

OHIO RIVER VALLEY WATER SANITATION COMMISSION

**242nd Commission Meeting
Morgantown Marriott at Waterfront Place
Morgantown, West Virginia
Thursday, June 12, 2025**

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OHIO RIVER VALLEY WATER SANITATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

**242nd Commission Meeting
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Morgantown, West Virginia
Thursday, June 12, 2025**

Call to Order

Commission Chair David Flannery called the 242nd meeting of the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission to order at 9:00 A.M., Thursday, June 12, 2025.

Executive Director Sam Dinkins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Quorum Call

Commissioner Douglas Conroe certified that a quorum was present (see Roster of Attendance, page 11).

Report of the Chair

Chair Flannery recognized outgoing Commissioner Anne Vogel and Commissioner John Hoopingarner presented the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 5-25 RECOGNITION OF SERVICE ANNE VOGEL

WHEREAS: Anne Vogel has served as a Commissioner to the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission from 2023 to 2025 representing the State of Ohio, and

WHEREAS: Ms. Vogel has provided faithful and diligent service to the Commission serving on numerous Committees including Congressional Liaison, Executive, Personnel, Pollution Control Standards, and Program and Finance, and

WHEREAS: Ms. Vogel actively worked to help advance the Commission's goals, and

WHEREAS: Ms. Vogel has earned the esteem and friendship of her fellow Commissioners, and

WHEREAS: Ms. Vogel has devoted her career to protecting the precious natural resources of the State of Ohio while serving as the Director of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The Commissioners of the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission express their heartfelt gratitude for Anne Vogel's service, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors as EPA Region 5 Administrator.

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner John Hoopingarner, second by Commissioner Holly Christmann and unanimously carried, to adopt Resolution 5-25 as presented.

John Logue, the new Director of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, had an emergency in Ohio and could not stay for the meeting. We look forward to working with him.

Chair Flannery welcomed everyone to the beautiful setting on the Monongahela River and those online. He made the sad announcement regarding the passing of Cheri Budzynski, the Chair of ORSANCO's Power Industry Committee. She served for many years with distinction on behalf of the power industry and will be missed. There was a moment of silence to honor her.

Chair Flannery acknowledged the staff for their extraordinary work and Sam Dinkins, the new Executive Director. It has been an unusual year with 2 or 3 special meetings, with the process of hiring the new executive director and legislative initiatives. The resolution supporting the legislation for the Ohio River Basin initiative earlier in the spring was adopted and the Ohio River Basin Restoration Initiative Report was just released. We look forward to getting feedback and determining the next steps. He thanked Scott Mandirola and the Technical Committee for hosting them at the Richard Mine AMD Treatment Plant where rare earth minerals are extracted from acid mine drainage. He also thanked FORE and the rest of staff for the successful aquarium event showcasing Ohio River aquatic life and education programs.

Chair Flannery concluded that he had been honored to have been elected Chair for the last year and thanked everyone for the opportunity.

Report of the Executive Director

Executive Director Sam Dinkins thanked Chair David Flannery for his great leadership, presiding over five meetings in a single season which might be a new record.

He gave a special thanks to staff that worked through the process for a balanced budget and a five year plan, much of which was done without a finance director with the departure of Jennifer Coldiron. He recognized the newest staff member Bob Wehmeier, the new Director of Finance and Administration and encouraged Commissioners to introduce themselves to him. The five year forecast budget indicated challenges ahead and the need to work closely with the Commission and various committees to develop strategies to approach the funding challenges.

Director Dinkins reported that the Program & Finance Committee met in April to finalize the FY26 budget. The 5-year budget forecast shows real challenges ahead. Staff will be working with the Commission to identify potential new funding opportunities and evaluating potential cost reductions to meet budget targets. Staff submitted a Congressionally Directed funding request through Senator Capito's office to upgrade ODS sites in West Virginia. This request is similar in nature to the one we received through former Senator Sherrod Brown's office to replace ODS equipment in Ohio. The Commission held a special meeting on May 5th to approve a resolution supporting the development of legislation to create an Ohio River Basin Restoration Program to direct much needed federal funding to address water resource challenges in the Ohio Valley. Staff have also been working with our DC advisor Martin Edwards on a number of fronts to increase federal funding for the Commission. This includes adding language to the Restoration Program legislation introduced by Congressman McGarvey and Congresswoman Houchin to make ORSANCO eligible to receive Restoration Program funding and to encourage Congress to increase 106 funding which has failed miserably to keep pace with inflation.

