

Partnership for Freshwater Resilience Year in Review 2021

Partnership Overview & Future Projects

The Partnership for Freshwater Resilience launched virtually on June 25, 2020. In the year and a half since the launch of this innovative partnership, members have been working on various initiatives and projects relating to Freshwater Resilience.

In 2022, the partnership will continue to be actively engaged in the St. John River Summit planned for May 2022. Partnership members will be sharing the most recent findings from the research projects and practical implications. In addition to this summit, the partnership is submitting a

proposal for a special session at the annual Sunbelt Conference to be held in Australia in July 2022. The session will focus on fast and slow governance of water resources and will feature the research conducted within the partnership. This conference is widely attended by those who have an interest in using social network analysis methods in a diverse range of fields.



Knowledge Mobilization Activities

Research Participant Webinar

On April 7, members of the partnership held a research participant webinar to present the results of the social network analysis performed on the flood planning network of the St. John River Basin. The results found that there is communication throughout the entire basin, however, municipalities tend to communicate with other government agencies, and similarly, non-government organizations (NGOs) and watershed organizations tend to communicate more with each other. Results also illustrate that there is room to improve the spatial fit of collaboration for flooding planning. All participants were provided with an infographic outlining the findings.



Sustainability Seminar Series

In November 2021, members from the ESRC provided a presentation entitled "Community Partnerships for Sustainability" through the Sustainability Seminar Series. The presentation focused on partnership impacts and how you go about measuring the performance of partnerships and included a focus on the Partnership for Freshwater Resilience.

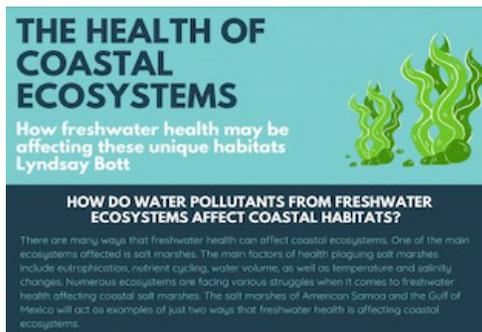


Check out the partnership blogs and news stories that were posted in 2021!

Student Research Activities

Experiential Education Opportunities for Brock Students

In the Winter 2021 academic term, WWF participated as a course project partner in GEOG/TOUR 4P83 with students developing annotated bibliographies, literature summaries, and creative outputs targeted at more general audiences that addressed key freshwater research questions posed by WWF. The Brock News [wrote an article](#) about this experience and interviewed several participating students about their projects.

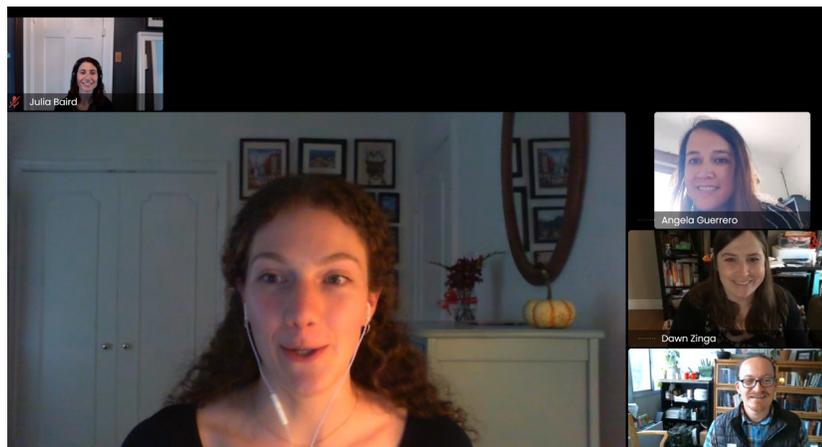


Master of Sustainability Thesis Research

“An Examination of Collaborative Governance for Complex Adaptative Systems in the St. John River Basin”

Bridget McGlynn, Master of Sustainability Candidate

Bridget McGlynn, a Master of Sustainability candidate working under the supervision of Dr. Ryan Plummer and Dr. Julia Baird successfully defended her thesis research on October 15, 2021. Bridget’s research consisted of an analysis of social-ecological fit of the flood planning governance network in the St. John River Basin. The network analysis displayed that organizations tend to collaborate with others in their same sub-watershed but do not collaborate with organizations in different sub-watersheds. Organizations reported that a lack of financial resources and time were impactful barriers to collaboration. The flood planning network includes organizations with different roles and responsibilities, as well as access to resources. While the network is contributing to spreading information, flood planning in the basin might benefit from stronger government leadership. Prior to defending this research, Bridget presented at the Canadian Water Resources Association national conference in June, and at the International Association for Society and Natural Resources 2021 Virtual conference.



Drs. Baird, Plummer, and Bridget McGlynn were also successful in applying for a Match of Minds grant in May through Brock University, which is aimed at engaging students in research. This funding will be applied to a research that is focused on collaboration and flood planning task effectiveness. This is a collaborative project together with disaster risk and collaboration researchers in Sweden and Australia and a publication from this project is in progress.

Throughout 2021 there were five partnership meetings held between the teams at Brock and WWF-Canada to discuss next steps for the flood planning governance work and ideas for the next phase of the partnership.

For more information visit: brocku.ca/esrc/partnership-for-freshwater-resilience