Establishing NEBR 2.0

Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Reserve

Presentation to NEBR Participants

September 24, 2019
Today’s Meeting Objectives

– Confirm TLC & working groups
– Articulate NEBR 2.0 Mission
– Assemble Working Groups
– Hold brief inaugural TLC meeting
Meeting Agenda

– Presentation
  – Transitional model
  – TLC & working groups
  – Scope of work
– Exercise
  – Confirming our Mission
– Lunch
– Breakout
  – Working Groups
    – Priorities
    – Resources
    – Desired outcomes
– Wrap up
  – Confirm next steps
– Brief inaugural TLC meeting
Proposed Organizational Model

- TLC
- NEC Secretariat
- Governance
- Programs
- Communications
- Fund Raising
Guiding Principles
compiled from 2016 working group & July 30, 2019 workshop

- Facilitate an action oriented, results driven, collaborative approach to support the long term sustainability of the NEBR.
- Accept as a first priority, sustaining the “biosphere” (its plants & animals).
  - Strive to protect sacred sites and not monetize them.
- Encourage diverse and inclusive participation that is representative of civil society.
  - Adopt recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.
  - Make it a priority to understand and create ethical spaces for Indigenous people.
- Enshrine the notion that while the NEBR is a non-partisan organization, it may, from time to time have to speak out on matters important to the integrity of the Niagara Escarpment, the Biosphere Reserve and/or its members.
- Facilitate and maintain an accessible, open and transparent Network which enshrines a democratic decision-making process and fosters effective and continuous communications.
- Promote respect, build new relationships and embrace diverse ideas, knowledge, cultures, and experiences of all the Network members.
- Recognize, celebrate and share the successes achieved by the Network of individuals and organizations that comprise NEBR 2.0.
Expressions of Interest: TLC & Working Groups

- July 30 meeting of NEBR participants
  - An initial group of 6 individuals identified their interest to serve on the TLC or one of the working groups
- Survey
  - A follow up survey was distributed on the following dates to the NEBR mailing list seeking further expressions of interest.
    - August 9
    - August 27
    - September 3
    - September 13
- Total expressions of interest to serve on TLC or working group:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>TLC</th>
<th>Working Groups</th>
<th>Both</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TLC – 9 individuals expressed interest

• Regional distribution
  – 3 from North
  – 3 from Central
  – 3 from South

• Gender distribution
  – 5 women
  – 4 men

Sectoral Representation

- NGO Indigenous Fishery - 1
- NGO Sport - 1
- NGO Active Transport - 1
- NGO Conservation - 1
- NGO - Rural CED - 1
- Municipal Government - 1
- Academia - 2
- Professional - 1
Transitional Leadership Committee

- Liette Vasseur
- Norman Ragetlie
- Megan Myles – pending MNBP approval
- Patrick Robson
- Victoria Serda
Working Groups – 13 individuals expressed interest

- Regional distribution
  - 4 from North
  - 5 from Central
  - 4 from South

- Gender distribution
  - 8 women
  - 9 men

Working Groups

- Governance - 8
- Program Development - 6
- Communications - 1
- Fundraising - 0
Working Groups

• Governance
  — Patrick Robson
  — Meredith Davis

• Program
  — Norman Ragetlie
  — John Stuart

• Communications
  — Megan Myles
  — Linda Pim

• Fund Raising
  — Victoria Serda
  — Stephen Woeller
Notes from July 30: Governance/Leadership

- Understand this is a transitional phase of governance
  - Working towards long-term governance at the end of 12 months
- Priority on maintaining designation & relationship with UNESCO
- Establish/articulate a clear organizational purpose – essential to attract leadership
  - Establish tangible goals and evaluation strategy
- Attract balanced, representative leadership for long term –
  - Must focus beyond current transitional phase
  - Must be relevant to Indigenous needs & priorities
  - Must be attractive to the next generation
  - Clear understanding of desired skills - focus on attracting the right talent
- Must be flexible to facilitate participation from smaller orgs
- Huge advantage given 1.3 M population within NEBR
- Must be nimble & flexible to change with a changing environment
- Become a connector organization so people with common priorities can find each other
Notes from July 30: Program Development

- Program **priority** – **biosphere reserve designation** renewal
  - This involves becoming community based
  - Addressing the priorities of Indigenous communities and organizations
  - Taking action on climate change
  - Active transportation should be a priority: safe cycling

- Need a **strategic plan** working groups and member organizations can link their activities to
  - Should link to broader priorities e.g. Truth and Reconciliation Commission, UN Sustainability Goals, UNESCO’s Man and Biosphere principles

- **Focus on Knowledge Translation & Exchange**: promote peer to peer exchange about great stuff going on within the BR

- **Focus on collaboration and partnerships**, including with corporations, landowners
  - Outreach programs focused on needs of land owners and municipal decision-makers

- Consider existing programs like **Canadian Council for UNESCO’s** ecosystem service assessment – lots of good programmatic material available

- Monitor the health of the BR: pull together the data (e.g. Muskoka Watershed Council)
Notes from July 30: Communications

- **Strategic plan**
- Become the keeper and articulator of NEBR 2.0’s **clear, compelling purpose**
- Use evaluation metrics in communications – **be evidence-based**
- **Make use of the existing capacity of other groups**
- Be **ahead of the curve with communications technology** use and adoption
- **Information/ data storage and sharing**
- **Re-establish Leading Edge conference**
- Support **Indigenous organizations & communities**
- Recognize successes: celebrate and make people feel like they can make a difference
- Focus on amazing places in the biosphere
- Reflect local importance
- Empower, be a vehicle for positive social change
- **International recognition**
Notes from July 30: Fund Raising

