

## Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region

Roundtable Gathering Volume 9 – Minutes

Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 from 10:00am to 12:30pm  
City of Parksville – 100 Jensen Ave E, Parksville, V9P 2H3



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### Attendees

Monica Shore, MABR Coordinator  
Pam Shaw, MABRRI Director of Research  
Graham Sakaki, MABRRI Research and Community Engagement Coordinator  
Lawrence Mitchell (ćumqwitun'), Snaw-Naw-As First Nation Government  
Michael Recalma, Qualicum First Nation, Chief  
Chris Burger, City of Parksville, MABR Liaison  
Daniel Sailland, Town of Qualicum Beach, CAO  
Kim Burden, Parksville & District Chamber of Commerce, E.D.  
Ken Epps, Island Timberlands  
Steve Adams, TimberWest  
Michelle Harnett, MABR Amazing Places Coordinator  
Haley Tomlin, MABRRI Projects Coordinator

### Regrets

Dave Witty, VIU Provost and Vice-President Academic, MABR Director  
Brent Edwards, Snaw-Naw-As First Nation  
Mark Stephens, Snaw-Naw-As First Nation, Band Manager  
John Wesley, Snuneymuxw First Nation, Chief  
Geraldine Manson, Snuneymuxw First Nation, Cultural Advisor  
Nicole Rempel, K'ómoks First Nation, Chief  
Marc Lefebvre, City of Parksville, Mayor  
Teunis Westbroek, Town of Qualicum Beach, Mayor  
Neil Horner, Town of Qualicum Beach, Councilor & MABR Liaison  
Tony Litke, Ministry of Environment  
Thomas Reid, Vancouver Island Conservation Land Management Program  
Makenzie Leine, Island Timberlands  
Chris Cole, TimberWest  
Ceri Peacey, Community Representative  
Sonja Zupanec, Islands Trust  
Sarah Ross, City of Parksville

### Welcome & Opening Prayer

- Lawrence Mitchell, Snaw-Naw-As Government, said words of welcome

## Agenda Adoption

- Reviewed and there were three additions to the “MABR Updates: Future” section of the agenda:
  - Community Representative Nomination
  - G7 Summit Tree Planting Project
  - Chamber of Commerce Sustainability Award

## Culture of Engagement

- Pam acknowledged the Culture of Engagement poster, highlighting the importance of it and how it is great that it has been implemented in a variety of meetings at VIU in addition to its continuous presence at the MABR Roundtable meetings.

## MABR Updates

### *Past*

#### **Man in the Biosphere Youth Forum – Po Delta, Italy (September 18-22, 2017)**

- Ashley Van Acken (MABRRI Assistant Research and Community Engagement Coordinator) and Larissa Thelin (MABRRI Projects Coordinator) attended the first ever MAB Youth Forum. It was an opportunity for youth to brainstorm ways in which biosphere reserves can incorporate young professionals into research, decision-making, and management on an international stage. Over 280 youth representatives from over 140 biosphere reserves in 85 countries attended, and thus provided the perfect opportunity to put youth from the MABR on a multinational platform.

#### **Canada C3 – Nanoose Harbour (October 21, 2017)**

- Snaw-Naw-As First Nation, Qualicum First Nation, and the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region welcomed the Canada C3 ship to the MABR. Everyone ventured to the Snaw-Naw-As Health Centre, where Lawrence Mitchell welcomed everyone to their traditional territory. After the welcoming ceremony, the teams were split into two groups to learn about the Snaw-Naw-As Garden of Spiritual Healing or to participate in a wetland mapping project demonstration and geocaching activity at Rath Trevor Provincial Park. The afternoon involved a tour of the Big Qualicum Fish Hatchery on the traditional territory of Qualicum First Nation, guided by Chief Michael Recalma.

