inspection schedule while focusing on outdoor inspections. The hiring freeze has been lifted and they are beginning to fill some of their 70 vacancies. Their standards updates for ammonia, E. coli, and 73 toxics have been finalized so that now they just need to update their regulations document. A proposed manganese standard has not yet been finalized. Construction on the Shell Petrochemical facility is approximately 6 months behind schedule due to a

COVIS shutdown. They expect to begin discharging to the Ohio River soon, and production to begin either later in 2021 or early 2022. Their permit is current under renewal. Regarding ALCOSAN, the CSO consent decree has been finalized. The first priority is to upgrade the plant's headworks to 600 MGD which will eliminate significant overflows. A storage tunnel is also planned which will be partially constructed under the Ohio River.

Virginia

Melanie Davenport reported that Virginia has kicked off the Southwest Virginia Pilot Program to address significant challenges that smaller communities in the coal region have with wastewater treatment systems. The purpose of the program is to provide funding for critical needs in wastewater infrastructure in southwest Virginia communities using clean water revolving loan funds. Phase 1 involves funding for sewer system evaluation surveys to identify I&I and sanitary sewer overflow priorities. The funding is a grant that covers 75% of the projects. These communities are located in the Ohio Basin.

Regarding COVID, they developed safety protocols for conducting inspections and monitoring and are currently conducting activities in these programs. They are on the cusp of adopting new ammonia criteria which was submitted to EPA for approval. It includes phased implementation which will allow one year to comply for wastewater treatment facilities greater than 500,000 gallons per day and major industries. In addition, she reported that they are working through some difficult 401 permitting issues.

West Virginia

Scott Mandirola reported that WVDEP is primarily working remotely.

<u>PFAS Study update</u>

During the 2020 Legislative session SCR 46 passed requiring the DEP and DHHR to study PFAS statewide in drinking water intakes. This is underway and an update is listed below.

- The project began on July 1, 2020 and the was proposed on a two-year timeline, with sampling in year 1 and data analysis and report preparation occurring in year 2.
- So far things are going well and I don't see any problems that would delay the project from our original timeline.
- As of yesterday, we have sampled 94 sites in the state and have about 160 PWS and 30schools to go.
- We have only received results for 9 sites and none of them were above the EPA health advisory for PFOA or PFOS.
- Only one site had a detection above the Laboratory Reporting Level for any PFAS.
- All results are still preliminary and subject to change upon review.
- We currently have 4 sampling crews but we are adding two more in late October-early November so we'll really be doing the bulk of the field work at that point. The crews are from the WV, OH, KY, MD, PA, and VA Water Science Centers so this project has given USGS the opportunity to work together across state lines.

I have attached a map of the sites sampled and being sampled.

<u>AST Update</u>

DHHR has redrawn ZCC based on SWIG being treated like surface intakes along the Ohio River. This is causing problems with about 300 plus AST's that were previously not regulated, other than register and label. Many are now level 1 tanks and need inspected and certified by an engineer. The O&G industry is very concerned about this and likely will attempt to exempt themselves from the regulations again this session.

<u>WQS Update</u>

April of this year the DEP is proposed a WQS rule change for HH criteria as required by the legislature in 2019. We have proposed to update 24 of the 56 criteria that we currently have in the rule and EPA updated in 2015. The remainder of the criteria are being reviewed by a committee that was formed from DEP folks and the Environmental Protection Advisory Committee. This group is looking closely at how the EPA made the changes and why. At the next meeting EPA personnel will attend to try to answer some of the question the group has. The goal is to get the 24 proposed updates through legislature and have a proposal ready for April to propose additional updates for next legislative session.

<u>404/401 update</u>

The USACE has notified WV on September 11th of the request for pre certification meeting for the NWP's which started the 30 day clock for them to request certification. We expect that they will submit an official request on October 11 which will start the 60 day clock for the state to certify the NWP's in WV. We will be going out to notice on these conditions shortly after we receive their request. The removal of the ephemeral streams by the USACE, and the change from 300' to 1/10 of an acre will have a significant effect on in lieu fee mitigation.

US Army Corps of Engineers
Erich Emery reported that the District is wrapping up their reservoir monitoring program for the year and were able to complete it with the COVID restrictions. There were a few HABs in reservoirs this year, however they were less severe than in typical past years. They have also been working on the performance of their HEC-RAS model for the Ohio River under lower flow conditions since the model was developed for predicting flows during flood conditions.

Chemical Industry Advisory Committee
Director Harrison reported that staff has been working with the committee to develop a listing of industrial water supply intakes on the Ohio River as well as with the ORBA strategic plan.

Power Industry Advisory Committee
Cheri Budzynski reported that the USEPA has issued a prepublication of the effluent limitation guidelines for coal-fired power plants. Changes included establishing best available technologies as well as a new deadline for compliance of December 31, 2025, or one year after the final rule is published, whichever comes sooner. It also establishes a volunteer incentive program for closures. On August 28, 2020, they finalized the Part A holistic approach to closures rule which requires closure of unlined ash facilities by April 11, 2021, as well as new procedures to obtain extensions of the deadline based on site-specific circumstances.

