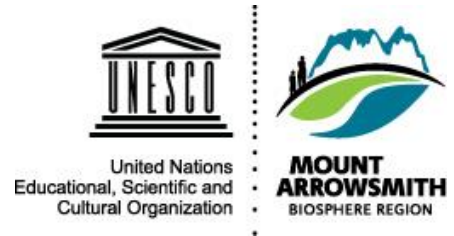


MEETING MINUTES

MABR Roundtable Gathering Volume 13
Friday, September 13th, 2019 from 10:00am to 12:30pm
TimberWest Forest Corp.
648 Terminal Ave, Nanaimo, BC, Canada, V9R 5E2



Attendees (16)

Graham Sakaki, MABRRI Research & Community Engagement Coordinator
Haley Tomlin, MABRRI Assistant Research & Community Engagement Coordinator
Mandy Hobkirk, MABR Interim Coordinator
Jessica Pyett, MABRRI Projects Coordinator
Ceri Peacey, Community Representative
Steve Adams, Mosaic Forest Management
Ken Epps, Mosaic Forest Management
Maureen Young, Regional District of Nanaimo
Sonja Zupanec, Islands Trust
Dave Witty, MABR Director
Chris Burger, City of Parksville
Kianna Watts, Snaw-naw-as First Nation
Daniel Sailland, Town of Qualicum Beach, CAO
Michael Recalma, Qualicum First Nation, Chief
Danielle Paydli, Canadian Freshwater Alliance, Presenter
Angus Weller, Community Member, Presenter

Regrets (7)

Pam Shaw, MABRRI Director of Research
Lawrence Mitchell, Snaw-naw-as First Nation, Council Member
Geraldine Manson, Snuneymuxw First Nation Elder
Michael Wyse, Snuneymuxw First Nation, Chief
Ed Mayne, City of Parksville, Mayor
Brian Wiese, Town of Qualicum Beach, Mayor
Kim Burden, Parksville & District Chamber of Commerce, E.D.

Objectives

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

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

Welcome & Opening Prayer

- Graham Sakaki shared words of welcome and introduced new faces, Kianna Watts (Snaw-naw-as First Nation on behalf of Lawrence Mitchell) and Maureen Young (Regional District of Nanaimo) to the Roundtable.
- Steve Adams expressed that he was happy to host Roundtable Members and went through a safety briefing.
- Circle check-ins and introductions.

Agenda Adoption

- The group reviewed the Agenda (see Appendix A).
- Dave Witty requested to add a new item: potential to host EuroMAB in 2023.

Community Report (Ceri Peacey)

Arrowsmith Naturalists

- Arrowsmith Naturalists (AN) continue to remove invasive plants at the Englishman River Estuary on a bi-weekly basis year round. Making noticeable progress. Anyone welcome to join in!
- AN had a display for the two days of the Coombs Fair in August, as well as a display at the Errington Farmers' Market on September 7th.
- AN will be hosting the 5th Annual Mushroom Festival at the Coombs Fairgrounds on October 27th.

Concerns: AN and in the community

- The increasing destruction of trees and habitat throughout Oceanside.
- A lot of construction is occurring and concerns about the corresponding need for sufficient water to serve the growing population and planned light industry needs to be considered.
- The negative impacts of development on local salmon bearing streams.
- The growing number of community members calling for more natural parkland to be set aside for future generations. Examples: members of Friends of the French Creek Estuary, Friends of Hamilton marsh, MVIHES call to protect Shelly Creek.

Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers

Seaside Nature Park (Faye Smith Pavilion) Update

- Carver Jesse Recalma, Qualicum First Nation Art: his carvings will include salmon coming in to spawn and going out to sea; two special carvings, one with a rising sun and the other will be the skulls of the ancestors and four paddles to be mounted on the centre post. Timing for completion is late fall.
- The planted portion of the site is due to be completed in October.
- All aspects will all be accompanied by interpretive signage.

