



## Minutes

### Ocean Bridge Steering Committee Call Sept. 27, 2019 at 12:00pm PT

#### Participants:

Joana Augusto  
Nicole Straughan  
Benjamin Aubé  
James Bartram  
Dave Byng  
Michael Furdyk

#### Index:

1. Expansion & Extension Update
2. Ottawa Update
3. Communications
4. Climate Strikes
5. Steering Committee calls with Youth
6. Building Bridges, in memory of Micah Messent
7. Other

#### 1. Expansion & Extension Update

##### *Nicole S:*

- We continue to work with ESDC on the extension & expansion. Still waiting on an update.
- Our understanding is request will get approved, but still waiting on official announcement
- We have made reductions for ask, but still intend on having four cohorts of 40 participants (aged 18-30) between January 2020 and March 2021.

- Continue to plan for 20 full-time field placements
- Still plan to have service placements at the Vancouver Aquarium with our camps and curriculum teams for 128 youth 15-17 years old

*James B:*

- We were expecting it to be made official by this point; we're optimistic a positive answer will come soon, but until we see signature we can't move ahead too far.

## 2. Ottawa Update

*Nicole S:*

- We have hired 2018 Ocean Bridge participant Jasveen Brar - she is solely responsible for supporting and coaching the Ottawa service project teams and finalizing logistics of the trip. She started on September 3 and is quickly settling into the position. She will be sharing an office space in Ottawa with TIG starting in October.
- Youth will be leading 5 projects in Ottawa - see the draft summaries attached provided by Jasveen.
- Projects youth are planning include oceans outreach booth; an exploration on oceans plastic, MPA effectiveness in 2020 and beyond panel, event to engage politicians, and networking night/party event.

*James B.*

- I think it's great that we're hiring Ocean Bridge alumni, she brings strong experience and knowledge and our hope is we'll see more of this when the program expands

## 3. Communications

*Benjamin A.*

- New Aquablog is up featuring 2019 Ocean Bridge youth (as well as a 2018 alumnus) <https://www.aquablog.ca/2019/09/ocean-bridge-alumnus-founds-project-snorkel/>
- Summer alumni newsletter was sent out in late August to all alumni, current participants and steering committee.
- Continuing with pitches to local media in youth's communities
- Editing of Canadian Geographic series featuring reflections on Lake Superior expedition is ongoing
- New Ocean Bridge video featuring footage from Lake Superior expedition is in the works

#### **4. Climate Strikes**

*Nicole S./Benjamin A.:*

- Ocean Bridge youth including Frankie Marquez, Lachlan Riehl, Jasveen Brar, (among many others) were participating in Climate Strikes across Canada.
- Ocean Bridger Natalie York has asked this year's participants to send her photos, which she hopes to set up as sort of art/photo exhibit in Ottawa

#### **5. Steering Committee calls with Youth**

*Nicole S.*

- We are hoping to facilitate calls between Steering Committee and Ocean Bridge youth again this year. Rather than doing it over the course of one week we can stretch it out over 1-2 months, arranging calls for when both Steering Committee and youth are available. Each youth would have the opportunity to do 1 call in place of their regular mentorship calls.
- Are committee members interested in doing this? If so, can we contact you to see when you have time in your schedule over the months of October-November for calls?
- We can arrange it at any time over the next few months
- Many youth are super keen to have more personal relationships or conversations with Steering Committee members.
- If interested please contact [nicole.Straughan@ocean.org](mailto:nicole.Straughan@ocean.org)

*Dave B.*

- Did any mentoring opportunities last year turn into longer-term engagements or are they supposed to be a one-off thing?
- *Nicole:* That's up to steering committee member and the mentee. If you're interested in picking up a call and are interested in a longer-term engagement, you can let us know and that might help us match steering committee members up with the youth.

