

## MEETING MINUTES

MABR Roundtable Gathering Volume 18  
Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 from 10:00am to 12:30pm

Virtual meeting via Zoom.



### Attendees (16)

Teunis Westbroek, Town of Qualicum Beach, Councillor  
Haley Tomlin, MABRRI Assistant Research & Community Engagement Coordinator  
Ceri Peacey, Community Representative  
Michael Recalma, Qualicum First Nation, Chief  
Mandy Hobkirk, MABR Coordinator  
Maureen Young, Regional District of Nanaimo  
Pam Shaw, MABRRI Director of Research  
Geraldine Manson, Snuneymuxw First Nation, Elder  
Chris Burger, City of Parksville  
Blain Sepos, Parksville Qualicum Beach Tourism, E.D.  
Steve Adams, Mosaic Forest Management, Resource Technologist  
Jamie Dubyna, Islands Trust  
Kim Burden, Parksville & District Chamber of Commerce, E.D.  
Graham Sakaki, MABRRI Research & Community Engagement Coordinator  
Cheryl Jones, Snaw-naw-as First Nation, Councillor  
Desiree Fiske, PhD Candidate, Colorado State University, Guest Presenter

### Objectives

The main objectives of this Roundtable gathering are for participants to:

1. Continue to engage in respectful and meaningful dialogue with one another.
2. Discuss past, present, and future events for the MABR/RI.
3. Hear from one another about regional/organizational/community updates.

### Welcome & Opening Prayer

- Geraldine provided words of welcome
- Introductions all around the table
- Reviewed the Culture of Engagement

### Agenda Adoption

- Graham: Campus experiential learning – quick funding opportunity to work with community partners – added after SDG symposium

### Presentation by Desirée Fiske

- Mandy introduced Desirée to the Roundtable: Desirée is a PHD candidate at Colorado State University. Her research is titled *Confronting Political Challenges of the Anthropocene? Case studies from the UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) & Biosphere Reserves (BRs)*

- To identify the impacts of the narrative, Desirée asks:
  1. How does an Anthropocene narrative impact programs and policies for landscape-scale collaboration?
  2. How are case studies understanding and communicating about rapid global environmental change?
  3. How do predominant narratives of conservation and sustainable development evolve or respond to concerns of the Anthropocene narrative?
- Desirée is looking at MABR because of the global scope. She chose BRs because they are working on the front lines of identifying human-nature connections.
- Research interests in MABR:
  - Collaborative regional effort and governance structure
  - Approach to sustainable development and recognition of history and values of the region
  - Mountainous ecosystem (similar to another BR of interest, Rocky Mountain BR) but with coastal attributes
- Desirée wants to better understand:
  - Values that contribute to managing the region
  - Connections to the landscape
  - Foresight on anthropogenic and environmental changes of the region
  - How approaches to conservation and sustainable development intersect, evolve, or conflict with rapid environmental change (“Anthropocene” narrative)
- Desirée has been reviewing documents and conducting interviews with members of the Roundtable
- The MABR will be a chapter case study in her dissertation – Desirée will share her findings
- Learning from the MABR will aid the Rocky Mountain BR
- Steve asked about her timelines
  - Desirée would like to have a draft together by the end of March
- Ceri asked if she wants to interview Roundtable members and that she’d be interested in taking part
  - Desirée said yes
- Chris noted that what we can offer is the role around governance and he offered to provide an interview and background on the MABR and governance issues from the past
- Maureen asked if Desirée could provide a brief overview of her findings before the draft comes out
  - Desirée said she will provide a summary of the MABR findings to the Roundtable members after her second draft

## **MABR Updates**

### **Present**

#### **Community Representative Applicant – Mandy**

- A community member has reached out to fill one of the community representative roles and she may have the connection to youth that we have been lacking
- Mandy outlined some of the ideas that the applicant has for the region
- Ceri, Graham, and Mandy met with the applicant a couple of weeks ago