Public Information Advisory Committee
Betsy Mallison reported that the committee held a virtual meeting on September 15 and welcomed two new members: Kelly Dearing-Smith of the Louisville Water Company, and Ryan Clem of IDEM. Due to COVID, several mini-SWEEPS were conducted this year, and they discussed ongoing communications with the Sponsors to ensure that their expectation were being met. They recommended staff continue to review the program to ensure its continued relevance, as well as ongoing development of a communications strategy for ORSANCO.

Watershed Organization Advisory Committee
Angie Rosser reported the following:
<u>Quarterly meeting</u>
The committee met on September 22 and discussed the following:

- Update on ORSANCO activities from Richard Harrison
- PFAS Committee update from WOAC rep Chris Tavenor
- Ongoing concerns about nutrient pollution
- Updates on proposed oil and gas waste barging facilities
- Basin Plan update and upcoming Ohio River Summit and Symposium
- Vice chair election
- Report for October ORSANCO meeting

<u>Vice chair election</u>
Robin Blakeman with the Ohio Valley Environmental Council (OVEC) was elected as WOAC vice-chair for a one-year term.

<u>Basin Plan involvement</u>
WOAC members had commented on the regional "Plan for the Ohio River Basin —2020-2025", released by ORBA last week. The Plan has the potential to lead to large-scale federal investment in the region, similar to other federal ecosystem initiatives. We see this as a potential historic opportunity to put forward an action plan that meets watershed restoration objectives, as well as reverses environmental injustices, tackles overarching threats such as climate change, and supports a more equitable regional economy. Two of the goals, specifically, can serve as the foundation for a strong regional ecosystem restoration initiative: Abundant Clean Water (led by ORSANCO) and Healthy and Productive Ecosystems (led by WOAC member, National Wildlife Federation). Other goals can also support an effective ecosystem restoration plan, including efforts to control flooding and increased investment in research and education. WOAC members plan on participating in at least three of the work groups.

> ***WOAC Recommendation:*** We support ORSANCO's commitment to lead the Abundant Clean Water work group. We recommend that the work group process engages the public and a range of stakeholders, and that overarching values of the plan are integrated across all of the goal areas (including prioritization

of vulnerable communities, nature-based solutions, public engagement, and overarching threats such as climate change); and that the implementation plans put forward bold and visionary solutions that match the challenges being faced.

Proposed Ohio River Oil and Gas Waste Barge Dock(s) Update

As a follow-up and effort to keep ORSANCO apprised, the following developments have occurred since WOAC's last report.

- To date, USACE has denied citizen requests for public meetings on the Martin's Ferry and Meigs County proposed barge facilities.
- On August 7, USACE Huntington District held a virtual public meeting on the proposed Deep Rock barge facility near Marietta. Attendees report it was very poorly administered. Timing and access info changed in the 24-hours preceding the meeting. Comments were limited to two minutes and some attendees who wished to comment were never recognized to speak, even though the meeting ended early.
- Because of extreme frustrations expressed by the concerned citizens who attempted to participate in USACE's public meeting, a virtual "People's Hearing" was organized in late August by a coalition of OH and WV groups. Approximately 50 citizens participated and/or submitted comments via an online link. The comments were delivered to the USACE Huntington District on 9/23/20. Citizens continue to contact USACE to request an additional hearing that is better organized and more "user friendly" for citizens.
- Ohio River Valley citizens, from Wheeling to Cincinnati, remain highly concerned about the potential problems associated increased Ohio River transport of toxic and potentially radioactive waste materials if these facilities become operational. It is unclear how hazard mitigation is being managed and coordinated across agencies.

  WOAC Recommendation: We encourage ORSANCO to look into these matters, and to strongly consider adding oil and gas waste components to the list of emerging pollutants that need evaluated and monitored in the Ohio River.

Nutrient concerns

WOAC members submitted comments pointing out the Basin Plan understates the nutrient problem and does not provide meaningful steps to make progress on reducing nutrient loading. ORSANCO's 2018 Annual Report highlighted that work was underway towards a defensible nutrient criteria for the Ohio River, and that work needs to continue to move forward.

WOAC Recommendation: As part of the Clean Abundant Water goal of the Basin Plan, ORSANCO members should push to include in the goal's implementation plan setting numeric nutrient standards for the Ohio River. ORSANCO is well positioned to lead the work with watershed states to create such parameter, similar to efforts on the Great Lakes and Chesapeake Bay.

Water Users Advisory Committee

Bruce Whitteberry reported that Ohio River water quality has been good recently. The committee last met on September 22 and discussed the operational status of the Organics Detection System, which has been good. A new CMS 5000 unit has been purchased which will be placed into the system. There was a nuisance HAB on the Ohio River which did present some filter clogging issues for utilities from Maysville to Louisville which caused some short-term operational issues but nothing significant. Updates were also provided on the source water protection and emergency response programs. None of the 31 water utility attendees reported any significant issues with water quality or spills.

