

Oak Ridge Reservation Communities Alliance (ORRCA)

Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, November 26, 2024, at 11 a.m.

Location: K-25 Atomic History Center

652 Enrichment Street

Oak Ridge, TN 37830

- I. Call Meeting to Order
- II. Welcome and Introductions
- III. Approval of March October 22, 2024 meeting minutes
- IV. Public education request (City of Oak Ridge)
- V. NRDA Grants update
- VI. Other Updates
- VII. New Business
- VIII. Adjournment



November 1, 2024

NOTICE

TO: OAK RIDGE RESERVATION COMMUNITIES' ALLIANCE (ORRCA)

- Wade Creswell
- Terry Frank
- Warren Gooch
- Brian Langley
- Glenn Jacobs

RE: MEETING NOTIFICATION

An ORRCA (Oak Ridge Reservation Communities Alliance) meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 26, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.

This meeting will be held in the auditorium at the K-25 Atomic History Center, 652 Enrichment Street, Oak Ridge, TN.

The meeting is open to the public.

**cc: media
ORRCA Board
ORRCA Committee
RCERB**

Oak Ridge Reservation Communities Alliance (ORRCA)

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 22, 2024 at 2 p.m.

Location: ETEC Meeting Room

1201 Oak Ridge Turnpike

Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Members Present: Anderson County Mayor Terry Frank, Roane County Executive Wade Creswell, Oak Ridge Councilwoman Ellen Smith (proxy for Mayor Gooch)

Others Present: Sign-in sheet attached (Exhibit A)

Mayor Frank called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Minutes of the March 19, 2024 Meeting: Motion by Executive Creswell, second by Ellen Smith to approve minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Public education request/discussion: Amy Fitzgerald with the City of Oak Ridge discussed a grant through ECA that the City is working on in relation to consent based siting. The grant can be utilized to engage a consultant and do a needs assessment in Anderson and Roane Counties, and the City of Oak Ridge for safety and responder issues, among other things related to consent based siting. Motion by Executive Creswell, second by Ellen Smith to approve a support letter on behalf of ORRCA for the COR application.

There was a discussion of utilizing education funds from the ESOA grant to further the ECA grant efforts, and A. Fitzgerald will develop a proposal for consideration at the next ORRCA meeting.

Status of TDEC/DOE contract for FFA: Colby Morgan, TDEC, reported that negotiations are still ongoing, with a meeting and final agreement anticipated soon. Suzanne Sawusch, TDEC, noted ORRCA had successfully submitted the 2025 work plan, but final approval and the contract with Anderson County is awaiting the TDEC/DOE final negotiations.

Other updates: Executive Creswell opened a discussion about TVA's release of the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), and the need for emphasis on nuclear energy in the IRP. Creswell encouraged members to attend the Nov. 4th Open House at 6 p.m. at the ETEC offices, located at 1201 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Suite 100, Oak Ridge, TN. There was no motion, but Creswell polled members if he had their general support for expressing a greater emphasis on nuclear, and present ORRCA members agreed.

Following other general discussion regarding nuclear, latest in treatment of transuranic waste, and scheduled events for the Manhattan National Park, it was requested that Kristoff Czartoryski be invited to the next meeting for ORRCA for possible updates. Mayor Frank will distribute dates for next meeting towards mid-November, to very early December.

The meeting was adjourned without objection at 3:02 p.m.

Proposal for ORRCA Public Education and Outreach: Elevating the Oak Ridge Corridor

Background

The Oak Ridge Corridor is a term coined by former United States Senator and Tennessee Governor Lamar Alexander to represent the science and technology assets in and around Oak Ridge. Between 2020-22, a team comprised of marketing, communications, and outreach professionals from the Oak Ridge Reservation Communities Alliance (ORRCA) member jurisdictions met regularly to work on a collaborative effort to support ORRCA's outreach and education mission. The team retained a professional firm to develop and showcase videos about the City of Oak Ridge, Roane, Anderson, and Morgan counties as being the center of the Oak Ridge Corridor. The project included recording, editing, and modifying videos that were shared on social media, websites, and other digital formats. The project sought to improve public understanding of the natural environment in the City of Oak Ridge, Roane, and Anderson counties, attract people to live, work, and play in the Oak Ridge Corridor while showcasing the recreational opportunities in the City, Roane, Anderson, and Morgan counties. A landing page was created with the videos and further information on the region under the domain:

<https://oakridgecorridortn.com/>

Proposal

The Oak Ridge Corridor Development Corporation is a new 501(c)(3) non-profit organization funded by the City of Oak Ridge and governed by a 14-18-member Board of Directors that includes elected and appointed leaders from ORRCA member jurisdictions. The organization's purpose is to collaborate with regional partners to promote development in the Oak Ridge Corridor, especially new nuclear development, and the growth of a regional supply chain for nuclear, research, and technology sectors.