- This is a joint project with the Town of Qualicum Beach.
- Other current projects include continued planting on the Little Qualicum River Estuary and installation of an irrigation system with the co-operation of a neighbour; installation of a new smolt counting fence in Grandon Creek and completion of the summer RDN Community Water Quality Monitoring. Last week a Qualicum Beach Councillor (Adam Walker), accompanied Streamkeeper Gord Almond, and he found it extremely useful and will recommend all QB Council Members do the same.

General Notes

- Logging on Private Managed Forest Land in Qualicum Beach commenced this week. They appreciate the co-operation of Pam Jorgenson and her colleagues, from Mosaic Forest Management, whom took concerned local residents on a tour in late July. They believe Mosaic is in compliance and is trying to go the extra mile to address community concerns. They also believe that changes need to be made to the Private Managed Forest Land Act, and are in agreement with the submission the Regional District of Nanaimo made to the Province relative to their current public consultation.
- South Airport Lands Qualicum Beach – it is recommending that this 20 ha of Forested Land be converted to a Light Industrial Park. Neighbouring Residents (RDN) and many others are concerned about the impact on the French Creek Watershed. Suggestions for it be a Forest Reserve, used for educational purposes were proposed.
 - Daniel added that there has been confusion in terms of land use plans; it is still zoned as an airport it is not a forest. The Town of Qualicum Beach is looking at environmental impacts to make sure proper buffers are maintained. The area to protect is on the western side of the town where there are wetlands.
 - Chris added that in the 1990s the forested area was logged and used to build the existing fence that surrounds the property.
 - Daniel mentioned that it is up to council. It is zoned as airport use which is federal jurisdiction. It is early days but well into the process. The business plan is not to expand but to welcome general aviation.
 - Dave added that there should be a systems approach to MABR rather than one-offs, these are important conversations to have, but it is a bigger question about what we can create that gives a healthy input for naturalists groups. He added that for us it will be helpful to better identify core buffer areas, perhaps with a map. If we nail that down we can go to another level, on a scale of 1 to 5, and 5 being really critical habitat areas. Right now, there is a lack of knowledge and a common view that often everything is equal.

Brant Wildlife Festival

- A few events have set dates:
 - Birds of the Salish Sea – Birdwatching. March 21st at Seaside Nature Park.
 - Birds, Basic ID, and Bird-watching. 9am - 12:30 pm Saturday, March 28th. NIWRA Centre - sells out fast!

- Brant in the Bay. 11am-3pm Sunday, March 29th. Parksville Bay.
- Ceri is wondering if MABRRI/VIU could come up with a way to quantify the financial gains to Oceanside as a result of the Festival.
 - Graham and Ceri will discuss this further at a later date.
 - Dave added that there may be an opportunity to connect an MBA student for practicum work.
 - Ceri added that Parksville Qualicum Tourism may also be interested in that.

Agricultural Community

- There is concern about the closing of the Rusted Rake restaurant in Nanoose.
- A petition: *Created by farmers, for farmers, this petition is calling on support from the citizens of BC for the repeal of Bill 52 and Bill 15.* These Bills were put forward by the BC Ministry of Agriculture without adequate consultation from the farming community and stand to jeopardize farming in BC. A survey used to support the changes had only 2,600 respondents representing a mere fraction of the 51,000 parcels of land with farm classification. Listening to farmers and supporting diversification in farming is an integral component to sustainable agriculture and food security in BC.
 - *Farmers and ranchers are not being heard.* In the Ministry's attempt to reach their goals of creating policy to revitalize the Agricultural Land Reserve and address issues such as excessive development and land affordability in the lower mainland, they've instead created policy that threatens the livelihoods and the homes of farmers throughout the rest of the province.
 - *Farmers and ranchers are not being valued.* The BC government needs to: 1) Restore the right of farmers to represent themselves directly to the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC); 2) Restore the right of farmers to have two dwellings, unconditional to farm use; 3) Give equal opportunities for all farmers to diversify and sell value added farm products independent of alcohol production; and 4) Encourage the revitalization of the Farmer's Institutes of BC.

