

MEETING MINUTES

MABR Roundtable Gathering Volume 17
Friday, November 6th, 2020 from 10:00am to 12:30pm

Virtual meeting via Zoom.



Attendees (11)

Pam Shaw, MABRRI Director of Research
Graham Sakaki, MABRRI Research & Community Engagement Coordinator
Kim Burden, Parksville & District Chamber of Commerce, E.D.
Ceri Peacey, Community Representative
Blain Sepos, Parksville Qualicum Beach Tourism, E.D.
Mandy Hobkirk, MABR Coordinator
Chris Burger, City of Parksville
Steve Adams, Mosaic Forest Management, Resource Technologist
Courtney Vaugeois, MABRRI Projects Coordinator
Maureen Young, Regional District of Nanaimo
Geraldine Manson, Snuneymuxw First Nation, Elder

Regrets (8)

Haley Tomlin, MABRRI Assistant Research & Community Engagement Coordinator
Teunis Westbroek, Town of Qualicum Beach, Councillor
Michael Recalma, Qualicum First Nation, Chief
Cheryl Jones, Snaw-naw-as First Nation, Councillor
Sonja Zupanec, Islands Trust
Daniel Sailland, Town of Qualicum Beach, CAO

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.
- Around the circle brief introductions.
- Mandy reviewed the Culture of Engagement.

Agenda Adoption

- The group adopted the agenda (Appendix A).

Circle Updates from Roundtable Members

Chris Burger, City of Parksville

- Chris said the City has some funds for COVID. Under these circumstances there may be opportunities that could assist with getting partnerships in place.
- Chris is open to presenting when/if the time comes.

Kim Burden, Parksville & District Chamber of Commerce, E.D.

- In Parksville they have been working hard on the fulfillment center project (working with numerous Chamber of Commerce's across the island) to build a local amazon type opportunity to allow local businesses to expand. They have applied for a grant and are waiting to hear back. The model for the project is based on providing employment to women, Indigenous peoples, and people with disabilities. This project has been his main focus alongside other COVID focuses.
- The online Gala and auction they hosted to replace the in-person gala was a great success.

Geraldine Manson, Snuneymuxw First Nation, Elder

- Geraldine has been quite busy but many of the projects are at a standstill, such as the mapping project. They are at the audio part on the mapping project – they are trying to install the audio on the touch screen.
- In addition to the mapping project, she is working on a project on Gabriola with the museum. They are looking to create a community setting in the outdoor theatre.
 - Question directed to Steve: Does Mosaic have any logs that could be donated to be used for the entrance of the community setting?
 - Geraldine and Steve will set up a call to discuss this further.
- Geraldine is also working within her community with a wellness team. She has been very grounded in supporting families as her role in the community is about compassion and role-modeling. She is working cautiously and calmly.

Steve Adams, Mosaic Forest Management, Resource Technologist

- Mosaic continues to integrate the two forest companies together into one, by finding further synergies. One of the largest hurdles continues to be bringing together the two forest company's GIS systems.
- Mosaic continues to manage its forest lands and the environment in a sustainable manner, while bringing logs to market.
- Mosaic has received its bronze level in the Progressive Aboriginal Certification, across the entire land base.
- Everything is done with safety as the top driving value within the company. They are very proud to share that they have the lowest medical incident rating in the two forest company's history, year to date.

Blain Sepos, Parksville Qualicum Beach Tourism, E.D.

- From the tourism perspective, business is better than it was expected to be this season. There are no sports tournaments or meetings/conferences happening so they were concerned for the winter season - but many businesses are reporting that they are doing better than expected.
- They are working to support the other business that are suffering by connecting the businesses to supports and services. Additionally, they are investing in a Visa Card

campaign. This campaign offers a Visa card to be used in the local community to guests that stay 2-3 nights.

- The snow-bird market has provided a lot of business this year already (this happened sooner than usual this year). Normally the snowbirds come in January, but they are already flocking here.
- They are also working with Mandy and Michelle for the MABR Amazing Places program. Michelle and Mandy have been working on promoting the Amazing Places by developing social media ads.
- Additionally, they are promoting bird watching – it has been very well received this year, which is unusual compared to previous years.