Significant opportunities are located in and around the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) former K-25 uranium enrichment site, now known as the East Tennessee Technology Park. The reindustrialization of the site is a component of ORRCA's work plan and is featured in both DOE's Vision 2024 and the State of Tennessee's New Nuclear Energy initiative. The Community Reuse Organization of East Tennessee (CROET) has announced its closure in 2025, and the Oak Ridge Corridor Development Corporation is expected to elevate reindustrialization to a new level of engagement with the goal of spurring critical energy investment in the Oak Ridge Corridor.

This proposal seeks ORRCA's support to utilize public and education outreach funding to build upon and expand the previous effort, integrating the addition of the Oak Ridge Corridor Development Corporation. The proposal supports the implementation of Sections 2-6 of ORRCA 5-year work plan. Key team members would reconvene and work on a new public education and outreach program designed to align with partners' development initiatives. Emphasis will be placed on promoting the Oak Ridge Corridor as a preeminent location to live, work, and spend time in the area's exceptional natural environment. Materials developed will be housed on the Development Corporation's and ORRCA's websites.

Funding

Approximately \$39,667 in unused FY2024 ORRCA grant finds may be eligible for carry-over to FY25 to support the project. If combined with eligible funding from ORRCA's FY25 budget, the project could be funded at approximately \$55,000. The project would comply with terms in the ORRCA grant contract.

Approved March 19, 2024

**Five-Year Work Plan for the Oak Ridge Reservation Communities Alliance (ORRCA) Environmental Surveillance and Oversight Agreement (ESOA)
July 1, 2023 thru June 30, 2028**

Introduction:

The Environmental Surveillance Oversight Agreement (ESOA) is designed to assure the citizens of the State of Tennessee that the Department of Energy's (DOE) activities in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, are being performed in a manner that is protective of their health, safety, and environment. Through a program of independent environmental surveillance oversight and monitoring, the State of Tennessee (State) will advise and assess DOE's environmental surveillance program, working collaboratively with the Office of Science, National Nuclear Safety Administration (NNSA), and DOE Environmental Management.

In carrying out the ESOA Agreement, "the Parties will fully cooperate and coordinate with each other, other federal and State agencies and local governments affected by this Agreement. The Parties to this Agreement shall commit to maintaining a direct and open relationship with local governments, such as engagement with the Oak Ridge Reservation Communities Alliance (ORRCA)."

A new five-year work plan for the grant period December 1, 2023 through June 30, 2028 is described below. For the purposes of this work plan, the term DOE shall include the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA).

Scope of Services:

1. The Grantee shall support implementation of the Environmental Surveillance Oversight Interlocal Agreement (ESOIA)

The ESOIA will serve as the framework for the operation of ORRCA. ORRCA will conduct outreach and educational activities to the public and potentially affected local governments in to help assure the citizens of the affected local government that the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) activities are being performed in a manner that is protective of their health, safety, and environment. For the purposes of this work plan, the term DOE shall include the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA). ORRCA serves as a key interface for ongoing collaboration on clean up, reuse, and planning and response issues. ORRCA collaborates among regional local governments to promote a better understanding of the continued operations of the ORR facilities.

The State's annual environmental monitoring reports, along with the DOE Environmental Monitoring Plan (EMP), and the Annual Site Environmental Report (ASER) will serve as guiding documents. During FY25, emphasis will be placed on better aligning local government collaboration in the DOE/State program.

2. The Grantee shall promote local government involvement and public awareness in the continued operations of the Oak Ridge Reservation facilities.

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ORCCA will continue to collaborate among the regional local governments to promote better understanding of the continued operations of the Oak Ridge Reservation facilities. Participation with DOE, EPA, and TDEC officials in meetings, such as those listed in this plan as "Upcoming Meetings of Interest," will be instrumental in educating local officials in support of the grant scope.