- **1.3 million people** live within the NEBR: A huge asset for fund raising
- Work with Comms WG to develop a great case for support and beautiful FR materials
- Focus on predictable ‘**operating funds**’:
  - membership fees, varying fee structure, in-kind investment, planned giving (wills and estates): endowments, bursaries
- **Build capacity for fund development across the network**, collaborate on grant applications, explore potential to become a funder
- **Engage private sector**: development, aggregate industry, corporations
- Need skilled, magnetic individual to drive fund development forward
- Possible funders: JW McConnell Foundation (Up to 30K to fund a start-up), Metcalf Foundation
- Opportunities for **in-kind support**: grad students: define in-kind equivalent
- Ability to leverage work done/being done
- Develop **social enterprises** in conjunction with funding sources
Acknowledgement
Biosphere Renewal - Scope of Work

• 2022 Scheduled Review
  — Initiated through CanadaMAB Committee
• Purpose:
  — Reflection and setting strategic direction for next 10 years
  — Production of a report
  — Information for reviewers to assess compliance with criteria of a functioning biosphere reserve (Article 4)
• Intention:
  — Clear, transparent, and fair
  — Open, inclusive, accessible, and equitable
  — Respectful
  — Realistic
  — Meaningful and useful
Biosphere Renewal - Scope of Work

• Process
  – Appointment of reviewer through Canadian Commission for UNESCO (CCU)
  – Reviewer and BR convener establish overall plan for review
  – Reviewer visits BR and participates in activities, interviews, etc.
    • Requires notice to public and network
  – BR prepares self study document (outline provided by UNESCO & based on previous reviews)
  – Collaboration on the final report submitted to UNESCO
Biosphere Renewal - Scope of Work

• Self-Study
  ― Geographical and social context
  ― Conservation Function
  ― Sustainable Development Function
  ― Logistics Function: Research, Monitoring, education, governance, and community engagement

• ‘Steering Committee’ to guide self-study

• NEC to provide support in secretariat role
Clarifying Questions
Exercise: Confirming our mission
Breakout: Working Groups
Breakout: Working Groups

• Tasks
  — Group agreement
    • Phones off
    • Hear everyone
    • Ask for clarification
  — Brainstorm & prioritize list of activities
  — List required inputs/resources
  — Describe desired results & timing
  — State your WG’s relationship to the other WGs
  — Create meeting schedule and format
## Example – Fund Raising Group - Worksheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Required Inputs</th>
<th>Desired Results</th>
<th>Timing</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Case for support (internal document)</td>
<td>People time, evidence, financial goal, writing</td>
<td>Written case for support, shared script among NEBR people</td>
<td>Nov 30 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop collateral materials (external docs)</td>
<td>People time, design, printing, electronic, budget</td>
<td>Public-facing fund raising materials,</td>
<td>April 30, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fund raising calls</td>
<td>People time, prospect list, protocols, training, scheduling, calls made, call reports filed, follow ups scheduled</td>
<td>Friends, funding</td>
<td>June 30, 2020</td>
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Breakout: Working Groups

• Report back
• Next steps
Reflections/Closing Remarks
Meeting: Transitional Leadership Committee
TLC Agenda

• Review logistics – John
• Review high level work plan - Stephen
• Confirm meeting schedule end of 2019 –
• Closing Remarks - Linda
## High-level work plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2019</th>
<th>September</th>
<th>October</th>
<th>November</th>
<th>December</th>
<th>2020</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Consultant’s Activities</td>
<td>2  9  16  23  30  7  14  21  28  4  11  18  25  2  9  16  23  30 01/01  to 09/30</td>
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<td>Prepare facilitation materials for Sept 24 meeting</td>
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<td>Facilitate NEBR 2.0 meeting September 24</td>
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<td>Confirm TLC &amp; working groups membership</td>
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<td>Facilitate Sept 24 meeting at Mono Community Centre</td>
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<td>Write &amp; submit final report</td>
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<td><strong>TLC Activities</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Seek Indigenous participation and leadership</td>
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<td>Create TLC Terms of Reference</td>
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<td>Create transitional budget &amp; plan</td>
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<td>Management Meetings</td>
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<td><strong>Governance Working Group Activities</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Create terms of reference for Governance working group</td>
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<td>Create governance specific budget &amp; plan</td>
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<td>Implement governance plan, including incorporation</td>
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<td><strong>Program Working Group Activities</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Create terms of reference for Program working group</td>
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<td>Confirm BR designation renewal activities &amp; schedule</td>
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<td>Create program specific budget and plan</td>
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<td>Implement renewal plan</td>
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<td><strong>Communications Working Group Activities</strong></td>
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<td>Create terms of reference for Communications working group</td>
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<td>Create Communications specific budget and plan</td>
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<td>Implement communications plan</td>
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<td><strong>Fund Raising Working Group Activities</strong></td>
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<td>Create terms of reference for Fund Raising working group</td>
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<td>Produce fund raising case for support</td>
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<td>Create Fund Raising specific budget and plan</td>
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<td>Identify and approach prospective donors and grantors</td>
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*Activities and timing to be determined by Indigenous communities in discussion with Transitional Leadership Committee*