MABR Updates

Past

2019 BioBlitz

- Haley shared that the 2019 MABR BioBlitz was successfully hosted at Milner Gardens and Woodland in Qualicum Beach on April 13, 2019. The event was divided into a morning session (9-12 pm) and an afternoon session (1-4 pm).
- While the event was well advertised via a radio interview and posters spread throughout the Biosphere and VIU's Nanaimo campus, turnout for the event was slightly lower than that of previous years. There was a total of 38 participants.
- Highlights: the inclusion of an anthropod expert who was able to identify insects onsite and birding was a large attraction for participants

- Looking forward: expanding upon the variety of botany and ecology experts in the region and reaching out to the community regarding what they would like to see at the next BioBlitz would be valuable.

EuroMAB 2019

- Pam and Dave attended the EuroMAB conference from April 2-5 in Dublin, Ireland.
- Dave shared that Canada had good representation and very active participation. Pam presented on the work that we're doing with First Nations, it was well received.
- One thing they really recommended: actively support UNESCO mandate. European biospheres have charters, codes of practice, and codes of conduct. Dave suggested that the MABR should explore that.
- Dave focused on ecotourism at the conference and recommended we create an ecotourism network, helping us avoid the tourism that consists of a quick stop in town and moving on to the next.
 - Examples of an ecotourism network: circular hiking trails in Powell River.
 - Dave suggested that we need to involve the BC government so they can see the work we are doing because a lot of the work aligns with the government's goals.
- Dave also mentioned an engagement process: provide baseline data and what stakeholder's value.
- At the conference, the International Journal of UNESCO Biosphere Reserves was discussed. They want us to send out a connection to EuroMAB members so they can contribute to the journal.

2019 CBRA Summer Gathering

- Haley attended the CBRA Summer Gathering on June 18th in Sidney, Nova Scotia.
- Updates from each biosphere reserve and Indigenous Circle representative were provided.
- The group looked at the strategic priorities that were drafted at the Fall Gathering, and using dotmocracy, identified those that they felt were priorities for CBRA.
- Gary Clarke from Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve in Ontario and the North American Chair for the International Center for Sustainable Rural Communities (ICSRC) presented on the work that ICSRC has done with WikiMAB.org, which is an online encyclopedia for UNESCO Biosphere Reserves. It allows for every biosphere reserve and their affiliated organizations to provide content.
- The successes and failures of CBRA's Other Effective Area Based Conservation Measures project was discussed. Many biospheres found that it was a great initiative that allowed for them to build recognition of conservation areas at a local level, as well as use the small pockets of funding to leverage more funding locally. Other biospheres found that the project wasn't working in their region primarily due to the small amounts of funding that was available.
- A three day Climate Change Adaptation Forum was hosted in Baddeck, NS, following the gathering. The forum was very interactive and allowed for all participants to take part in discussions, brainstorming to come up with initiatives and actions that could be undertaken at a local level to mitigate climate change.

MABR Regional Research Conference

- The conference took place from June 12 - 14 at the Parksville Community Centre.

- Graham explained that community groups expressed their want to have a conference on research in the region to find out what others are doing, share resources, and collaborate on a local scale.
- The conference started with a Traditional Plant Workshop, and the following two days included 3 keynote speakers and over 40 break out presenters.
- Moving forward, this is a lot of work to put on every year and Graham was hoping for feedback from Roundtable members.
 - Ceri mentioned that she enjoyed it and that as a presenter, it was such a good experience. She thinks it should be a single day event, and is wondering how to get the public who is not in the know to attend.
 - Graham suggested that we could start advertising well in advance.
 - Sonja suggested collaborating with the Canadian Institute of Planners.
 - Daniel said that AVICC did a call out to see if Qualicum wants to host something in their community - maybe it makes sense to collaborate with the MABR. If there are elected officials it can have a lot of positive ramifications and raise profile.
 - Dave added that holding the conference every two years is a good thing. He likes idea of two days with a social event, lots of energy there and we can get more people to attend in the future.
 - Graham said that if the timing aligned better with the Brandt Wildlife Festival, he would be thrilled.
 - Haley the people that were there loved the interdisciplinary approach that it had.
 - Steve added that the breakout sessions had a lot of variety, which was great because everyone could find something that they were interested in.