- Ceri said the applicant represents a totally different group than she does
- Graham said when we first introduced our community representatives, we used an application process
  - We talked about adding a youth representative
  - Having a second community representative is valuable
  - The applicant has a different group of people to report from
  - She has Graham's support for the position
- Chris said that from the introduction of her, she sounds like she would fit well here and as she is community oriented
- Blain asked if there has been effort to recruit a youth representative
  - Mandy had put out a call for a youth representative, but we didn't receive any applicants at that time
  - Mandy said she can put out that call out again
  - Mentioned that if you are just filling the spot interim to fill it again with a youth representative – it may not be worth filling interim
- Graham said if we were only bringing on two community representatives then preference would be for a youth
- Steve said that he knows the applicant and that she is a really down to earth person, with high integrity
- Maureen said it is always good to have a young person's perspective – it is good that she has applied and she sounds like a good applicant
- Geraldine said she agrees that having a youth perspective is important
  - Indigenous Peoples always looks at younger people, mentoring them into these positions, as they are the ones that will be taking on those roles – as they move and get older, they will be the role models to mentor others
- Teunis moves that we accept the applicant to the table
  - Everyone agrees
- Chris said there is an opportunity to mentor someone young in the region to work towards being on the Roundtable
- Teunis asked for a statement from Mandy regarding the youth representative position so that it can be included in the QB town meeting
  - Cheryl asked to be included in this too and she can share it with the Salish Sea Sentinel and to the Snaw-naw-as Council
  - Mandy will create something and will send it to all members at the table to share very soon

#### **Ballenas Winchelsea Archipelago (BWA) Student Research – Graham**

- Brief update: Elders Council for Parks in BC did the fundraising to purchase West Ballenas – they were successful, it is now owned by BC Parks Foundation
- Elders Council is hoping to create a protected area designation for the whole Ballenas-Winchelsea Archipelago (BWA)
- This area falls within Snaw-naw-as territory. Graham and Mandy will be presenting the current work that is being done to Nanoose Economic Development Corporation (NEDC)
- Potentially the BWA can be protected as a Marine Protected Area (MPA) or an Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA), led by Snaw-naw-as, or some other protected area that we can add as core area of the MABR

- Graham would like to present to Snaw-naw-as Council to see how they envision the BWA
- At VIU, a fourth year Geography class has started working on some preliminary background research that could inform a future protected area management plan for the region
- Cheryl said that Andy Day (CEO) from BC Parks Foundation contacted Snaw-naw-as First Nation when they purchased West Ballenas Island
  - Cheryl said they have been working with BC Parks Foundation since they purchased it
  - Cheryl said they are open to meeting with VIU and the BC Park's Elders Council –
  - Council approves everything that NEDC does as they are supporting economic development opportunities
- Chris said that it is a beautiful place with very interesting history, it is great that it has been acquired and that there are many opportunities there

#### **Presentation to MLAs – Mandy and Pam**

- Mandy and Pam have secured a 45-minute meeting with MLAs Josie Osborne and Adam Walker
  - They will provide an overview of the MABR and why it is an asset to the region and the NDP
- Pam said that we have two BRs in BC and that although they all work towards common goals, they are all built differently
  - They will be ending with an ask, asking for some stable funding for BRs
- Graham said to put this into perspective – Graham, Mandy, and Chris met and discussed options
  - Decided to work from a top-down approach – I.e., start with the Province, then RDN, then municipalities
- Chris said we need to start looking for funding opportunities – we need to start to ask, hopefully between all potential sources we can get something stable moving forward
- Teunis said that Michael worked closely with MLA Osborne – maybe he could join in the meeting
- Kim said that he has some interactions with MLA Walker and perhaps they could reinforce the message when they are all meeting with the MLAs at other meetings throughout the year