Pam Shaw, MABRRI, Research Director

- MABRRI is a partner with the Canadian Mountain Network (CMN). The CMN just put out another call for funding so we may be talking to the Roundtable soon about potential partners for the funding.
- She has also been on Zoom meetings for the World Mountain Network. Once things happen with it, Pam will let the Roundtable know.

Maureen Young, RDN

- The Regional District is very busy. Residents are asking for information and assistance.
- They are working in the regional parks. They were successful in the funding application to the Island Coastal Trust for their Access Improvements project in Benson Creek Falls Regional Park. The project will be carried out in three phases. The first phase aims to create better connection and add bridges. The second phase includes adding a 40-stall gravel parking lot. And the third phase will involve the installation of stairs and improvements to Ammonite Falls.
- In Extension Minors Community Park, one individual is restoring a train car which took coal to Ladysmith. The whole car is being restored and it will be crane-lifted into the Extension Minors Community Park next week.

Ceri Peacey, Community Representative

- Denise Foster (Save the Estuary Land Society) and Sandy Robinson (Friends of French Creek Conservation Society) were asked to present at NALT's October board meeting regarding fundraising toward acquisition of the 5-acre parcel at French Creek Estuary Land.
 - The presentation was well-received, with NALT offering their expertise and further discussion to come about specific ways they could become involved to support the project.
 - Everyone feels good about how this project is moving along. Any additional support anyone can give would be appreciated.
- For the Brant Wildlife Festival, they have a meeting coming up and there have been conversations about adapting the events for COVID.

Mandy Hobkirk, MABR

- The MABR's episode of Striking Balance has been released. It was a great episode with many familiar faces from the Roundtable involved. Mandy will send out the link to the full episode after this meeting.

- Ballenas Island purchase: the BC parks foundation have asked Mandy to share information with the Roundtable. The foundation is still trying to come up with the remaining funds to buy the island – they have until November 17th to do this.
 - Mandy will send out the information out to the Roundtable again.
- Mandy has been considering modifying the next BioBlitz event (this year’s BioBlitz had to be cancelled due to COVID-19). Perhaps instead of blitzing at Milner Gardens, attendees could use the iNaturalist app and blitz the entire biosphere region. Attendees can maintain social distancing (which could be difficult at Milner Gardens), and it would be a fun family activity.
 - She will start planning for April 2021.
 - Blain is happy to help promote the BioBlitz.

Presentations by MABRRI Researchers

1. MABR Vital Signs Report – Sylvie Lafreniere, Alisha Feser, and Pierce Melnick

- CMN – View from 2117 project. This is a three-year project and they hope to release the report by the summer of 2021. This will be the MABR’s first Vital Signs Report.
- What is a Vital Signs Report: Vital Signs Reports are done through community foundations Canada. Usually a portrait or snapshot of a community, which is meant to be a reporting tool to start conversations in the community about what is going well and which areas need help. It is used by the leadership to help set priorities. They are going to create something like this that will lead to more discussions on the MABR.
- Their process has involved:
 - Literature review where they looked at other vital signs reports and what kinds of data they gathered and reported on. They also looked at other community profiles. Through this literature review they were able to identify indicators for the MABR.
 - Statistics Canada: since the MABR has boundaries that are set by watersheds, but Statistics Canada uses road networks, the team worked with Statistics Canada to get to get data that fit into the MABR’s boundaries. This data will be included in the report.
 - Community outreach: their outreach has involved creating posters that have/will be shared with the community. They planned to go out into the community and do community surveys. This didn’t happen because of COVID, so now they are using the posters to get the data out there and lead up to the report. They are hoping to get feedback on what data they should include.
 - Survey: they are now at the stage of the survey. The survey involves asking people about what activities they do in the MABR, what services are available to them, and some questions about COVID (how they feel the region is responding and how they are managing).
- They are hoping to receive feedback/help from the Roundtable in a few ways:
 - They want to collect data from other sources – can anyone on the Roundtable lead them to other sources of data?
 - Blain – PQBTA have social listening resources that they might be able to share.
 - They are interested in knowing if there are any specific indicators the Roundtable would like to see in the report.