Review of Bimonthly/Clean Metals Monitoring Programs

Review of ORSANCO's fixed station Bimonthly and Clean Metals monitoring programs has been initiated with the mainstem states' only to begin with. Two conference calls have been held since the last TEC meeting. The work group was provided quality assurance plans, sampling SOPs, site descriptions and 10 yrs of monitoring data. Staff asked for recommendations for program modifications/enhancements independent of any cost or other resource considerations to begin with. Once comments/recommendations from all the mainstem states have been received, they will be summarized with associated program cost increases, prioritized, and then open for review by the full TEC Committee. This analysis would then go into a monitoring strategy document. Comments received thus far have included the addition of two monitoring stations and addition of 5 parameters.

Ohio River PFAS Study

An update was provided to the Technical Committee on efforts to develop a PFAS monitoring project to characterize ambient levels of PFAS compounds in the Ohio River. Staff has been working, with guidance from the PFAS Work Group, to develop a sampling plan and a Quality Assurance Program Plan (QAPP) to detail the specifics of the project. Outcomes from the work group meet on August 19, 2020, are as follows:

- 20 monitoring sites have been established. Plans to bracket the Parkersburg area with 2 additional stations has been abandoned.
- Three Rivers Quest asked ORSANCO to collect an additional sample each on the Allegheny & Monongahela Rivers, which has been agreed to.
- Proceeding with the USGS EDI sample collection cross-section method for large rivers.
- Planning to collect discrete samples to investigate PFAS distribution in the water column. Design needs to be presented to PFAS workgroup.
- Agreed to provide completed QAPP and sampling plan to workgroup with at least 2 weeks for review.
- Workgroup has been notified that sampling will most likely be delayed until spring due to COVID.

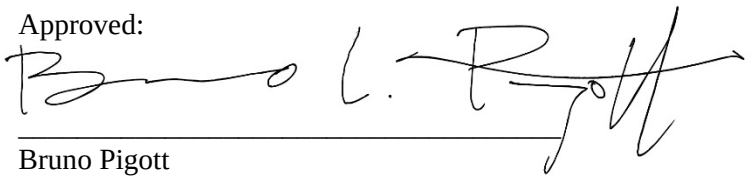
Remaining tasks necessary prior to beginning the survey include:

- Finalize agreement for laboratory services with Battelle.
- Acquire remaining supplies/equipment.
- Determine sampling sites for Allegheny and Monongahela (with Three Rivers Quest).
- Determine discrete sample collection plan.
- Finalize QAPP, sampling plan, and communications plan.
- Conduct test run Fall 2020
- Conduct sampling (Round 1 – Spring; Round 2 Fall 2021)

Adjournment

The 224th meeting of the ORSANCO Technical Committee was adjourned by Chairman Pigott at 11:55 am on Wednesday, October 7, 2020.

Approved:



Bruno Pigott

Roster of Attendance

Technical Committee

Chairman	Commissioner Bruno Pigott
Illinois	Scott Twait
Indiana	Eileen Hack
Kentucky	Katie McKone
New York	Not present
Ohio	Audrey Rush
Pennsylvania	Kevin Halloran
Virginia	Melanie Davenport
West Virginia	Scott Mandirola
US Army Corps of Engineers	Erich Emery
US Environmental Protection Agency	David Pfeifer
US Geological Survey	Jeff Frey
Chemical Industry Advisory Committee	Not present
Power Industry Advisory Committee	Cheri Budzynski
Public Interest Advisory Committee	Betsy Mallison Bialosky
POTW Advisory Committee	Not present
Water Users Advisory Committee	Bruce Whitteberry
Watershed Organizations Advisory Committee	Angie Rosser
NPDES Subcommittee	Brad Gavin
ORSANCO Chief Engineer	Richard Harrison
Staff Liaison	Jason Heath

Commissioners/Proxies

Douglas Conroe, Charles Duritsa, George Elmaraghy, David Flannery, Carey Johnson, Summer Kunkel, John Kupke, John Hoopingarner, Ron Potesta, Mike Wilson and Davitt Woodwell.

Staff

Ryan Argo, Dave Bailey, Bridget Borrowdale, Danny Cleves, Lisa Cochran, Stacey Cochran, Sam Dinkins, Tracey Edmonds, Richard Harrison, Jason Heath, Melissa Mann, Heather Mayfield (FORE), Adam Scott, Bridget Taylor, Emilee Urichich, Greg Youngstrom, Lila Ziolkowski

Guests

Chris Bobay	Louisville Water Company
Robin Blakeman	Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition & WV Interfaith Power and Light
John Hirschfield	Westlake Chemical
Linda Holst	USEPA
Kenneth Komoroski	Steptoe & Johnson
Jordan Lubetkin	National Wildlife Federation
Harry Stone	ORBA
Jeff Thomas	EPRI

Prepared by Jason Heath, P.E., BCEE with contributions from Ryan Argo, Sam Dinkins, and Greg Youngstrom.
(Recording of proceedings available at Commission Headquarters)
PowerPoint presentations from this meeting are available on the Commission website at www.orsanco.org.