He also mentioned that the Ohio River Basin Alliance and the National Wildlife Federation released the long-awaited Ohio River Basin Restoration Report last week. This report serves as a case statement establishing the need for federal investment in the Ohio River Basin, on par with what is provided to numerous other basins and bodies of water in other parts of the country. The 45-day public comment period opened on June 5.

Also noteworthy was the recent announcement that the Ohio River Way was successful in getting a 308-mile stretch of the Ohio River from Ashland, KY to West Point, KY designated as a National Water Trail by the National Park Service. And lastly, he encouraged all in attendance to visit the Life Below the Waterline display at 3:30 this afternoon. We have several staff on hand to provide some background on this incredibly successful public education tool. Thanks to all the staff that helped make this happen.

Executive Director Dinkins noted that staff was very active with regards to seeking additional federal funds. A request was made by Representative Shelley Moore Capito's office out of West Virginia to upgrade the Organics Detection System for our sites in West Virginia. That was very similar to requests made two years ago in Ohio that were successful and are currently being implemented to replace and upgrade units in Ohio.

Staff received and reviewed 11 NPDES permits (6 drafts, 5 modifications) to ensure compliance with provisions of ORSANCO's Pollution Control Standards. The reviews were completed in accordance with the established PCS Implementation Procedures. No issues were identified with the permits reviewed which include the following:

1. Wheeling-Nippon Steel, Inc. (WV0004502) at ORM 70.35
2. City of Benwood (WV0020648) at ORM 93.2
3. ADO Industries, Inc. (WV0004642) at ORM 111.8
4. Wheeling Power Company-Mitchell Plant (WV0005304) at ORM 112
5. APCO AEP Mountaineer Plant (WV0048500) at ORM 242
6. Norfolk Southern Railway Company-Portsmouth (OH0005266) at ORM 355.8
7. Tanners Creek Development, LLC (IN0002160) at ORM 495.5
8. The City of Ashland (KY0022373) at ORM 321.3
9. Nucor Steel Gallatin, LLC (KY0098221) at ORM 534.8
10. Ghent Generating Station (KY0002038) at ORM 535.3
11. Cane Run Generating Station (KY0002062) at ORM 617.4

Action on Minutes

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Conroe, second by Commissioner Hoopingarner and unanimously carried, that the minutes of the 241st meeting of the Commission, be adopted as presented.

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Conroe, second by Commissioner Hoopingarner and unanimously carried, that the minutes of the May 5 Special Meeting of Commissioners, be adopted as presented.

Report of the Treasurer

A Treasurer's report as of March 31, 2025 has been provided for this meeting.

The report indicates a balance of \$668,015 in accounts receivable due the Commission. The balance represents \$469,583 due from federal sources, \$74,600 due from signatory states, and \$123,832 due from other sources.

Additionally, the report indicates receipts of \$2,654,068 plus carryover of \$3,917,794 totaling \$6,571,862 through the end of March 2025. Of that amount \$3,084,406 was expended on programs, leaving \$3,487,456 available for the continuation of ORSANCO's programs.

We have yet to receive the 2025 federal 106 award. The FY24 financial close out reports have been submitted and all available funds have been drawn down. West Virginia has sent the third quarter dues in April 2025 and have \$37,300 due to the Commission. As of March 31, 2025 the Commission's cash balance was \$2,892,420.

Report of the Technical Committee

The Technical Committee convened for its 238th meeting. Six states, three federal agencies, and five advisory committees were present. The following is a summary of the meeting:

Tuesday Field Trip to Richard Mine AMD Treatment Facility

The Richard Mine AMD Treatment Plant was constructed and is operated by the WVDEP Office of Abandoned Mine Lands and Reclamation and went online in April 2024. The facility treats an average of 400 gallons per minute of acid mine drainage from the abandoned Richard Mine and has successfully improved water quality in the lower Deckers Creek watershed. The facility is designed to support recovery of rare earth elements from the AMD wastewater. Commercial viability of REE recovery from the Richard AMD is being studied by the West Virginia Water Research Institute. A thank you was extended to Dr. Paul Ziemkiewicz with West Virginia Water Research Institute, and Sheila Vukovich and her crew with WVDEP for hosting the field trip.

