

Partnership for Freshwater Resilience Year in Review 2022

Partnership Overview & Future Projects

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

This past year has been busy for the partnership, with multiple conference presentations and Master of Sustainability Research beginning. In 2023, the partnership will continue to grow and add more members to the team, as Julia Baird is currently in the process of recruiting a PhD candidate. The focus of this position will be using leverage points for implementing solutions in social-ecological systems and will begin work in September 2023. Julia was also the recipient of a 3-year Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Insight Grant on which WWF-Canada was a partner. This work will focus on building empathy to support water sustainability and resilience. The first meeting of the research team and partners will be in January 2023 in Niagara.



Knowledge Mobilization Activities

Wolastoq | St. John River Summit

In October, Julia Baird and Master of Sustainability student Natalie Seniuk attended the Wolastoq | St. John River Summit in New Brunswick. The summit was a two day event that featured speakers from across the basin, including governments, community members, and NGO's. The summit also included a day of field trips to visit conservation sites in the lower basin.



Student Research Activities

Master of Sustainability Student Research

This year saw several Master of Sustainability students beginning or completing research that was based in the Partnership for Freshwater Resilience.

In June, Bridget McGlynn officially graduated from the Master of Sustainability program after successfully defending her thesis research at the end of 2021. In July, Bridget presented at the In Common Webinar series at the University of Arizona with Julia Baird. The presentation, titled "Collaborative governance of river basins" was based on her successful thesis research. There are currently several articles in review for publication from Bridget's thesis in "Environmental Science and Policy" and "Ecology and Society". Bridget is also preparing an article together with collaborators from Sweden and Australia, focused on flood planning tasks and collaboration. Bridget has since begun her PhD studies at the University of the Sunshine Coast in Australia.



In September, Natalie Seniuk joined the Master of Sustainability program under the supervision of Julia Baird. Natalie's thesis development began in September with her research focused on using leverage points to address and implement local conservation objectives.



Sustainability Terminology Blog Posts

In December, the Environmental Sustainability Research Centre published a series of student-written blog posts that define certain terms that are frequently seen in the field of sustainability science. Lyndsay Bott, a Master of Sustainability student who graduated in October 2022 and completed her MRP research under the supervision of Julia Baird, wrote a [blog post that defines governance](#), and tied her definition to the work being done by the Partnership for Freshwater Resilience.



Sunbelt Social Network Conference

In July, Julia Baird, Bridget McGlynn, and other partners gave the following presentations focused on the work of this partnership at the Sunbelt Social Network Conference in Cairns, Australia:

- Time Dimensions and their relationship to research in collaborative governance (Baird, J., McGlynn, B., Bodin, O., Guerrero, A., Nohrstedt, D., Plummer, R., & Summers, R.)
- Social-ecological network assessment of flood governance (McGlynn, B., Plummer, R., Guerrero, A.M., & Baird, J.)
- Time dimensions in environmental governance (McGlynn, B., Holzer, J., Baird, J., Bodin, O., Guerrero, A., Nohrstedt, D., Plummer, R., & Summers, R.)