- The team will send out their contact information so the Roundtable can share feedback.
- Maureen – could bird watching be included in the report? Perhaps the fish and game clubs could help with getting the information.
 - Ceri can help get them in touch with bird watching connections.
- The team are also hoping the Roundtable can share the link to the survey.
 - Kim – both Chambers have networks that they can share the surveys with.
 - City of Parksville has already shared the survey link.
 - Chris – he will share it with the resident association.
- Mandy will send out the presentation with the contact information and the survey link.

2. Pandemic Response and Emergency Planning (PREP) – Becky Thiessen

- The project was worked on by a team of Master of Community Planning students in the spring and summer months (early stages of COVID-19). Becky is presenting on behalf of the students. The project is now in the reporting stage.
- In order to move forward from the pandemic, this project aims to review how First Nation communities on Vancouver Island responded to COVID-19. This is a Vancouver Island Community led pilot project and involves a partnership with National Aboriginal Lands Management Association and VIU. The project wants to make sure that the responses taken by the communities in response to COVID are not lost of future planning.
- The project involved gathering data through reviewing community plans and pandemic plans, and reviewing planning literature. They interviewed community members and used publicly available data (Facebook news articles). The team was looking for what did not work, what worked, and how communities can plan better for the future.
- Data revealed that communities have prepared to protect themselves in three distinct ways: administrative responses, community support initiatives, and community protection initiatives. The report goes into detail about the successes and the challenges communities faced. With the data, the team created the care model and developed a checklist for communities.

3. Indigenous Homes Innovative Initiative – Sonal Deshmukh

- This project is working to promote Indigenous led housing solutions. Sonal is working on this project with Graham and Becky.
- Indigenous Services Canada approved 24 out of 342 Innovative Housing projects, which aim to address challenges in their communities through innovative design and being community conscious. These 24 projects are spread all across Canada in various First Nations communities. Each project received up to \$2 million. Initiated in 2019, these projects were launched at an event in January and they will spend 2020-2023 to implement the projects. Desired outcomes of the projects include: improved health and wellbeing, sense of health, better quality of health, partnerships with Indigenous and non-Indigenous members, sustainable designs, and sharing success stories.
- MABRRI's project stemmed from the launch in January and will track the progress of the 24 projects. MABRRI's roles and responsibilities include: working with each team to develop social and economic metrics and indicators, building trust and relationships

with the teams, communicate care through storytelling, sharing the findings among teams so they can learn from each other, assist the teams in finding any resources they may need, providing feedback to CANDO and Indigenous Services Canada, and producing a year 1 report which will showcase the successes and challenges of each team.

- Indigenous Services Canada wants to highlight these communities in order to help other communities across Canada. This project will help track the impacts and effectiveness of the Indigenous Service Canada pilot project.

MABR Updates

Present

Community Representative: Terms of Reference – Mandy

- The topic came up at the last Roundtable gathering. Graham, Ceri, and Mandy thought it would be beneficial to develop terms of reference for the Community Representative. They are hoping to finalize the role.
- Mandy read through the draft document and asked if there were any suggestions or changes to make.
 - There were none.
- Mandy will send the document back out again for any last-minute edits or feedback, before finalizing and posting to the MABR website.

Giving out awards for activities in the Biosphere – Pam

- Pam has a contact at the Fundy Biosphere Reserve (they do some awards) and they will pass along some resources to Pam. Pam will bring this to the next meeting.