#### **Watershed Visioning Forum (November 3, 2017)**

- Approximately 40 attendees and 40 students gathered with the goal of putting forth a set of collective goals and targets to help preserve the watersheds in the MABR. There was a lot of discussion in the morning, followed by an afternoon of Eli Enns, the facilitator, speaking on various aspects of watersheds. The feedback from the event was that it was too much of the big picture and did not have enough structure; the participants did not feel that they were able to give their opinions and ideas.

- Graham noted that it started the dialogue, which was very important, but we need to have another engagement event with the community soon; an event that involves a lot of breakouts would be ideal. We need to ensure the public is getting the opportunity to provide as much input as they would like.
- Daniel would like to see the City of Parksville and Town of Qualicum Beach provide some discussion points regarding topics that the public could provide input on that may change policy, positively impacting the MABR. Everyone was in agreement that this would be a great approach.
- This next event will be hosted in May, the date is to be determined.

## *Present*

### **MABRRI Update**

#### *Forage Fish Habitat Monitoring Project*

- MABRRI has recently partnered with Nature's Trust of BC and WWF-Canada to map and identify forage fish spawning habitat along the eastern coast of Vancouver Island. Predictive mapping from Bowser to south of Sooke will be created and groundtruthed to identify positive/negative spawning beaches. To date, MABRRI has identified two positive beaches in the region with hopes of finding more embryos through the next few months of field research. This data will contribute to conservation and restoration of coastal areas, as well as used to create new policy recommendations for DFO.

#### *Garry Oak Ecosystem Mapping in the MABR*

- MABRRI has recently received funding from VIU's Research Awards Committee to fund the project. MABRRI, in partnership with Dr. Hannah Wilson of VIU's Geography Department, aims to gain a better understanding of the location and extent of vulnerable Garry Oak Ecosystems within the MABR.

#### *City of Parksville Community Park Master Plan & Survey Project; and Parks Trails, and Open Spaces Master Plan*

- On December 4<sup>th</sup> the City of Parksville's Mayor and Council adopted the Community Park Master Plan, marking the conclusion of the project for the MABRRI team. Since the completion of the project, MABRRI has undertaken a new project with the City of Parksville; the team will be evaluating all parks, trails, and open spaces within the area aiming to create a 20 year plan that is representative of the community's vision.

### **MABR Amazing Places Update**

- One of the major targets for this year was to raise awareness of the project, in general. Metrics used to evaluate this were social media engagement, video views (10 videos were made), webpage views, time on website, and hashtag use.
- There has been a significant increase in awareness online as the result of a digital advertising firm being hired. In total: almost a million people have

seen the Amazing Places advertisement, there have been almost 100,000 video views, and about 7,600 people have been on the website.

- Up next: Michelle has been connecting with Eastern Canada's Amazing Places to share resources and ideas. She is thinking of hosting guided walks to increase the connection between people and these places. The geocaching initiative will be rolled out at the Brandt Wildlife Festival. Additionally, she will be reaching out to tour groups to see if they would like to include the Amazing Places in their tours.

### **MABR Coordinator Position**

- Monica will be stepping down at the MABR Coordinator as she has been living in Victoria since September 2016.
- Monica wanted to stay involved in biosphere regions and was hired on to coordinate a national project with the Canadian Biosphere Reserve Association. She will be coordinating the identification of "Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures" (OECMs). Her and her team will be working towards increasing the percentage of preserved land and marine areas to 17% and 10%, respectively.
- Next Action: Lawrence Mitchell, Michael Recalma, Monica Shore, and Ashley Van Acken will be travelling to Ottawa this month to witness the briefing and introduction of this project.

### *Future*

#### **MABR BioBlitz**

- The MABR will be hosting its third annual BioBlitz on April 21<sup>st</sup> at two locations: Milner Gardens & Woodland from 9:00am – 4:00pm and Englishman River Regional Park/Top Bridge Park trail head from 9:00am to 2:00pm. Milner Gardens will be the host site for community members to learn how to Blitz alongside students and community experts, while the second site will be for community members that already have some experience with species identification and do not require much or any guidance.
- We need volunteers for both sites. So if you know any experts or individuals, or would like to take part yourself please reach out to MABRRI.

