

# Minutes

## Ocean Bridge Steering Committee Call

Oct 17, 2019 at 9:00am PT

### Present:

Joana Augusto  
Michael Furdyk  
Stephen Virc  
Nicole Straughan (chair)  
Benjamin Aubé  
Munju Ravindra  
Matthew Miller  
Mike Wong  
Shelly Elverum  
Ailsa Barry

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#### 1. Changes to Steering Committee (*Nicole S.*):

- a. We are welcoming Munju from the Parks Canada NMCA office! She will be our Parks Canada representative and is creating an internal working group at Parks Canada to connect with the various field sites. She is replacing Lisa (Lake Superior) & Christine (Gwaii Haanas).
- b. For those that weren't able to join us in Thunder Bay and may not have been update, we have two alumni, Matt & Kareina, who have joined the steering committee. Not only does their first-hand experience in the program bring a valuable perspective, they are also both very accomplished young professionals in their respective communities of practice.
- c. Lastly, Stephen Virc has joined the steering committee as well to represent DFO and the UN Decade of Ocean Science.

#### *Stephen V:*

- I've heard great things about this program from James and I'm very happy to be here.

## 2. Expansion & Extension Update (*Nicole S.*):

- a. We received our signed agreement with ESDC for **\$6.5 million** to expand and extend Ocean Bridge from now through to March 31, 2021!
- b. We will be leading the following programs:
  - i. Ocean Bridge Pacific, Ocean Bridge Great Lakes, Ocean Bridge Atlantic and Ocean Bridge St. Lawrence. Each cohort will have 40 youth between ages 18-30.
  - ii. Ocean Bridge Immersive (name TBD). 20 full-time 3-month immersive field placements for ages 18-30.
  - iii. Ocean Bridge Jr. (Youth to Sea). 100 placements with min commitment of 120hrs each for ages 15 - 17. These youth will complete full time placements with our AquaCamps as well as complete a community service project.

### *Nicole S.*

Ocean Bridge Jr.: Youth will go on field overnight expedition, and will do placement for three weeks full time with the Camps team. At the end they'll develop and deliver service project inspired by their experience at Youth Service Showcase in Vancouver. Those who completed 120 hours will be invited to come out and show their peers.

- c. We are preparing job descriptions and will be posting for 22 new staff that will be based in offices across the country (Vancouver, Ottawa, Montreal and Halifax and possibly Haida Gwaii, Thunder Bay, Saguenay, and Eastport/St. John's). Positions include:
  - Ocean Bridge Classic:
    - i. 8 Program Specialists: Citizen Science, Indigenous Knowledge & Engagement, Outreach & Education
    - ii. 4 Assistant Managers (focused on planning expeditions and coaching teams)
    - iii. 4 Managers
  - Ocean Bridge Immersive
    - iv. 1 Manager
    - v. 1 Program Specialist
  - Ocean Bridge Jr. - Youth to Sea
    - vi. 15Hrs of Children & Youth Manger
    - vii. 2 Program Specialists
  - Support across the teams:
    - viii. 2 Communications Coordinators
    - ix. 1 Program Administrator
    - x. 1 Director of Youth
- d. While we are hoping to be able to hire several alumni, please share these postings with your networks once they are live!
- e. Planning to launch recruitment for Ocean Bridge classic in the next couple weeks. We'll use same system as last year where alumni will help us review

applications. We're also adding new piece of short phone call with applicants to make sure they know what to expect.

*Matthew Miller:*

- Will there be four steering committees for each Ocean Bridge location/program?

*Nicole:* No, only one steering committee, though we are hoping to increase the number of face to-face meetings.

*Stephen V:*

- This is basically the workplan for the next 18 months? This is valuable and gives me an appreciation of what you're working on in addition to what James has shared with me

- In regards to UN Decade of Ocean Science, we're in planning stage right now at DFO. In January, there will be regional workshop in Halifax where the topic will be the North Atlantic. As part of that workshop, we're trying to identify different priorities and activities to deliver over next 10 years. What's exciting is we're looking to engage early career scientists in themes that are all ocean related. We're still in the planing stages, and I'd like to come back to this group and give you more information and potentially identify participants, and circulate Expression of Interest.

*Mike W:*

- International Marine Protected Areas Congress will be held in Vancouver in September 2021. I think there's opportunity for some Ocean Bridge participants to show their activities and raise the profile of Ocean Bridge and Ocean Wise at the Congress. Something to keep in mind. I'll certainly raise that with that steering committee.

*Nicole:* That's definitely an event we're excited to have our youth involved in. There is also funding in the current agreement to travel to the World Conservation Congress next June in Marseille, France.

*Shelly E.:*

- Where do Arctic youth fit in these programs? Also still interested in Arctic-based Ocean Bridge program! I think if we put our heads together and try to add our energy with Student on Ice, for example, we could create something really meaningful.

*Munju R:* I had the same thoughts as Shelly - I think between the three (Ocean Bridge, Parks Canada, Students On Ice), there is potential to make something happen.

*Nicole S:* Cohorts will still be youth from all across the country, our intention to reach youth from all corners of Canada in all cohorts won't change. We're hoping to build stronger strategy for reaching Northern/Arctic youth.

*Munju R:*

- I know Ocean Bridge has agreements with Parks/NMCAs - do you have/need something similar with DFO? A number of areas with interesting work happening that could cross over well with the program.

*Nicole:* No DFO agreement in place, but it's something we will discuss.