MABR SDG Internship – Mandy

- MABRRI received \$8,000 from Colleges and Institutes Canada's Career Launcher program to hire an SDG Ambassador – Vickie Gould. Vickie is a recent graduate from VIU's Anthropology program. Vickie will work as the MABR SDG Ambassador until the end of February.
- As the SDG Ambassador she will work to increase awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the MABR. The SDGs are 17 goals outlined by the UN to achieve global sustainability for all, they cover all aspects of sustainability (environmental, social, cultural, and economic). Vickie will lead the project and engage the community with the SDGs through social media campaigns, workshops, and videos. We hope to finish the project with a local symposium to showcase how the MABR is contributing to the SDGs.
- If anyone from the Roundtable would like to have a conversation with Vickie to chat about how their work connects to the SDGs, let Mandy know.

Future

US Biosphere Network event – Graham

- The US Biosphere Network reached out to Graham to see if he would present at their half-day symposium. Graham will present on Critical Issue #2 – Engagement with Indigenous Peoples. Graham is presenting on some of the work we are doing in the

MABR. At the beginning of the presentation, Graham will declare that he is not Indigenous and is only sharing his experience from working with Indigenous communities. He will also share the Culture of Engagement and Collaboration with Indigenous Communities' documents. He will talk about the Roundtable and share the reconciliation video. He will also talk about the Snaw-naw-as garden project and show a clip from the Striking Balance video.

- They are expecting about 200 participants at the symposium.
- If anyone wants to join next Tuesday, Graham can ask the USBR to share the link.
- Graham will bring a report back to the next Roundtable.

Place-based education in the biosphere – Mandy and Graham

- Graham and Mandy met with Leah from School District 69 to discuss ideas about place-based education opportunities. They discussed making school grounds into outdoor education settings. Leah feels that the School District needs support to push these ideas and initiatives forward. She talked about creating a website to connect schools with expertise and other services. Her broad vision is to facilitate more place-based learning. Leah was thinking that they could pull together material packages for teachers to access.
- Does the Roundtable support this and should Mandy commit some of her time to this?
 - Kim – wonders what financial commitment other than Mandy's time there might be.
 - Graham – from the discussion, none of this was considered. From past experiences with School Districts they don't have a lot of funding. Mandy's work would be more focused on creating a package to encourage teachers to link place-based learning to curriculum.
 - Blain – wonders if this is a partnership opportunity with another organization in the community (well bus program). Mandy will look into this.
 - Mandy – one option would be to create a sub-section with resources for education on the MABR website. She could pull together a list of grants that schools could access (she already spends time looking for grants and comes across grants that we can't apply to but schools can).
 - Chris – there is an opportunity to engage in the education system to foster ideas and get students involved. He sees an opportunity for Mandy to help.
 - Mandy asked if anyone was opposed to her dedicating some time to this.
 - No one was opposed.
 - Mandy will reconnect with Leah to discuss options moving forward.

Closing

- Next meeting will be held virtually again via Zoom.
- Tentatively scheduled for February 5th, 2021 from 10:00am – 12:30pm.

Appendix A

MABR Roundtable Gathering Vol. 17 Agenda

Friday, November 6th, 2020 from 10:00am to 12:30pm
Virtual Meeting via Zoom.

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

Objectives

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AGENDA

Time	Activity
10:00-10:10	Welcome/Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Words of welcome• Acknowledgement of First Nation unceded Territory• Around the circle brief introductions• Review and collectively adopt agenda• Reminder of the MABR Roundtable Culture of Engagement
10:10-11:10	Circle Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What's new with you/your organization?
11:10-11:40	MABRRI Student Research Project Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MABR Vital Signs Report – Sylvie, Alisha, and Pierce• Pandemic Response and Emergency Planning - Becky• Indigenous Homes Innovative Initiative - Sonal
11:40-11:50	Coffee Break/ Health Break
11:50-12:20	MABR Updates <i>Present:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Representative: Terms of Reference – Mandy• Giving out awards for activities in the Biosphere – Pam• MABR SDG Internship – Mandy <i>Future:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• US Biosphere Network event – Graham• Place-based education in the biosphere – Mandy and Graham
12:20 – 12:30	Closing <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final reflections & action items• Next Roundtable date, host, agenda• Closing words