Item 4: Applied Science to Improve Invasive Carp Management in the Ohio River

Dr. Brent Murry from West Virginia University detailed various investigations of his graduate lab regarding the invasive carp population on the Ohio River. Dr. Murry detailed his lab's work which covered various aspects including habitat use, upstream spread, and impacts of these species and the unique analytical tools his students use to quantify them. His very informative talk demonstrated the unique ways his lab applied various analytical tools to collect and leverage existing invasive carp data. The conclusion of these various studies advance our understanding of invasive carp presence on the Ohio River and offer fisheries managers with quantifiable goals to minimize their effects.

Item 5: ORSANCO Monitoring Strategy Review

Jason Heath, ORSANCO staff, reported on activities of the Monitoring Strategy Committee. The committee has met six times over the past two years to develop priorities for future monitoring activities, and update ORSANCO's Monitoring Strategy including the future monitoring priorities. The committee endorsed the monitoring strategy for public release. The Commission may wish to endorse the strategy also. In addition, the committee will be reconvening to evaluate potential budget reductions for individual monitoring programs that may be desirable should future federal grants be reduced (or eliminated). The TEC Committee passed an action approving the Commission's Monitoring Strategy Document.

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Lyons, second by Commissioner Branin and unanimously carried, to endorse the monitoring strategy document for public release, as presented.

Item 6: Source Water Protection and Emergency Response Programs Update

Lila Ziolkowski, ORSANCO staff, reported that over the past few months staff has attended USEPA Regional meetings for Source Water Protection and Emergency Response preparedness and HAZMAT chemical training. In upcoming weeks staff will be participating in Emergency Response training exercises in Ashland and Owensboro. Staff will be receiving the portable GCMS unit (ODS CDS grant funding) in the next couple of weeks and begin training and testing this unit.

Item 7: Biological Programs Update

Ryan Argo provided an overview of the final 2024 biological assessments of Montgomery and Newburgh pools which both meet established criteria. Plans for the upcoming field season were presented including pool surveys in Willow Island, Racine, and Cannelton pools. He also provided a status update regarding ORSANCO's ongoing database infrastructure update.

Item 8: Water Quality Monitoring Programs Update

Greg Youngstrom, ORSANCO staff, presented an update on the status of Monitoring and Assessment programs. Contact recreation sampling began April 1 and will continue through the end of October.

The real-time bacteria monitoring project which was funded by a WV 604b grant has acquired a Fluidion ALERT One instrument. Eleven paired samples have been collected so far with the instrument showing good agreement with the standard Colilert method. The Proteus instrument which is also being evaluated has been sent to the manufacturer for repairs.

ORSANCO HAB Monitoring, response and Communication Plan has been updated for 2025. State and federal partners have asked that we add Anatoxin and Saxitoxin testing to our standard analytes. HAB sensor deployment has been delayed due to river conditions but it is anticipated that they will be deployed in June.

A demonstration project for water quality sensors has been completed with Cleveland Water Alliance with the sensors deployed in 4 locations in the Cincinnati area.

Report of the Personnel Committee

ORSANCO tries to update the salary table every 3 to 5 years by completing a salary survey utilizing a Human Resources Consulting Firm called Employees Resource. The Commission completed the last salary survey in 2021. ORSANCO typically made annual salary table adjustments in the years between the full scale salary surveys to minimize the magnitude of changes. As such, the Personnel Committee propose raising the salary ranges by 3% for FY26 to keep pace with inflation and to stay competitive.

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner George Elmaraghy, second by Commissioner James Jennings and unanimously carried, that the new salary table effective July 1, 2025, be adopted as presented.

The Personnel Committee recommended that the manager of the Public Information Program who manages the ORSANCO's Public Information Program and also serves as the Executive Director for Foundation for Ohio River Education (FORE) be reclassified. Considering the level of responsibilities for this position, the Personnel Committee recommended to reclassify this position as a director level.