Emphasis will be placed on:

- Enhancing communication with DOE, EPA, and TDEC regarding local priorities and concerns related to Environmental Monitoring Priorities and Budgets
- Improving local government as well as community understanding of how environmental monitoring is conducted on the ORR
- Engaging in assessment and review, and relaying information to the public regarding the evaluation of activities related to the National Historic Preservation Act and the Manhattan Project National Historical Park
- Working with NNSA and DOE entities to facilitate public meetings and engage the public

3. The Grantee shall disseminate accurate information concerning present or proposed activities

Emphasis will be placed on:

- Continuing to improve public education through dissemination of current information on ORRCA's website
- Continuing to enhance public education about the quality of the natural environment in Oak Ridge and host counties through a coordinated communications program focusing on the Oak Ridge Corridor
- Continuing to educate local officials and other stakeholders from other DOE sites about ORR facilities and activities
- Exploring new methodologies for public outreach
- Beginning direct engagement with local school systems
- Changing meeting locations to reach new sectors of the public and provide interactive engagement

4. The Grantee shall identify local concerns and issues relevant to the operation of the Oak Ridge Reservation and environs and present concerns to the State of Tennessee and the Department of Energy during the selection of annual work and budget priorities.

ORCCA will continue to engage with the State and DOE to improve understanding of local government and community concerns.

Emphasis will be placed on:

- DOE's Strategic Plan for Mercury, including source reduction and treatment, monitoring, and expediting studies related to treatment and reduction of mercury not related to DOE EM clean-up
- Continued emphasis on disseminating information on off-site impacts resulting from ongoing operations as related to the evaluations provided in EMP and EMR
- Modernization of water and wastewater infrastructure needed to support the ongoing DOE missions on the Oak Ridge Reservation
- Participation in site planning to promote the ongoing reindustrialization of ETPP
- Transfer of excess/underutilized property for economic and community development

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5. The Grantee shall prepare special studies and reports, as needed, to educate local officials, further public information, and facilitate transfer of excess property.

Emphasis will be placed on:

- Review and assessment of monitoring and surveillance programs for all applicable media (i.e., air, surface water, soil, sediments, groundwater, precipitation, food crops, fish and wildlife, and biological systems)
- Providing a local government mechanism for input into DOE's budgetary and programmatic priorities
- Reviewing and communicating to the public information regarding the ORRCA's assessment of Department of Energy/Office of Science permits
- Facilitating transfer of excess properties, including necessary studies and planning
- Researching and implementing new outreach technologies

6. Federal, State, Local Government and Public Interaction

ORRCA serves as a key interface for ongoing collaboration on clean up, reuse, and planning and response issues. ORRCA collaborates among regional local governments to promote a better understanding of the continued operations of the ORR facilities.

In implementation of ESOA, ORRCA members will cooperate and coordinate with TDEC, DOE, other federal and state agencies, and other local governments. Activities will involve coordination with DOE and the public on both a local and national level, as well as participation in organizations such as the Energy Communities Alliance.

7. After-Emergency Environmental Response Actions

ORRCA members' personnel may support TDEC Division of Remediation-Oak Ridge personnel in public health advisories on East Fork Poplar Creek and other area reservoirs/rivers. This might include disseminating information pertaining to federal and state actions in response to accidental spills, releases, and emissions as reported by the DOE to the State and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

8. Training

ORRCA members' staff will maintain the necessary programs, equipment, training, and procedures to conduct and support ESOA activities in a safe manner.

- ORRCA will manage an intern program to further educate local officials and the public, as well as participate in preparing special studies and reports.

9. Meetings of Interest that Support ORRCA's Mission:

- a. Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board meetings
- b. Manhattan Project National Historical Park Cities' meetings
- c. Annual National Cleanup Workshop
- d. Annual DOE Intergovernmental Meeting
- e. Waste Management Symposia
- f. New Nuclear Initiative Forums that support reindustrialization of DOE sites

GRANT BUDGET

FY24 ORRCA Budget for ESOA Related Activities

The Grant Budget line-item amounts below shall be applicable only to expense incurred during the following

Applicable

Period:

BEGIN: **January 1, 2024**

END: **June 30, 2024**

	EXPENSE OBJECT LINE-ITEM CATEGORY ¹	GRANT CONTRACT	GRANTEE PARTICIPATION	TOTAL PROJECT
	Salaries, Benefits & Taxes	15,167	0.00	15,167
	Professional Fee, Grant & Award ²	20,000	0.00	20,000
	Supplies, Telephone, Postage & Shipping, Occupancy, Equipment Rental & Maintenance, Printing & Publications	1,000	0.00	2,000
	Travel, Conferences & Meetings	1,500	0.00	1,500
	Interest ²	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Specific Assistance To Individuals	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Depreciation ²	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Other Non-Personnel ²	2,000	0.00	2,000
	Capital Purchase ²	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Indirect Cost	0.00	0.00	0.00
	In-Kind Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00
	GRAND TOTAL	39,667	0.00	39,667