#### **Potential Visiting Researcher from Germany – Mandy**

- The potential visiting researcher was brought up at last Roundtable meeting
- Researcher is hopeful to come here in the fall – she is looking for a project that will be of service long-term to the people and nature of the BR
- She wants to connect with us in some online meetings
- Has asked if she can sit in on one of our Roundtable meetings to see what's on our plate
  - Everyone is on board to have her join the next meeting
- Mandy will share her website with the Roundtable

#### **Qualicum Beach (QB) Tree and Vegetation Management Plan – Mandy**

- This item came from the community report: citizens are concerned with QB losing their tree canopy
- Mandy asked Teunis if there is an update regarding a Tree and Vegetation Management Plan
- Teunis said it was started by the previous council
  - The majority doesn't want to have a bylaw that allows people to take down trees on their own property
    - The Council has asked for protection of vegetation as much as possible, and want the Town to replace trees
  - When you look at the overall canopy, there are large forested areas – they have worked to protect large green spaces in order to reduce their carbon footprint and greenhouse gases
  - Noted that many areas in Parksville, French Creek, and Coombs have large swaths of trees have been taken down for development purposes
  - Feels it should be a regional initiative

Chris said that Parksville did have a tree management plan, and that QB could look at that – with the right tree management regime, there can be a happy medium – it's doable and reasonable

- Parksville's plan has a lot about hazard in it
- Teunis said one area they are trying to focus on is a tree planting program that would avoid tree roots from destroying sidewalks and could injure people
- Chris said that QB has had a kind of tree management plan for decades, but there is a need to protect private property rights
- Ceri is wondering if there could be a package that is given to people that move here to outline the habitat and what it's like to live on the Island
- Pam said she supports Teunis and that a tree bylaw may not be the solution – it can result in so many unintended consequences
  - It's important to have people change the way they think about the way they live
- Kim said that if you want to see the tree bylaw in Parksville in action – they're about to do a big project on Memorial
  - They will be going through to remediate the road but save the trees at the same time
  - The Parksville plan is not to prohibit developers from taking out trees, but it is to promote replacing them elsewhere
- Mandy and Ceri to chat about a package – they can discuss at the next gathering

#### **Sandpiper Water Utility – Mandy**

- Mandy asked Maureen if there have been any advancements regarding the Sandpiper water utility – residents have shared photographs of reddish-brown water pouring from their faucets, and are concerned with the effects that poor water quality may have on their health
- Maureen directed all responses on this matter to come from Leanne
- Teunis said there are discussions happening, but they can't be discussed until there is a solution to report out on

#### **Roundtable Internal Newsletter – Mandy**

- Mandy showed the newsletter to members and wanted to see if there was feedback or if things should be changed
- Ceri thanked Mandy for putting it all together
  - Awareness is a big deal, so it's nice to have it all synthesized in one spot
- Chris said that he read it and that it was good and informative
- Mandy asked that if anyone has anything to add to it, to let her know and she can include it in the next issues

### **Future**

#### **Upcoming BioBlitz – Mandy**

- BioBlitz has been restructured to suite COVID-19 protocols and social distancing
- We'll be using the iNaturalist app and encompassing the whole MABR rather than a few select locations
- The event will run from April 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>, with a prize given to the participant with the most observations each day
- Mandy will send out poster at the end of the meeting to Roundtable members to share with their contacts
- Blain said he can help promote it

#### **SDG High School Competitions – Mandy**

- Mandy had communications with a retired teacher/community member who wants to engage youth in the SDGs
- Currently we're working on initiative for MABR high school students where they can submit project ideas that includes one or more of the SDGs
  - They'll win an award that will help them implement these community initiatives in the summer
- Application will be open in the beginning of June – students will begin implementing the projects in July
- Graham said it builds on the MABR Youth Program – it provides a chance to empower them
  - Funding is coming from our VIU Foundation and potentially the Lions Club