Report of the Program & Finance Committee

Committee Chair, Commissioner Joe Harrison, Jr., provided the following report:

The Program and Finance Committee met in-person and virtually on April 30, 2025. Eight member states including Kentucky, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Virginia, West Virginia, New York, and Pennsylvania were represented, as well as the Federal Government.

Status of Last Year's May 2024 Program & Finance Committee Recommendations

The Committee received an update on the status of recommendations that had been made by the Committee at its May 2024 meeting.

1. Recommended adoption of the FY25 program plan and balanced budget.
 - *Commission adopted resolution 2-24 to approve the Program Plan and Budget for FY25.*
2. Recommended adoption of a 3% state funding increase for FY27.
 - *Commission Adopted Resolution 3-24 establishing a 3% state funding increase for FY27.*

3. Recommended setting the FY25 Defined Contribution Plan discretionary contribution at 6% of compensation.
 - *Recommendation adopted by Commission action.*

FY26 Budget Overview

Executive Director Sam Dinkins provided a budget overview focusing on the proposed FY26 balanced budget, five-year revenue and expenditure forecasts, carryover resources, and ongoing funding initiatives.

Fiscal Year 2026 Programs

The Committee received detailed presentations from managerial staff describing proposed program activities, focusing on program changes and the budget impacts of such changes.

Estimated Carryover Resources into FY26

Staff provided an overview of the estimated carryover resources of \$3,203,532, which includes unencumbered resources of \$2,059,530, restricted operating reserves of \$600,000, encumbered resources of \$182,384, and capital equipment \$361,618.

Proposed FY26 Budget (Attachment 1)

The Committee received a detailed budget presentation by staff covering resources and expenditures broken down by program area. Staff presented a total proposed program budget of \$5,056,189.

Capital Equipment Budget

Staff presented an overview of current capital assets and recommendations to better facilitate asset replacement and serve as a basis for a proposed Capital Budget for FY26.

Five-Year Moderate Forecast (Attachment 2)

Executive Director Dinkins presented detailed forecasts of projected revenues and expenditures through FY30. The forecasts show a trend of relatively flat funding with some increases in expenses, heightening attention to the need to continue identifying additional funding sources.

Recommended Levels of State Funding for Fiscal Year 2028 (Attachment 3)

The Committee gave serious consideration and concluded that a 3.0% state funding increase be recommended for FY28.

Committee Recommendations

Each of these will be presented as Motions for Commission vote:

1. Recommend adoption of the FY26 program plan and balanced budget as presented.
2. Recommend adoption of a 3% state funding increase for fiscal year 2028.
3. Recommend setting ORSANCO's FY26 Defined Contribution Plan discretionary contribution at 6% of compensation.

Committee Chair Flannery presented these recommendations as motions for consideration.

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Joseph Harrison, Jr., second by Commissioner John Hoopingarner and carried, to adopt **Resolution 3-25 (Attachment 1)**, approving the program plan and budget for FY26 as presented.

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Joseph Harrison, Jr., second by Commissioner Michael Wilson, and carried, to adopt **Resolution 4-25 (Attachment 2)**, establishing a 3% state funding dues increase for FY28 as presented.

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Joseph Harrison, Jr., second by Commissioner Tommy Branin, and carried, to accept the Committee recommendation setting the FY26 Defined Contribution Plan voluntary contribution at 6% of compensation, consistent with the FY25 funding level.

Report of the Pension Committee

Pension Trust Committee members, including the staff member, are appointed by vote of the full Commission due to the Committee's fiduciary nature.

The Committee must replace past staff member Jennifer Coldiron, who served in this role Committee.

The Pension Trust Committee recommended that the Commission appoint Bob Wehmeier to the Pension Trust Committee because the ORSANCO Bylaws specify that members to this Committee shall be appointed by the Commission.

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Douglas Conroe, second by Commissioner Proxy Scott Mandirola and unanimously carried, to appoint Bob Wehmeier to the Pension Trust Committee as presented.

Report of the Nominating Committee

Commissioner Hoopingarner, Committee Chair, reported that the Committee recommends the following slate of officers for 2025-2026:

Chair: Joseph Harrison, Jr. of Indiana
Vice Chair: Douglas Conroe of New York
Secretary/Treasurer: Lou Ann Wallace of Virginia

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner John Hoopingarner, second by Commissioner John Lyons and unanimously carried, to accept the slate of officers as recommended.

