



Many Voices Working for the Community

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

Monthly Meeting of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

APPROVED March 8, 2023 Meeting Minutes

The Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) held its monthly meeting virtually via Zoom and in person at 1 Science.gov Way on Wednesday, March 8, 2023 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.

Members Present

Kris Bartholomew
Mary Butler
Harold Conner, Jr.

Paul Dill
Noah Keebler
Harriett McCurdy

Christine Michaels
Michael Sharpe
Leon Shields

Members Absent

Atilio Anzellotti
Rosario Gonzalez
Amy Jones

Michelle Lohmann
Mike Mark
Thomas McCormick

Bonnie Shoemaker
John Tapp
Tom Tuck

¹Third consecutive absence

Liaisons, Deputy Designated Federal Officer, and Alternates Present

Jay Mullis, Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management (OREM) General Manager
Karen Thompson, OREM
Melyssa Noe, ORSSAB Deputy Designated Federal Officer (DDFO), OREM
Roger Petrie, ORSSAB Alternate 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
Emily Day, UCOR
Erin Sutton, OREM

Two members of the public were present.

Liaison Comments

Mr. Mullis – Mr. Mullis began the meeting by giving members a recap of the Waste Management Conference held the week prior. He said a record number of people attended the event, and OREM representatives participated in a couple of panels, which included discussion about UCOR's partnership with Isotek. Next, he said the Army Corp of Engineers was due to make an announcement within the next week about the K-25 History Center. Lastly, he said there was an event planned for April about the uranium 233 (U-233) processing and cancer research.

Samantha Urquhart-Foster – Ms. Urquhart-Foster said she and several EPA staff members have spent the week in Oak Ridge for the Oak Ridge partnering team meeting, and she summarized some of the recent OREM accomplishments.

Mr. Czartoryski – No comments.

Presentation

Mr. Shields introduced OREM's Karen Thompson, presenter for the evening's presentation on OREM's FY 2025 Budget Request.

Ms. Thompson began her presentation by giving members an overview of the federal budget process. She said that each Cabinet-level department submits a budget to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), which then consolidates those budgets and prioritizes them. That prioritized budget is then sent for the President's approval before being submitted to Congress. She then further broke down the process after the proposed budget reached Congress.

Ms. Thompson said before all that happens, each individual office develops a budget. She said OREM maintains a comprehensive work plan that reflects all the priorities and work scope for the site through the end of the year 2047. She then described how OREM uses that comprehensive work plan to map out future work and prioritize the budget. She said the work is categorized according to what needs to be done for safety and regulatory compliance and then prioritized according to safety and regulatory compliance, future work needs and current work needs. After the site receives a planning target from headquarters, the plan is refined to fit within that target dollar amount.

She said Oak Ridge's FY 2022-2023 budget is comprised of two appropriations, defense and non-defense, and the equivalent of ten bank accounts. When funds are assigned to those "bank accounts," OREM may only perform work within the scope of each designated account. To use the funds for a different scope of work, OREM must first ask Congress to move the funds to a different account.

Ms. Thompson then gave members an overview of the various appropriation accounts in OREM's FY 2022 and FY 2023 budgets and FY 2022 accomplishments and FY 2023 planned accomplishments. Accounts included uranium 233 (U-233) disposition, transuranic (TRU) waste disposition, safeguard and security operations, Y-12 National Security Complex (Y-12) and Oak Ridge National Laboratory

(ORNL) surveillance and maintenance activities and operations, excess facilities cleanup, the Mercury Treatment Facility (MTF), Environmental Management Disposal Facility (EMDF), technology development, regulatory support, East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP) cleanup, and pension and medical benefits.

She then discussed OREM's priorities, which include complete ETTP remediation, demolish excess contaminated facilities at ORNL and Y-12, build infrastructure to enable cleanup (MTF and EMDF), disposition U-233 material, disposition legacy transuranic contact-handled (CH) / remote-handled (RH) debris and sludges, and maintain and operate facilities at ORNL and Y-12.

Ms. Thompson concluded her presentation by noting that the FY 2024 budget is embargoed and added that this is an opportunity for the board to provide input on the FY 2025 budget.

After the presentation, board members asked the following questions:

- Mr. Conner asked whether OREM can negotiate the target dollar amounts provided by headquarters.
 - Mr. Mullis said the site typically is given a planning target and two additional "over" targets that are sometimes designated as percentages and sometimes designated as dollar values to use for planning purposes in case additional funds become available. He added that budget workshops are held for discussions regarding potential project impacts from budgetary actions.
- Ms. Butler asked for clarification of ORSSAB's role in the budget process.
 - Ms. Thompson said hearing the board's priorities allows OREM to ensure the work being done is the work that is important to the community.
- Mr. Conner asked how recent work done at Y-12, which is under the purview of the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), and ORNL, which is under the purview of DOE's Office of Science (OSC), has impacted the budgeting process.
 - Mr. Mullis said it has not had a direct impact either positively or negatively. He said there has been a lot of support and advocacy among the entities, and he gave significant credit to UCOR for reaching out to NNSA and OSC.
- Ms. McCurdy asked whether the various DOE sites doing cleanup are in direct competition with each other for funds.
 - Mr. Mullis said the appropriators have a significant impact on the budget.
- Ms. Michaels asked if OREM has the capability to request excess funds from one category be moved to a different area.
 - Ms. Thompson said OREM can ask to re-program funds, and although DOE headquarters

has limited authority to do so, most of those requests must go back through Congress. Mr. Mullis added that typically if there is excess funds left in one category at the end of the year, this excess, called “carryover,” is applied to the next year and that year’s funding is adjusted accordingly.

Questions from the Public

- Mr. Luther Gibson asked for confirmation on OREM’s funding categories. He then asked for clarification about funding and administration for Oak Ridge pensions.
 - Ms. Thompson confirmed OREM’s funding categories and provided clarification regarding funding and administration for Oak Ridge pensions.

Public Comment

Public Comment #1 – See attached.

Public Comment #2 – Mr. Luther Gibson commented about the speed of the public release of budget information.

Board Business/Motions

The board was unable to conduct business due to lack of a quorum.

Responses to Recommendations & Alternate DDFO Report

Ms. Noe told members there are no open recommendations.

Committee Reports

Executive – None.

EM & Stewardship – Mr. Sharpe said the committee discussed the Environmental Management Disposal Facility (EMDF), and key takeaways from the discussion were that any potential changes to EMDF models would be communicated to the board and that tree clearing on the site is scheduled to begin this year. He said the committee has no recommendations related to EMDF at this time, however, a recommendation could come in the future if the board chooses to revisit the topic.

Additions to the Agenda & Open Discussion

None.

Action Items

Open

None

Closed

None

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

I certify that these minutes are an accurate account of the March 8, 2023, meeting of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board.



Leon Shields, Chair



Michelle Lohmann, Secretary

May 10, 2023

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

ML/sm