Present

MABR Highway Signage

- Dave Witty introduced the committee for the MABR Highway Signage Project: Kim Burden, Steve Adams, Mandy Hobkirk, Lawrence Mitchell, and Dave Witty.
- There has been one meeting and planned another, but it had to be postponed.
- Dave said that one of their visions is for the Nations to identify their territory and also the MABR through signage. Their plan is to first start with 2 totems (male and female) in Nanoose and maybe expand it to Cameron Lake in the future.
- Dave noted that Lawrence has a carver, Jessie Recalma, who he thought would be great to do it.
- Steve has spoken to Jessie about price and timing.
- Next step: identify the location for the totem(s), and be respectful of highways.
 - Dave said that they will do a site assessment with consideration that it can be at one of three different kinds of sites: a site that becomes a destination (new place), a site that is a quick drive by on highway, or a site that adds to that destination (gas station).
- Dave wanted to talk to Chief Michael Recalma, Qualicum First Nation, about it.
- Steve said it is likely that Mosaic could donate the log for carving.
- Daniel suggested a road trip together to see the signage in the Squamish area and along the Sea to Sky Highway. Daniel offered to coordinate the road trip if members are interested (suggested about six months from now).

- Kianna added that Snaw-naw-as First Nation is really trying to revitalize their language (e.g. the washrooms/stop signs include the Traditional language along with the English word).

MABR Youth Program

- Mandy shared that 8 workshops were conducted in elementary schools between February and May, 2019.
- In August, 2019 a third workshop was developed for elementary and the first for high school was developed, which focus on sustainable development and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- The MABR Youth Program is funded by the St. John's School of Alberta Legacy Foundation.
- Graham added that we can do 14 per year but would love to move that up to 20 in the future.
- Dave suggested we should promote this to the public to share the good work we are doing. We need to create an external communication plan.
- Maureen suggested that we put updates in the newspaper every three or four months. She finished by saying it may be a good introduction to biospheres.

MABRRI Summer Research

- ETHOS Ocean Ecosystem Exhibit at the Macmillan Arts Centre in Parksville: MABRRI had a display throughout the month of August, as well as ran three coastal ecosystems workshops for kids, and cohosted beach walks/seining with MVIHES. Graham said that there is talk about hosting an MABR display in the future at the Art Centre.
- Forage Fish Project: in May, MABRRI trained the Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers and MVIHES with funding from WWF, Pacific Salmon Foundation, and the Sitka Foundation.
- Snaw-naw-as Garden Café: was launched this summer, with funding from Mosaic and Vancouver Island Health Authority. This project runs every Tuesday from 2pm-3pm during Loaves and Fishes at the Health Centre. A VIU alumni, Gordon Walls, instructs the community to cook fresh produce.
- Snaw-naw-as Garden of Spiritual Healing: looking at building vertical gardening and finishing the Smokehouse.
- Wetland Mapping in the RDN: MABRRI is working on mapping Gabriola Island, getting access to two Englishman River privately owned sites, and installing equipment in priority sites in the Bowser area.
- Canadian Mountain Network (CMN): the project is funded by the Federal Government for the next 5 years, which provides MABRRI with \$135,000 per year to do mountain research. This year's deliverables are primarily literature reviews. In year two, a vital signs study and perceptual study will be completed with communities and tie in other MABRRI projects like GLORIA, Plant Phenology, etc. The CMN team will also be applying to the Canadian Foundation for Innovation to purchase some equipment.
- Graham finished by saying that there has been so much community involvement with all the projects thus far, and they expect the MABR will be pulled to the forefront.