Report of the Joint Water Users and Publicly Owned Wastewater Treatment Works Advisory Committee

Reese Johnson gave the following report:

The Water Users Advisory Committee and the POTW Advisory Committee held a joint, two-day meeting on May 20-21, 2025 in Wilder, Kentucky. This joint report was submitted on behalf of Chris Bobay, from the Louisville Water Company and Chair of the WUAC, and Reese Johnson as chair of the POTW Advisory Committee. It was a very successful event, with 21 participants representing 11 different agencies plus ORSANCO.

We took the opportunity to do a top-to-bottom "run" of the river to introduce ourselves to our colleagues, figuring out whose intake was above and below others' discharges, mentioning any ongoing or planned upgrades at our facilities, and sharing pictures of the flooding this past spring. We also took some time to educate our colleagues on our typical treatment processes and the regulatory control points we each face. Daymond Talley from Louisville MSD presented on behalf of the POTWs, and had some really powerful graphics they developed to illustrate the "one water" cycle to students. Chris Bobay from Louisville Water presented on behalf of the WUAC, and illustrated how regulations for water users are structured differently from those regulating dischargers.

The technical focus of our meeting was the shared threat of PFAS, and we had multiple presentations on that topic. Scott Bessler from MSD of Greater Cincinnati presented an update on their efforts to address PFAS contamination in wastewater, focusing on their recent studies. He highlighted the presence of PFAS in various sources, including consumer products, industrial discharges, and landfills, and discussed their efforts to communicate with stakeholders, regulate industrial discharges, and explore treatment technologies. He also shared findings from studies on PFAS in residential sewers and landfill leachate, emphasizing the significant contribution of domestic sources to PFAS contamination. Eric Zhu from Louisville Water Company discussed the regulatory process for controlling PFAS in drinking water, including the EPA's review of the final rule and potential deadline extensions. He reviewed the occurrence of PFAS in Louisville Water, noting that PFOA was the only consistently detected compound of the PFAS suite. Eric presented options for treating PFAS, including GAC and powered activated carbon (PAC), and evaluated their effectiveness and costs. They concluded that PAC was a more cost-effective option than GAC. Nicole Tremblay from Louisville Water Company discussed their process of selecting and implementing a new LC (liquid chromatography) instrument for analyzing PFAS, commonly referred to as HPLC-MS/MS (or LC-triple quad), ultimately choosing Waters' LC Triple system after extensive research and consideration of factors such as price, service, training, and instrument specifications. They finished the install in January 2025 and have established method detection limits (MDLs) below 2ppt for all compounds. They are now doing weekly river PFAS monitoring to support treatment process control using PAC and split samples with our contract lab for ongoing method validation. (ORSANCO is currently implementing an in-house LCMS system to improve monitoring and treatment adjustments for PFAS.) Bruce Whitteberry from Greater Cincinnati Water Works discussed the treatment of PFAS in groundwater at their Bolton plant, which supplies 12% of Cincinnati's water from the Great Miami River/Buried Aquifer. They evaluated various treatment technologies, including building a more robust facility or using a less expensive but temporary solution. They are considering adding a GAC cap to existing sand filters to remove PFAS, after considering alternative compliance strategies like shutting down the plant or blending water from different sources. Jason Heath from ORSANCO presented data on PFAS and PFOA levels in the Ohio River, noting that human health criteria numbers were significantly lower than drinking water MCLs. He discussed their 2021 PFAS survey results and the potential for routine sampling for PFAS, which would require additional budget consideration. Ryan from ORSANCO presented findings from their fish tissue sampling program and the process for establishing consumption advisories, highlighting that they have been incorporating 35 PFAS compounds since 2022.

Finally, Jason Heath from ORSANCO presented their proposed monitoring strategy, which prioritizes adding PFAS monitoring to their ambient monitoring program. Members discussed the monitoring strategy, emphasizing the need to update bacteria information. Jason acknowledged the importance of balancing new initiatives with existing core monitoring tasks and encouraged committees to provide input on priorities. So future meetings will discuss recommendations for ORSANCO monitoring and report those recommendations to the Technical Committee.