#### **Summer Research at MABRRI**

##### *Wetland Mapping*

- This is the third year of the project, which has been funded for five years by the RDN DWWP. Funding was also obtained from the RBC Blue Water Program and the Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia for three years.
- This year the team will be working in the Big Qualicum, Englishman River, and Cedar Yellow-Point water regions.
- There are currently three students working on this now and MABRRI will hire one more for the summer.

- Ken noted that Island Timberlands is open to MABRRI surveying wetlands on their lands. Ashley will be in contact with him to set up dates and locations.

#### *Snaw-Naw-As Garden of Spiritual Healing*

- MABRRI has completed the first phase of the project with \$40,000 of funding, which a few members of the Roundtable have contributed and for which MABRRI is very thankful. They were successful in completing a lot of construction last summer after significant consultation with the Nation.
- This year we are work on the education and outreach aspect of the Garden. Currently there are five students creating five different classes, which will be launched before summer.
- MABRRI is looking for another \$30,000 for construction for this summer.

#### *Bull Kelp Monitoring and Enhancement Plot Project*

- MABRRI has recently acquired funding from the Environmental Damages Fund. The installation of the bull kelp enhancement plots will be done in partnership with the Pacific Salmon Foundation, Project Watershed, Sundown Diving (Nanaimo), and Hornby Island Diving. These plots will be beneficial in preserving habitat that is a refuge for vulnerable out-migrating juvenile salmon and forage fish that enter or live in the nearshore environment.

#### **Community Representative Nominations**

- Graham suggested that the MABR should try to get youth involved with the roundtable. This would be a good opportunity to have a new community representative at the table.
- “Youth” would be considered anyone under the age of 35.
- Kim, Steve, and Ken all voice their support for of the idea, saying it is a great generation to work with because they have a different perspective than many other generations. It is youth that prompt discussions in their homes, with their parents and others.
- Previously the community representative position was advertised on the MABR website and in the newsletter.
  - It was decided that the position advertisement will be restructured to target a youth representative and will be advertised using other avenues, such as in the newspaper or through presentations in local high schools.

#### **G7 Summit Tree Planting Project**

- The G7 Summit has developed an initiative in order to counteract the carbon impacts as a result of participants travelling to their meetings. They would like to plant 100,000 trees in the biosphere reserves across Canada, by May 15<sup>th</sup>.

- Requirements:
  - A local municipality to provide at least 1 hectare of land that is publically accessible (the planted trees must be allowed to grow at least 50 years),
  - A forestry company to provide 1,000 trees and demonstrate proper planting techniques,
  - A forestry technician to check the survival rate in the following year, and
  - The planting must be completed by a group of youth.
- Ken and Steve agreed to donate the trees and demonstrate proper planting techniques, but the planting needs to occur in late March and early April at the latest.
- Kim suggested Ermineskin land (between the railway tracks and Maple Glen subdivision) as the area of land for the trees to be planted.
- Michael and Lawrence agreed that it is a great idea to have the Nation's youth involved in the tree planting
- Graham will follow up with Kim, Steve, Ken, Michael, and Lawrence regarding this event.

### **Chamber of Commerce Sustainability Award**

- Pam proposed that the MABR should have a role in the Chamber of Commerce Awards, potentially providing a sustainability award.
- Kim said that we could sponsor and present for \$500.00 and there is one of these slots left.
- This topic was left to be discussed at a future meeting.

### **Circle Updates**

#### **Ken Epps, Island Timberlands**

- Island Timberlands will be taking part in Earth and Water Day, in partnership with the RDN and TimberWest.