#### ***Getting to Know the SDGs Symposium* – Mandy**

- Have met with many organizations to see how they're contributing to the SDGs in the MABR
- The Symposium is happening on February 23<sup>rd</sup> on Zoom from 3:00-4:30pm
  - Will include presentations, new short videos, and two breakout sessions
- The event is open to everyone
- Graham asked if there is an organization coming in from an economic development organization?
  - None of the businesses were interested in presenting
- Kim asked if he could help with that – Mandy will follow up with Kim

#### **Campus Experiential Learning Available Funding – Graham & Pam**

- Opportunity to tap into about \$500K of funding – funding is allotted in \$1,800 chunks with the purpose of working with community organizations on applied research projects

- Any type of project qualifies as long as it involves student applied research
- Ceri asked if there are people studying media or website design?
  - Graham said yes

## Circle Updates from Roundtable Members

### **Cheryl Jones, Snaw-naw-as First Nation**

- The Nation has started to work with Rugged Coast BC – they were wanting to work with the Nation to clean up the shoreline
  - Work will be from Nanoose Bay to Victoria
  - If you work with them they can create some employment in your community
  - Rugged Coast BC will come to your community, if you're interested, to start up the program for you and then you take over
- Working with Urban Systems to restore the coast at the campground – starts this spring
- Chris said that if there are people that want to reach out to the City for the work done in Parkville then feel free to reach out to Chris

### **Ceri Peacey, Community Representative**

- Brant Wildlife Festival
  - It's all cyber and self-directed this year
  - In March they are going to release 20 hand-painted brants that people can take photos with
  - Videos will be released – exploring our own backyard and how we share our lands with wildlife
  - Events include an eagle release and a bird trail
- North Island Caucus
  - Excellent potential to share resources and come together
- Mandy can share all the promotional material with the Roundtable

### **Chris Burger, City of Parkville**

- Wants to think/talk more about mental health – a lot of depression occurring due to COVID and other causes
- The environment seems to be very important in keeping people healthy
- Important for the MABR to convey a message of hope – we'll make it through these difficult times and get past these hard restrictions
  - Build this element into what we're building as the BR
  - It's about the people

### **Steve Adams, Mosaic Forest Management**

- In 2020, the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business increased Mosaic to Silver Level Certification within the Progressive Aboriginal Relations (PAR) framework
- Carbon trust of Canada just certified Mosaic's carbon footprint
  - First forest company in Canada to do this
  - Working towards green future
  - Working towards carbon neutral
- Safety is always top priority – striving to get to zero harm

### **Kim Burden, Parksville and Qualicum Chamber of Commerce**

- PQB chamber of commerce is engaged in a branding exercise – want to ensure businesses in the downtown are supported
- Parksville – moving forward with the concept of creating a fulfillment centre (a mini-Amazon) – getting online and selling their goods in this new world
  - Partnered with NEDC on this
  - Hoping for a positive response on their grant application with the province
  - Working with all other chamber of commerce on the Island
- Looking to hire students for the visitor centre for the summer – hiring 4 students in total
- Looking to hire an events coordinator
- Street Market in the parking lot of the visitor centre is going forward this summer, as it did last year (Tuesday evenings)
- Old School House and McMillan Arts Centre – Benchmark
  - Students at Ballenas Secondary built 30 benches with wood donated by Aquila Cedar  
They've put a call out to the community to decorate these benches with the intent to have 30 individuals/organizations decorate the benches and moved out into the community
  - There will be a map showing the bench locations and a survey will be released to determine the community's favourite benches
  - In the fall, the benches will be auctioned off to get some funding for the local artists that decorated them

### **Teunis Westbroek, Town of Qualicum Beach**

- Old school bus garage site – sold part to Naked Naturalists and some residential
  - Organizing a small working group from the community to plan the rest of the site
- Eagle Crest Golf Course is scaling down to 9-holes from 18-holes
- Decided that the Council will work with the province to build a cold-weather shelter in the Airport lands for at least 6 months beyond the COVID-19 period
  - It's important to reach out and accommodate some people that aren't doing so well