Report of the Public Information Advisory Committee

Betsy Mallison, Committee Chair, presented the following report to the Commission:

PIACO met virtually on May 29 and reviewed a variety of communication topics including the rollout of the five-year basin-wide strategic communication plan. We brainstormed methods to best engage our stakeholders during the process.

We talked about strategies to get the member state public information officers and emergency response directors together to better get to know each other to further communication efforts during a crisis. The goal is to collaborate basin-wide to develop consistent ORSANCO and member agency water quality messaging.

Potential major program changes to the annual River Sweep were discussed. To reap the benefits of extended press for ORSANCO, there are thoughts of moving the Sweep back to a one-day event across the basin. While we are still getting good volunteer action, ORSANCO is not getting the recognition from the smaller groups doing cleanups. Another reason for the potential change is to cut down on the manpower needed for shipping supplies out from March to October, but rather, a focused effort to get supplies out to member states for a one-day event.

Currently, this year, there are more than 76 events scheduled with 3,710 volunteers. There are currently the following Sweep events scheduled for this year – 11 events in Indiana with 454 volunteers, 33 events in Kentucky with 1,743 volunteers, 24 events in Ohio with 1,234 volunteers, two events in Pennsylvania with 35 volunteers and five events in West Virginia with 244 volunteers.

We also discussed education activities and the staff, small but mighty, has been very busy. They have participated in 30 water quality education events, 27 community events and eight Life Below the Waterline aquarium events, including the one here in Morgantown this week.

There was a discussion about potential activities during the America's River Roots Festival in northern Kentucky during the October Commission week. The aquarium will be part of the festival activities. Our committee will meet again virtually in September.

Report of the Watershed Organizations Advisory Committee (WOAC)

Heather Hulton VanTassel, Committee Chair, presented the following report to the Commission:

Thank you for the time and consideration when it comes to hearing from the Watershed Organizations across the Ohio River Basin.

We thank ORSANCO for continued critical monitoring of the Basin. The committee noted relatively high levels of dioxins and PCBs in the ORSANCO monitoring report. These chemicals are highly toxic to both aquatic and public health with some recent levels recently higher than in 2019, suggesting ongoing contamination. It would be worth source identification and remediation to prevent continued release of these harmful contaminants. We recognize that ORSANCO would be best suited for the identification and recommendation of remediation rather than implementation of remediation. However, ORSANCO could utilize their data and expertise to provide recommendations to the necessary involved parties and seek assistance from Watershed Organizations in relevant regions.

We would like to thank ORSANCO for their continued efforts at expanding their focus on plastics and PFAS as emerging contaminants and increasing efforts around those contaminants. The Watershed Organizations across the basin still request ORSANCO reach out to those organizations conducting plastics, PFAS, or other novel contaminant monitoring work to amplify and utilize the combined efforts and data of those organizations when monitoring funds are limited. That data could also be used to help support ORSANCO's efforts to seek additional funds to expand their monitoring.

As a collective, we will continue to advocate for the Ohio River Basin Restoration Plan and federal designation of the Ohio River as a national resource. We would like ORSANCO to join us in emphasizing the importance of recognizing the threats and challenges of our basin, including legacy and current industrial pollution in Ohio River subwatersheds. While it can be politically challenging to bring light to these ongoing pollution sources, we cannot come together as a watershed to resolve these issues without first addressing this problem. The Ohio River Basin is worth restoring and protecting, and addressing industrial pollution is a necessary step.

We also recognize the uncertainty when it comes to federal funding at this time particularly around Environmental Justice and Climate Change. However, we encourage ORSANCO to continue to put effort toward environmental justice and climate change in their monitoring and educational efforts across the basin with focus on providing those services in communities that need it the most.

Upcoming Meetings

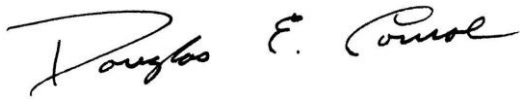
Chair Frevert noted the following schedule for upcoming Commission meetings:

- October 7-9, 2025 – Covington, Kentucky
- February 10-12, 2026 – TBD
- June 9-11, 2026 – TBD

Adjournment

The 242nd meeting of the Commission was adjourned at 9:57 A.M.

Minutes approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas E. Conroe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Douglas" being the most prominent.