*Munju R:*

- Parks currently have operational working group on how to best support Ocean Bridge - I think we'd be open to opening that up to wider federal family. Will send Steve V. an invite.

### 3. Ottawa Update:

Ocean Bridge Ambassadors are in the middle of planning their projects and filling out the Project Planning Guides that are due at the end of this month. There are 5 youth projects that will be hosted in Ottawa during the Urban expedition in January.

- a. Ocean Bridge Youth Ambassador Projects
  - i. Oceans Outreach Day: Interactive space held in multiple locations throughout Ottawa to get a better understanding of ocean literacy in the capital as well as share knowledge and raise awareness.
  - ii. An Exploration of Ocean Plastics: Through immersive workshops and talks, the goal of this project is to inform and inspire citizens of Ottawa to take action in their day to day lives.
  - iii. Film and panel: A film will be screened at a location in Ottawa followed by a panel of ocean leaders on the topic of MPA and the role that they play.
  - iv. Bring the Oceans to Ottawa: Raising awareness for Oceans and watersheds through art and music.
  - v. Ocean Party: The goal of this project is to explore oceans and waterway issues through art and culture. Through a celebration of the oceans, which will include a keynote speaker, a networking event and performances, Ocean Bridge ambassadors will aim to foster connections and collaboration with Ottawa based citizens and stakeholders.
- b. Workshops and events
  - i. Betty Carpick: Betty will be attending the Urban expedition and work on an art piece that was started during the wilderness expedition. Youth will bring their squares that they received during their first expedition that they have stitched, and Betty will sew together those squares.
  - ii. CC-IUCN luncheon - we are connecting with the CC-IUCN AGM to identify the best way to meaningfully engage the youth and take advantage of being in Ottawa at the same time.
  - iii. Canadian Ocean Literacy Coalition: Diz from the COLC is hoping to host a workshop/talk for Ocean Bridge ambassadors. Meeting is scheduled for next week to discuss what this will look like.

*Nicole S:*

- We have also confirmed funding for in-person steering committee meeting in January in Ottawa. We'll send out poll to see what dates work best (we'll try to avoid same dates as IUCN AGM).

*Matt M.*

- Will there be overlap between in-person meeting and the urban expedition?

*Nicole S:* That is the hope. Once we have the dates for meeting, we'll see if we can include time involving youth and steering committee members.

*Shelly E:*

- In Ottawa, is there opportunity to connect with museum or national Inuit organizations to include a Northern/Arctic angle? With Ikaarvik and Ocean Wise, there could be some great opportunities.

*Michael F:*

- The Northern Lights Tradeshow happening Feb 5-8, 2020 - another potential opportunity for youth.

*Nicole S:*

-In regards to office locations when program expands, we have funding for co-work / office space for all of staff in each location. We haven't thought of what those spaces would look like, but I would definitely be interested in further conversations with Parks or DFO or TIG or Halifax Discovery Centre to discuss spaces we could have team of youth work out of.

*Ailsa B:*

- We do have lots of space in the Gatineau area where Students On Ice and Ocean Literacy Coalition are based, on Pink Road. Already a good little community there.

- Looking at the plan, there seem to be certain days that work and others that don't work for urban expedition. Can we loop back with Megan and Stephanie and the team to work through what youth have planned so far.

-As a heads up: In February, we're having an Arctic Biodiversity Meeting that we have every two years. Going back to Arctic conversation, that would be a general call-out to anyone who wants to attend, including Ocean Bridge folks. There will be a range of speakers over two days.

-What is update on Touch Tank?

*Nicole S:* Have spoken with Catriona, head of Ocean Wise mobile programs. One mobile teams staff from mobile team will come for a full work day for training, to make sure water quality, etc. gets set up properly. We're working with youth to find ways to bring the touch tank into their project. We're just working out some of the details.

*Matt M:*

-Will animals from the Pacific be in Touch Tank?

*Nicole S:* We're still working on details, including what we're allowed to ship across provincial lines.

*Ailsa B:* We already have Pacific touch tank animals here, like sea stars and others. There is a group of experts and scientists that have to sign off on all of this.

#### 4. Communications:

- a. [New park award celebrates life of Micah Messent](#) - Thank you to Dawn Carr and all others who helped make this become a reality in memory of one of Ocean Bridge's finest.
- b. [Ocean Bridge ambassador Frankie Marquez sporting her Ocean Bridge t-shirt](#) for a group shot in this article featuring Ocean Wise's partnership with Duke of Ed.
- c. See below for some photos of our youth, Ariane Marchand, Shawn Gauthier and Marie-Phillip Ouellet at the Canadian Parks Conference in Québec last week!



**Lisa McLaughlin** @LisaMcL\_NCC · Oct 7

Look who I found at the Canadian Parks Conference - **Ocean Bridge** @OceanWise participant Ariane Marchand! Great connections!





**Parks Life** @parkslife · Oct 8

The [#CanadianParksConference](#) is underway! 🍁  
Our group of [#NatureForAll](#) Youth Champions is ready for their Youth Connections Session, where they'll be talking about how [@ParksCanada](#) is engaging with young people across this country. [@natureforall](#)



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**Parks Life** @pcparkslife · Oct 13

"This community of people truly motivated to make nature a better place for current and future generations gives me full confidence in the future of our parks"

Shawn - #OceanBridge Ambassador, Youth Champion at the #CanadianParksConference. @OceanWise