#### **Steve Adams, TimberWest**

- TimberWest recently put out a press release in October 2017 regarding their membership with the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (Bronze certification). This certification means that TimberWest is a good business partner and contributes to First Nation communities' prosperity.

#### **Daniel Sailland, Town of Qualicum Beach**

- Daniel spoke about the Memorial Phase 3 Project that has been split into two parts:
  - Part A: Traffic calming along the beach by lowering speed limits
  - Part B: Rebuilding the estuary by the Qualicum Beach Inn. There are many green shoreline projects underway.
- Further, the Town of Qualicum Beach is working in collaboration with local First Nations regarding their OCP. They would like to draft a recognition of

all Coast Salish First Nations in their OCP, so they will be reaching out to Snaw-Naw-As First Nation and Qualicum First Nation to do this in a respectful way. Additionally, Daniel is working to change the Qualicum Beach logo to include images that more appropriately represent the local First Nations.

### **Kim Burden, City of Parksville**

- The City of Parksville has adopted new meeting protocols to ensure that the traditional territory of the Coast Salish people must be recognized prior to all gatherings.
- The new treatment facility and Springwood Park have been connected via a large pipe. This connection has created a 14km long trail from Springwood Park to Coombs.

### **Kim Burden, Chamber of Commerce**

- Invitations will be sent to the City of Parksville, the Town of Qualicum Beach, the RDN, the School District, VIU, TimberWest, Island Timberlands, Snaw-Naw-As First Nation, and Qualicum First Nation to take part in a discussion of how to improve school curriculum. The goal is to provide education that will allow students to stay local and work.

### **Chris Burger, City of Parksville & MABR Liaison**

- Chris stated the importance of getting the RDN to join the MABR Roundtable. He suggested a new engagement initiative: have all members of the Roundtable stand side-by-side and present the opportunity to the RDN; they should be sold on the idea with a unified front.

### **Lawrence Mitchell, Snaw-Naw-As First Nation**

- Lawrence shared his appreciation for being a part of such a wonderful and powerful roundtable. He feels that this has been such a large step in reconciliation and that he really appreciates how dedicated we all are to the preservation and well-being of this region.
- Lawrence would like to invite other council members to these meetings for them to learn what is going on within the MABR. Everyone was in support of Lawrence inviting others to the meetings.

## **Dialogue & Collaborative Planning**

### **MABR Coordinator Position**

- VIU has funded the position for the last three years. Currently we have \$20,000 for the year for the position; this funds the position for two days a week. Beginning in April 2018 we will be short on funding (the \$20,000) for this position.
- We need \$30,000 per year over the next three years.
- There is a lot required of the coordinator in the next few years. The next periodic review occurs in 2020, which involves a UNESCO representative

identifying if we are upholding the goals/mandates required to maintain the “biosphere reserve” designation.

- Since so much is required in the next few years, we are looking for funding to pay for a Coordinator for five days a week.
- How do we plan to fund this position over the next three years?
  - Kim said Parksville Qualicum Foundation may look favorably towards this.
  - Daniel mentioned the UBCM Community to Community Award that provides individual municipalities/districts with \$5,000 to host an event. All three municipalities could apply for the funding and acquire \$15,000; the applications will require letters of support from the local First Nations.
  - Kim mentioned Island Coastal Economic Trust.
  - Chris said approaching this from a regional level may be a better option, rather than from each of the municipalities.

### **MABR Coordinator Position for the Time Being**

- For the time Monica has been on maternity leave, Ashley Van Acken has been covering the MABR Coordinator position and Michelle Harnett has been coordinating the Amazing Places Project.
- Graham recommended that Ashley continue covering this position two days a week.
  - The Roundtable members were in support of Ashley continuing in this position.

### **Closing**

#### ***Next Roundtable Date and Host***

- Host: Vancouver Island University
- Date: May 4, 2018
- Time: 10:00am to 12:30pm

#### ***Closing Words***

- Lawrence Mitchell closed the meeting with a prayer and some kind words.