



**Executive Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, June 20, 2013, 9:00 a.m.  
Teleconference**

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**Committee Members Present**

Bob Hatcher  
Dave Hemelright, Vice Chair  
David Martin, Chair  
Scott McKinney  
Greg Paulus

**Others Present**

Dave Adler, DOE  
Pete Osborne, ORSSAB support office

**Absent**

Chuck Jensen, Secretary  
Corkie Staley

**Board Officer/DOE Comments**

Mr. Martin mentioned that he recently participated in a nature walk sponsored by Oak Ridge National Laboratory that included the East Tennessee Technology Park ponds. DOE has cleaned them up, and they are returning to a more natural state. Lotus plants have been used in areas to help keep sediments anchored, and the plants seem to be thriving. Mr. Martin asked the tour guide if such a strategy has been considered at White Oak Creek. The guide thought not, but it might help with creek flooding. Mr. Martin suggested the SSAB consider making a recommendation about this topic sometime in the future. Mr. Hemelright agreed, adding that it might make a good presentation for the board. Mr. Martin suggested the state give an update on the ETPP ponds sometime.

Mr. Martin said the main take-away from Tuesday's SSAB chairs' call was that the 2014 budget is not so bad, especially for Oak Ridge. The other main topic on the call was the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant. For the first time there's some concern about whether it will have room for all the waste that could be disposed in it. There was also some talk about dealing with liquid waste by dewatering it and then disposing of it in WIPP.

Mr. Adler reported on discussions he had with the Stewardship and EM committees this week regarding the proposed merger of the two committees. Some reservations and concerns about potential problems were voiced, but the general consensus was that the merger is a sensible move. Stewardship Committee members are meeting this week to identify key stewardship focus areas that should be built into a combined committee structure.

The next step, Mr. Adler said, is for the Executive Committee to take action. According to ORSSAB bylaws, the board is to establish its committees prior to the start of the fiscal year to reflect the board's work plan for that year. He recommended the Executive Committee address the issue at its July meeting so that if the merger is approved, the board can go into the annual meeting focused on the new committee structure. Mr. Martin agreed and asked staff to put it on the Executive Committee's July agenda.

**Monthly Board Meetings**

**June 12 Review** - The committee discussed the presentation on the national EM program but had no further comments regarding potential recommendations or actions. Mr. Martin commended Mr. Adler on the presentation, saying that it was one of the best he's seen and that it would be a helpful presentation for the other SSABs to see. Mr. Paulus and Mr. Hatcher agreed, and Mr. Hatcher asked that the video be distributed to all ORSSAB members.

## **Committee Reports**

Board Finance & Process - The current costs table was distributed as Attachment 1. Mr. Paulus reported that the only item open is whether staff had gotten information on facilitation costs for the annual meeting. Mr. Osborne said that the facilitation contract has been signed, but he will not have the cost figures until the Board Finance & Process Committee meeting in July.

EM - Mr. Hatcher reported that the committee held a called meeting in May to get briefing from Dr. Goode on the groundwater workshops. Unfortunately, the workshop scheduled for that day was canceled, but Dr. Goode was at least able to let the committee know what had transpired to that point.

At its June meeting, the committee discussed making a recommendation on stockpiled nickel in Oak Ridge and other DOE sites. Mr. Martin is working on the issue and will continue to revise a draft he has written. The committee also discussed the proposed merger with Stewardship and talked about its 2013 accomplishments in preparation for the upcoming annual meeting.

Mr. Paulus wondered if Dr. Goode could be asked to give a presentation to the entire SSAB. Mr. Hatcher said that Dr. Goode is scheduled to give one to the EM committee in September. Mr. Paulus recommended that it be a board presentation because of the importance of the topic, particularly since mercury has risen in prominence as a cleanup priority.

Mr. Adler agreed that it would be a good board presentation, and the right time for it will be in fall—the first draft of a groundwater strategy document will be sent from DOE to the state and EPA at the end of fiscal year. The draft is being prepared by DOE, but it will be the product of a collaborative effort and not just DOE's ideas.

Mr. Martin asked if DOE has considered holding a public meeting on the topic. Mr. Adler said all board meetings are public meetings. Mr. Martin said he was thinking more of an advertised, public meeting held at a larger venue. Mr. Martin also thought the SSAB might want to help sponsor the meeting.

Public Outreach - Mr. McKinney reported that the July edition of the Advocate newsletter will be out soon and that planning for the annual meeting is essentially done. The board will not be represented at the Secret City Festival again this year, as not enough members signed up to staff the booth.

Mr. Hatcher recommended that an item be added to the annual meeting agenda so the board can discuss the details of the Stewardship/EM committee merger.

Stewardship - No report.

## **Other Business**

New Member Training - The committee discussed the agenda for the new member training session (Attachment 2).

Nominating Committee - Mr. McKinney reported that he emailed the committee members to see if anyone wanted to lead the committee. If he does not receive a response by close of business today, he will step in to lead it.

## **Action Items**

*Open*

1. Staff will put the proposed merger of the Stewardship and EM committees on the July Executive Committee agenda.

2. Staff will send the video presentation on the national EM program to ORSSAB members.
3. Staff will add an item the annual meeting agenda for discussion of the details of the Stewardship/EM committee merger.

*Closed*

1. The EM committee will discuss writing a chairs' recommendation regarding nickel and appoint a point person to work on the recommendation with the other SSABs. ***Completed 6/19/13***
2. Mr. Adler will have a discussion with the Stewardship Committee at their next meeting about folding stewardship issues into the EM Committee. ***Completed 6/18/13***

**Next meeting**

Wednesday, July 24, 5:30 p.m., at the DOE Information Center

Attachments (2). Available upon request from the ORSSAB support office.

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