



*Many Voices Working for the Community*

# Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

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## *Monthly Meeting of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board*

### **Approved March 9, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

The Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) held its monthly meeting virtually via Zoom on Wednesday, March 9, 2022 at 6 p.m. Copies of referenced meeting materials are attached to these minutes. A video of the meeting was made and is available on the board's YouTube site at [www.youtube.com/user/ORSSAB/videos](http://www.youtube.com/user/ORSSAB/videos).

#### **Members Present**

Lorna Hollowell  
Amy Jones, Vice Chair  
Noah Keebler  
Shell Lohmann, Secretary

Greg Malone  
Harriett McCurdy  
Michael Sharpe  
Leon Shields, Chair

John Tapp  
Tom Tuck

#### **Members Absent**

Thomas Geissberger  
Chris Hampel  
Marite Perez

Georgette Samaras  
Fred Swindler  
Thomas McCormick

Bonnie Shoemaker  
Rudy Weigel  
Zach Wilkins

<sup>1</sup>Third consecutive absence

#### **Liaisons, Deputy Designated Federal Officer, and Alternates Present**

Jim Daffron, Acting Director of Planning and Execution, OREM  
Melyssa Noe, ORSSAB Alternate Deputy Designated Federal Officer (DDFO), OREM  
Kristof Czartoryski, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC)  
Samantha Urquhart-Foster, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

#### **Others Present**

Shelley Kimel, ORSSAB Support Office  
Sara McManamy-Johnson, ORSSAB Support Office  
Roger Petrie, OREM  
Karen Thompson, OREM  
Randy Young, TDEC

Three members of the public were present.

#### **Liaison Comments**

**Ms. Noe** – Ms. Noe told members that OREM began the transition to the new cleanup contract with United Cleanup Oak Ridge (UCOR) on February 28, and that contract will focus on cleanup at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) and the Y-12 National Security Complex (Y-12) for the next decade. She said OREM and UCOR hosted an event on February 24 that unveiled the closure plan for the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP). The event included a panel that discussed the progress of the site and details on the path ahead to complete the mission there. She added that the one-hour event was recorded and that recording would be available to members, and she encouraged members to watch it.

Next, Ms. Noe told members that OREM leadership had been in Phoenix during the week for the 2022 Waste Management Symposia. She added that Oak Ridge was 2022's featured site at the National Cleanup Conference, so a full day of panel discussions featured various elements of the OREM program.

**Ms. Samantha Urquhart-Foster** – Ms. Urquhart-Foster told members that in December she replaced Connie Jones as the SSAB project manager, and she discussed other personnel changes within the agency.

**Mr. Czartoryski** – None.

### **Presentation**

Ms. Jones introduced Mr. Jim Daffron, OREM's acting director of planning and execution and presenter for the evening's topic, the ORSSAB Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Budget Request.

Mr. Daffron gave members an overview of the federal budget process, which he said is a multiple-year process. He said the FY 2023 budget is in the second step in the process, with the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) consolidating the budgets, and departments are forming their FY 2024 budget requests based on priorities and plans. He said OREM's top priority is to maintain safe and compliant operations, while meeting the regulatory milestones that have been established. He added that OREM's priorities are the same as last year's and have not significantly changed in several years.

Next, Mr. Daffron gave members an overview of DOE's primary mission areas for environmental cleanup nationally and an overview of recent EM budget figures, both nationally and specific to Oak Ridge. He said Oak Ridge's cleanup is funded through multiple accounts and explained how funds appropriated are tied to those specific accounts.

Mr. Daffron then highlighted some of the work completed during 2021, which included continued construction of the Mercury Treatment Facility (MTF) at Y-12 and the submission of the first draft of the Environmental Management Disposal Facility (EMDF) record of decision (ROD). He then went into additional detail about the next stages of planned work for the program. He said MTF work is still underway this year, and the final version of the EMDF ROD will be issued in 2022. After the ROD has been approved, early site work will begin while the design is being finalized. Additionally, he said OREM will continue technology development efforts to better understand the impacts of mercury in the environment.

Mr. Daffron told members that he could not discuss details of the FY 2023 budget because of where it is in the federal budgeting process, but members currently have the opportunity to provide input on the priorities that might influence Oak Ridge's FY 2024 budget formulation.

**After the presentation, board members asked the following questions:**

- Mr. Malone asked whether the funding figures shown for the EMDF during the presentation is for the

new disposal facility planned.

- Mr. Daffron said it is. He said there is a line item for the construction of a new disposal facility.
- Mr. Malone asked whether the first disposal site is currently full.
  - Mr. Daffron said some space remains at the first disposal site. He added that the site filled at a fast rate during building demolitions at ETTP, but the workforce has now transitioned to Y-12 and ORNL, and that work is largely focused on facility deactivation, which generates smaller volumes of waste. He said that the new landfill is going to become very important when future projects start generating large volumes of debris.
- Mr. Malone asked whether there is a timeline for when EMDF would become available.
  - Mr. Daffron said he did not have that information readily available.
- Ms. McCurdy asked how difficult it is to produce a budget two years in advance when you're still trying to accomplish things under the current budget while not knowing what your intermediate budget will be.
  - Mr. Daffron said it's not necessarily uncommon, and while that uncertainty can make it challenging, OREM has several people with a lot of experience who are looking at various scenarios so they will be prepared to execute on whatever budget scenario is approved.

### **Questions from the Public**

None

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Board Business/Motions**

1. Mr. Shields asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda.
  - a. **3.9.22.1 Motion to approve the agenda**  
Motion made by Ms. Jones and seconded by Mr. Tapp. Motion passed.
2. Mr. Shields referred members to Chairs Recommendation on Outreach, charge one, which members received in their information packets. He reminded them that this had been a topic of conversation for several months and this vote would be to either approve or not approve without editing the content of the recommendation.
 

Mr. Shields asked for a motion to approve the Chairs Recommendation on Outreach.

  - a. **3.9.22.2 Motion to approve the Chairs Recommendation on Outreach**  
Motion made by Ms. Jones and seconded by Mr. Tapp. Motion passed.
3. Mr. Shields asked for a motion to approve the Chairs Recommendation on the DOE 10-Year Plan.
  - a. **3.9.22.3 Motion to approve the Chairs Recommendation on the DOE 10-Year Plan**  
Motion made by Ms. Jones and seconded by Mr. Tapp. Motion passed
4. Mr. Shields asked for a motion to approve the February 9, 2022 Meeting Minutes.
  - a. **3.9.22.4 Motion to approve February 9, 2022 Meeting Minutes**  
Motion made by Ms. Lohmann and seconded by Ms. Jones. Motion passed.

**Responses to Recommendations & Alternate DDFO Report**

Ms. Noe told members there were no recommendations awaiting DOE response. She then told members it was still undecided whether the May meeting would be held in person or virtually, but she hoped to be able to give members a month’s notice.

**Committee Reports**

Executive – Mr. Shields discussed the importance of generating interest in participating in ORSSAB and continuing to share Oak Ridge’s successes and legacy.

EM & Stewardship – Mr. Tapp told members that all the current executives, with the exception of Ms. Jones, are in their final terms on the board, and he encouraged members to consider leadership positions on the board and EM and Stewardship Committee. He said serving as Vice Chair on the EM and Stewardship Committee is a great way to start learning for leadership on the board.

**Additions to the Agenda & Open Discussion**

None.

**Action Items**

*Open*

None

*Closed*

None

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

I certify that these minutes are an accurate account of the March 9, 2022, meeting of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board.



Leon Shields, Chair



Michelle Lohmann, Secretary

June 8, 2022

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

ML/sm