#### **6. Building Bridges, in memory of Micah Messent**

*Nicole S.*

- Micah had been working on a networking event to take place in Victoria at time of tragedy. We have youth who've come together to follow that project through.
- Set for Nov 29th at Bateman Centre, titled Building Bridges: Conversations about Ocean Conservation
- The idea is to bring intergenerational group of people in environmental sector to spark conversations and connect youth with experienced professionals in the industry, in hopes of building longer-lasting relationships between youth and experienced professionals.
- We're seeking suggestions from Steering Committee members for "experienced professionals" that cover wide range of experience: policy, academics, NGOs, education, Indigenous relations, industry, journalism, art, etc. Please let Nicole at [nicole.straughan@ocean.org](mailto:nicole.straughan@ocean.org) know if you know anyone!

*Dave B:*

- We have a number of contacts that might be interested
- There is Explorers Club with quite a few members that reside in Victoria, from youth to very senior folks like Robert Bateman. Would be happy to set up a conversation in the near future to talk about this - perhaps this Tuesday.

**Other:**

*James B.*

- As soon as we have an answer in regards to extension, we will communicate that immediately with the Steering Committee

**SEE NEXT PAGE FOR OTTAWA OCEAN BRIDGE PROJECT IDEAS IN THE WORKS**

## Ocean Bridge 2019 Urban expedition projects

1. Oceans Outreach Day ('Let's Talk Oceans' and 'Contamination station' projects were blended to create this one).

Ocean Bridge ambassadors are stationed around Ottawa to interact with the broader Ottawa public. The goal is to encourage conversations around Oceans in the hope to understand the level of ocean literacy in Ottawa as well as to build upon it. A contamination station (an Arduino/robotics model) will also be set up, ideally at the museum, to showcase the impacts of common use household items and their parameters and how we can mitigate them. This will be a interactive and hands on activity that will include components such as water quality sensors.

2. An exploration on Ocean Plastics (A collaboration between 'Disrupting the waste stream', 'Plastic free is a privilege' and 'Plastics map'.)

This projects goal is to inspire citizens to take action in their day to day lives through hands on and immersive workshops and talks. Part of this projects will be a workshop that audits and highlights materials that enter the waste water stream on an average day, understanding where those materials came from, the resources that went into them and how to prevent and repurpose those materials from entering the Ottawa water stream. There is opportunity to make this into a letter writing campaign as well for those that are inspired by this workshop, an email template will be set up to reach out to businesses to take action and responsibility for consumer production chains. Next, a game will be hosted (likely multiple times throughout the expedition) that uses a giant floor map that shows the voyage of single use plastics. There are many elements of this game that will show what happens when plastic is thrown out, when it is recycled, the impact on different species such as those that are at risk and ultimately linking oceans, lakes and watersheds. The audience for this project is open to everyone but mainly catered towards school aged children.

3. MPA effectiveness & Beyond 2020 panel

A film will be screened that focusses on the importance of Marine Protected Areas, which will then be followed by a panel of experts in the field engaging in conversation and interacting with the audience. After the panel a living library will be hosted that will include the experts on the panel. Each person will be a "book" that people can then "read" and have an intimate conversation with.

4. Bring the Oceans to Ottawa

This event will bring the oceans to Ottawa. Ottawa is the legislative hub in Canada, where many marine and aquatic laws are written. Ottawa politicians are often far detached from the issues they are governing so we should expose them to these issues through protest art that illustrates the largest issues facing our waterways today. Some ideas include representations of sea level rise from climate change, or ocean acidification, over fishing, and plastic debris.

## 5. Ocean Party

The Oceans party's goal is to explore ocean and waterway issues through art and culture. Through a celebration of our oceans we will be able to tackle these global issues through a meaningful, creative and thought-provoking way. By fostering connections and collaboration between ocean bridge and Ottawa based citizens we can combat eco-anxiety and foster intergenerational healing. The event itself will be broken into 3 parts: first, a networking session with a keynote speaker to kick off the event. Second, performances and art pieces such as spoken word poetry, comedy acts and a drag show. Lastly, a dance party to celebrate our carbon emissions and "burn off" our emissions.