Youth Representative at MABR Roundtable

- Mandy shared that the call for a youth representative has been advertised on the MABR newsletter, the Facebook page and Twitter account.
- No responses yet.

- Mandy asked the Roundtable for their thoughts on the best way to advertise this.
 - Steve suggested that we post to high schools.
 - Dave added that we should go to the school's principals in order to get a relative direction.
 - Mandy said that the Nanaimo Youth 20/20 Can Project is about volunteering, so she will look into that.
 - Sonja asked if there is any youth in the Nations that would who be interested.

Future

MABR Periodic Review

- Graham shared that the 10 year periodic review has been postponed to 2024. He will confirm this date with Ellie from CCUNESCO, as this is four years past our original deadline.

Circle Updates from Roundtable Members

Islands Trust

- Sonja invited Roundtable members on a boat tour of the Ballenas-Winchelsea Islands hosted by the Islands Trust Executive Committee on October 17th, 2019, from 10am to 1pm and a packed lunch will be provided for those attending. This opportunity is to discuss current concerns and initiatives, and continue the collaboration through proactive land use planning, conservation, marine protection, education and information sharing.

Presentations

Map of MABR

- Angus Weller presented a watercolour map of the MABR to the Roundtable. The map is a collaboration between Angus (volunteer cartographer) and Brandon Riddoch (VIU art student).
- The map has not yet been completed.
- The Roundtable discussed including an atlas or information about the Amazing Places project on the back of the map, as well as the map having an interactive component.

Canadian Freshwater Alliance

- Danielle Paydli presented on behalf of the Canadian Freshwater Alliance in hopes of gaining support from the Roundtable. For more information on the Canadian Freshwater Alliance, visit their website [here](#).

Closing

- Next Roundtable meeting is set for November 22nd, 2019 at the Town of Qualicum Beach's office. Daniel also offered that we add an extra hour to the meeting so everyone can see the work they have been doing on sea level rise.
- Graham shared final reflections and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Appendix A

MABR Roundtable Gathering Vol. 13 Agenda

Friday, September 13, 2019 from 10:00am to 12:30pm

TimberWest Forest Corp.

648 Terminal Ave, Nanaimo, BC, Canada, V9R 5E2

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

Objectives

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

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

AGENDA

Time	Activity
10:00-10:10	Arrivals: Nametags & refreshments
10:10-10:20	Welcome/Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Words of welcome from Geraldine Manson, Snuneymuxw First Nation • Acknowledgement of Snuneymuxw First Nation unceded Territory • Around the circle brief introductions • Review and collectively adopt agenda • Reminder of the MABR Roundtable Culture of Engagement
10:20-11:10	MABR Updates <p><i>Past:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2019 BioBlitz – Haley will provide update • EuroMAB 2019 – Dave will provide update • 2019 CBRA Summer Gathering – Haley will provide update • MABR Regional Research Conference – Graham will provide update <p><i>Present:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MABR Highway Signage – Dave will provide update • MABR Youth program – Mandy will provide update • MABRRI Summer Research – Graham will provide update • Youth Representative at MABR Roundtable – Mandy will provide update <p><i>Future:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MABR Periodic Review – Graham will provide update • Review Current Zonation – Mandy will provide update • Review Roundtable Matrix – Graham will provide update
11:10-11:40	Circle Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What's new with you/your organization? Any connections with the MABR updates?
11:40-11:50	COFFEE BREAK
11:50-12:20	Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map of MABR - Angus Weller and Brandon Riddoch • Canadian Freshwater Alliance Presentation – Danielle Paydli
12:20-12:30	Closing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final reflections & action items • Next Roundtable date, host, agenda • Closing words from Geraldine Manson