¹ Each expense object line-item is defined by the U.S. OMB's Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, Subpart E Cost Principles (posted on the Internet at: <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200/subpart-E>) and CPO Policy 2013-007 (posted online at <https://www.tn.gov/generalservices/procurement/central-procurement-office--cpo-/library-.html>).

² Applicable detail follows this page if line-item is funded.

GRANT BUDGET LINE-ITEM DETAIL:

PROFESSIONAL FEE, GRANT & AWARD	AMOUNT
Grant Administration and Salary Reimbursement	15,167
TOTAL	15,167

Contracted Services	AMOUNT
Studies / Planning re: transfer of excess land	20,000
TOTAL	Amount

Supplies	AMOUNT
	1,000
TOTAL	1,000

OTHER NON-PERSONNEL	AMOUNT
Memberships / Subscriptions	1,000
Public Education / Outreach	1,000
TOTAL	2,000

Travel	AMOUNT
	1,500
TOTAL	1,500

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HURRICANE HELENE

Grants Process Begins for Return of Natural Resources at Oak Ridge Reservation

Wednesday, November 20, 2024 | 08:00am

Officials overseeing \$42 million for restoration of natural resources at the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR) today announced the opening of Requests for Proposals for grants from the fund and released a manual for how to obtain them.

Trustees in the program will solicit, evaluate, and select projects that best restore natural resources lost due to contamination at the site, which was part of the Manhattan Project that produced materials for the atomic bomb in the early 1940s.

Trustees include the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), the United States Department of Energy (DOE), and the United States Department of the Interior, through the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). DOE paid the \$42 million into an account administered by the state of Tennessee. The Trustees have established procedures for applications in the process, known as [Natural Resources Damage Assessment and Restoration \(NRDAR\)](#).

Here is a link to the [Restoration Project Selection Procedure Grant Program Manual](#).

Contamination released from the ORR negatively impacted natural resources and services from them. The goal is to restore natural resources in ways that match what was lost.

Three Workshops for the Grants Process

Oak Ridge	TownePlace Suites, Dec. 12, 2024 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. EST 300 S Rutgers Ave., Oak Ridge, TN
Kingston	Kingston Community Center, Jan. 9, 2025 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. EST 201 Patton Ferry Rd., Kingston, TN
Clinton	Holiday Inn Express & Suites Knoxville-Clinton, Jan. 23, 2025 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. EST 111 Hillvale Rd., Clinton, TN

The process will award grants to organizations and public entities for a wide range of local projects that either enhance the area's natural resources or provide nature and recreational opportunities. Examples of applicable projects include clearing away abandoned parking lots to plant native vegetation, removing invasive species, land conservation, installing streets and parking lots with permeable pavements to improve rainwater infiltration, and septic conversions.

Other projects include those that improve public use of natural resources such as building or improving boat launches and fishing piers, purchasing and restoring land with public access to water, creating public hiking and biking trails or wildlife viewing areas, and constructing, improving, or maintaining public recreation area amenities such as trash control, water fountains, and restrooms.

Local projects eligible for grants must be in one of five categories: habitat creation, habitat restoration or enhancement, habitat preservation, groundwater, or recreation. Grant applications do not have a minimum value and can go as high as millions of dollars for projects in Anderson and Roane counties and portions of Loudon and Knox counties.

The Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR) consists of approximately 37,000 acres of federally owned land in Anderson and Roane counties. The ORR is bounded on the north and east by the City of Oak Ridge, and on the south and west by the Clinch River. The western part of the ORR boundary lies just outside the City of Oak Ridge corporate limits.

The ORR was designated a Superfund Site by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1989. About 15 percent of the ORR is contaminated by hazardous and radioactive materials, including waste sites or remediation areas. This legacy contamination is being cleaned up. The Tennessee Division of Remediation's Oak Ridge office oversees all environmental protection and remedial action activities on the ORR.

The opening of Requests for Proposals can be viewed online after registering at the [TDEC Grants Management System](#).

View TDEC's Remediation website for more information about the [Oak Ridge Reservation](#).