### **Blain Sepos, Parksville Qualicum Beach Tourism**

- Looks like it will be a worse year in 2021 than it was in 2020
- Anything to do with promotions have to have the disclaimer to not visit
  - Difficult because you want to encourage people to consider PQB as a vacation destination but have to tell them to hold off right now
- Sharing some inspiring photography is helping people
- Some campaigns include – 'dream now, travel later'
- Karen from his office is working with businesses that need any type of supports in navigating challenges with COVID
  - If anyone knows anyone that needs help, contact Blain
- Visitor research for most of the year and needing to get local stakeholder feedback – used to contribute to branding and everything they do
- They have a brand-new website that will launch in a week and a half (Feb 19) – everything under one platform now



- 2021 Discovery Guide has been printed
- BC Bird Trail – they are supporting this as PQBTA is one of the founding members
- New push in the tourism industry to only promote appropriate images of people engaging marine mammals
- BC Adventure Smart – have adopted for 1.5 years
  - Communicate responsible and safe use of trails

#### **Maureen Young, Regional District of Nanaimo**

- Benson Creek Falls trail is re-opening shortly - the bridge was replaced, it is being finished up soon

#### **Jaime Dubyna, Islands Trust**

- Anticipating something happening with West Ballenas being purchased
- Islands Trust won the court of appeal to prohibit seawalls and shoreline armouring across all Islands

#### **Graham Sakaki, MABRRI**

- Started sending out letters of support requests to most partners for a couple of upcoming grants for the Timing Windows project
- We're coming up on fiscal year end, hoping this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year that MABRRI won't be putting VIU at a deficit

### **Closing**

- The next Roundtable Gathering is tentatively scheduled for May 14<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am – 12:30pm
- Gathering will occur via zoom again

## Appendix A

### MABR Roundtable Gathering Vol. 18 Agenda

Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 from 10:00am to 12:30pm  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom.

**Roundtable contact: Mandy Hobkirk - (250) 709-7678**

#### Objectives

The main objectives of this Roundtable gathering are for participants to:

1. Continue to engage in respectful and meaningful dialogue with one another.
2. Discuss past, present, and future events for the MABR/RI.
3. Hear from one another about regional/organizational/community updates.

#### AGENDA

Time	Activity
10:00-10:15	<b>Welcome/Opening</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Words of welcome</li><li>• Acknowledgement of First Nation unceded Territory</li><li>• Around the circle brief introductions</li><li>• Review and collectively adopt agenda</li><li>• Reminder of the MABR Roundtable Culture of Engagement</li></ul>
10:15-10:25	<b>Dissertation Research Involving the MABR - Presentation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Confronting the Political Challenges of the Anthropocene: A Study of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme - Desirée Fiske</li></ul>
10:25-11:40	<b>MABR Updates</b> <b>Present:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Community Representative Applicant – Mandy</li><li>• Ballenas Winchelsea Archipelago Student Research – Graham</li><li>• Presentation to MLAs – Mandy and Pam</li><li>• Potential Visiting Researcher from Germany – Mandy</li><li>• QB Tree and Vegetation Management Plan – Mandy</li><li>• Sandpiper Water Utility – Mandy</li><li>• Roundtable Internal Newsletter – Mandy</li></ul> <b>Future:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Upcoming BioBlitz – Mandy</li><li>• SDG High School Competitions – Mandy</li><li>• <i>Getting to Know the SDGs</i> Symposium – Mandy</li></ul>
11:40-11:50	<b>Coffee Break/ Health Break</b>
11:50-12:20	<b>Roundtable Members</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What's new with you/your organization?</li></ul>
12:20-12:30	<b>Closing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Final reflections &amp; action items</li><li>• Next Roundtable date, host, agenda</li><li>• Closing words</li></ul>