Douglas Conroe, Secretary/Treasurer

Prepared by staff

ROSTER OF ATTENDANCE

242nd Commission Meeting

June 12, 2025

Commissioners

Illinois	James Jennings
Indiana	Joseph Harrison, Jr.
Kentucky	John Lyons (PROXY for Lt. Governor Jacqueline Coleman)
New York	Michael Wilson Douglas Conroe
Ohio	John Hoopingarner Holly Christmann
Pennsylvania	Jason Minnich (PROXY for Secretary Jessica Shirley) - virtual Bruce Herschlag - virtual
West Virginia	David Flannery Ron Potesta - virtual Scott Mandirola (PROXY for Secretary Harold Ward)
Virginia	Lou Wallace Tommy Branin
Federal	George Elmaraghy Tom FitzGerald - virtual
Legal Counsel	Aaron Herzig - virtual

Executive Director

Sam Dinkins

Staff

Ryan Argo, Stacey Cochran (virtual), Tracey Edmonds (virtual), Nick Guthier, Jason Heath, Adam Scott, Annette Shumard, Bob Wehmeier, Greg Youngstrom, Lila Ziolkowski

Guests

Duke Adams	PA EPA (virtual)
Betsy Mallison Bialosky	PIACO
Carrie Decker	WV Rivers (virtual)
Reese Johnson	POTW
John Hirschfield	Westlake Corporation
Heather Hulton VanTassel	WOAC (virtual)

RESOLUTION 3-25

PROGRAM PLAN AND BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026

WHEREAS: The Commission has established the sum of \$1,528,000 as the amount of appropriations to be requested from the signatory states for fiscal year 2026; and

WHEREAS: Funds from the United States Government for approximately \$2,629,901 may be allocated to the Commission for fiscal year 2026; and

WHEREAS: Funds amounting to \$521,411 may be available from a variety of sources to support the Ohio River Sweep, ORSANCO/USGS Gaging Stations, Life Below the Waterline; Ohio River Source Water Protection and Foundation for Ohio River Education

WHEREAS: The Commission is anticipated to carry over resources of \$3,203,532 into the 2026 fiscal year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The 2026 Fiscal Year Program Plan for all activities and the budget contained therein and in support thereof be approved as presented.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: The Executive Director is hereby authorized to make application for funding as may be available from US EPA, for other Federal funding and funding from other sources as may become available.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: The expenditures in fiscal year 2026 be substantially within the framework of the following guidelines, which are made a part of this Resolution.

2026 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET

Payroll	\$1,515,078
Employee Benefits	926,981
Staff Travel	260,568
Commission Travel	94,735
Advisory Committees	11,263
Supplies	365,083
Telephone	13,044
Equipment Purchases	704,000
Utilities & Maintenance	25,680
Equipment Repairs & Maintenance	96,828
Printing & Reproduction	9,370
Lab Fees and Delivery	304,866
Contractual Services	728,694
Total Expenditure Budget	\$5,056,189

RESOLUTION 4-25

STATE FUNDING LEVEL FOR FY2028

BACKGROUND

The Commission has the responsibility of setting levels of state funding to support its programs. By policy, such state funding is to be established two years in advance to facilitate legislative/fiscal processes of the individual states. In developing its recommendations, the Program and Finance Committee relied, in part, on current and future budget information, the current rate of inflation and the current level of funds in the reserve account. The Program and Finance Committee was presented with alternative increases in the states' 2028 funding and agreed to recommend a 3% increase in state funding for the 2028 fiscal year. The attached listing displays each state's proportional share of the Commission's budget for 2028 in comparison with their most recent funding levels.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE COMMISSION

Authorize a level of state funding for FY2028 by means of the following Resolution "State Funding Level for 2028."

RESOLUTION 4-25

STATE FUNDING LEVEL FOR 2028

WHEREAS: Article V of the Compact provides that the Commission shall submit to the Governor of each state, at such time as he may request, a budget of its estimated expenditures for such period as may be required by the laws of such state for presentation to the legislature thereof;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The sum of \$1,621,055 be budgeted for operating expenses of the Commission in the Fiscal Year July 1, 2027 to June 30, 2028. Such sum to be prorated among the signatory states in accordance with the provisions of Article X of the Compact.