

MEETING MINUTES

MABR Roundtable Gathering Volume 21
Friday, December 10th, 2021 from 09:00am to 11:30am

Virtual meeting via Zoom.



Attendees (10)

Mandy Hobkirk, MABR, Coordinator
Courtney Vaugeois, MABRRI, Assistant Research & Community Engagement Coordinator
Ceri Peacey, Community Representative
Michael Recalma, Qualicum First Nation, Chief
Jennah Stavroff, Community Representative
Kim Burden, Parksville & District Chamber of Commerce, E.D.
Lehann Wallace, Regional District of Nanaimo, Electoral Area G Director
Graham Sakaki, MABRRI, Regional Research Institute Manager
Steve Adams, Mosaic Forest Management, Resource Technologist
Teunis Westbroek, Town of Qualicum Beach, Councillor

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. Hear from one another about regional/organizational/community updates.
3. Discuss past, present, and future events for the MABR/RI.
4. Re-visit MABRRI's Strategic Research Plan (2022 – 2025).

Welcome

- Moment of silence for Maureen Young.
- Announcement: Mandy is taking maternity leave around the beginning of May. Mandy may still facilitate the Roundtable gatherings while she is away.
- Reviewed the *Culture of Engagement*.

Agenda Adoption

- No changes or additions

Circle Updates from Roundtable Members

Ceri Peacey, Community Representative

- Updates were covered in the Internal Newsletter that was circulated.

Jennah Stavroff, Community Representative

- Paradise Childcare will be shutting down as of December 17. Jennah is unsure if it will be all locations or just the Parksville site. Other childcare services will try to pick up the need, but it still might be a challenge. Not having childcare services will have a ripple effect on the community.

- There have been some shifts stemming from COVID and the region does not have an extreme weather shelter this year. Some churches have been trying to open up/work with shelters. The nearest extreme weather shelter is in Nanaimo. This could become an issue as the winter progresses.

Lehann Wallace, RDN

- There are a number of ongoing projects that are impactful. The [Get Involved RDN](#) website is a platform where residents can get engaged.
 - Examples:
 - The Regional Strategy for Rainwater Management surveys and input opportunities.
 - The Englishman River Water Service is hosting another meeting – open to the public. Need to ensure there is a balanced approach to the budget moving forward to ensure that the new water system is compliant from a DFO perspective.
- There is a conflict in the community between those who want to see playground and infrastructure as recreation vs developing parks that are within proximity to Nature’s Trust land and along river corridors. The region needs to have the discussion about the difference between parks for conservation and parks for recreation.

Michael Recalma, Qualicum First Nation

- No updates from the community at this time.

Steve Adams, Mosaic Forest Management

- Computer Assisted Log Manufacturing (CALM) – getting the most value out of the logs when they are manufacturing them with machines. In progress.
- Truck Driver Fleet Management Safety Program – (for logging truck drivers) develop a drivers report card for the safety of the drivers and the public.
- Creating and implementing a diversity and inclusion strategy, working within the community to grow diversly.
- Continuing to develop lidar information across the land base, flying over areas that have not been flown over in quite some time. This will help to review their inventory.
- Much of Island Timberlands data has now been shifted over into the new GIS system (called land resource management).
- Jennah asked about how community members can determine whether Mosaic is working in an area.
 - Mosaic posts signs informing that there are crews or active machinery in the area. Community members are encouraged to call in any suspicious activity.

Kim Burden, Parksville & District Chamber of Commerce

- They have opened their fulfillment center - which came about from the original conversations with businesses and the announcement of health orders. Many businesses were able to pivot to an online sales platform, but they were still experiencing challenges.
 - The plan is to have a 30,000 square foot warehouse built but, in the meantime, they have opened a temporary facility to test the model. The center provides an opportunity for business in the region to grow as it provides them extra space for inventory and shipping.

- There is renewed interest and prioritizing of the trail to run from the Parksville Community Park to Rath Trevor Beach Park. The challenge has always been getting across the Englishman River with a pedestrian pathway. The funding for a detailed design has now been approved for the trail.
 - Lehann: There is no trail that will go through the San Peril neighbourhood. Funding has been achieved for the design but not the trail itself at this time.

Teunis Westbroek, Town of Qualicum Beach

- They have received a proposal for Qualicum Wood Transformation Corporation which will locally convert wood residue to wood pellets. The Town also received a proposal for a vertical garden (Funky Banana Farm). They want to lease or buy land from the Town and produce a significant amount of food production. The farm would also enhance agrotourism.
- Teunis asked Council for approval to provide space for the Traditional Plant Workshop in March (pro bono) – received approval.
- Discussion around agriculture in the region:
 - Ceri said that we need to make sure we do everything in the context of the ecosystems.
 - Graham expressed concern that we need to increase food security in the region, especially as we expect climate disasters or other pressures in the future. Underutilized agricultural land in the region should be used.
 - Teunis expressed that the Funky Banana Farm is exciting because it shows that you do not need arable land to grow food.
 - Jennah informed the group that the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) has implemented new allowances.

Graham Sakaki, MABRRI

- MABRRI is coming into another busy season with reporting to funders and partners.
- With Mandy's maternity leave coming up, they have been thinking about how to maintain everything they have accomplished to date with the MABR Coordinator Role while Mandy is away. They are trying to determine if they need a temporary hire or will just allocate the workload across the MABRRI team.
- Currently, MABRRI is working on a new Strategic Research Plan, the current one ends next year. VIU has a new research center and institutes policy, which mandates that all research centers or labs need to create a full application and which will be passed through Senate. MABRRI was approved in 2014. However, in the new policy, it states that research centers and labs require two committees (internal and advisory). The advisory committee has always been the Roundtable, but MABRRI will need to create an internal committee at VIU. MABRRI will still look to the Roundtable directly for research focusses.
- MABRRI hired a temporary full-time staff to support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the region – Stephanie Pastro. She will be with MABRRI until March 11, 2022.
- MABRRI is planning their 3rd Traditional Plant Workshop. It will be on March 15, 2022, hosted at the Qualicum Community Hall. It will be open to the public and is funded by the Town of Qualicum Beach, Mosaic Forest Management, NutritionLink and VIU.
- Following the Traditional Plant Workshop, MABRRI will host a Regional Research and Stewardship Open House on March 16 at the Qualicum Civic Centre. The event will focus on the work and research being done within the MABR. The event will be open to the community and hosted from 2 - 8 pm. It is currently being funded by the Canadian Mountain Network, but MABRRI will likely seek out extra funding.

- Still waiting on word from Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) for the protected area funding. Graham hopes that this will start with 3 years of funding and then turn into 5 years of funding. If it comes through, this will support the MABR Coordinator position.

MABR Updates

Tseshah and K'ómoks First Nation

- Mandy mentioned that the MABR is located within the traditional territories of seven First Nation communities. Currently, three of the seven Nations have representatives at the Roundtable. Mandy posed the question to the group – should we reach out with an invitation to the other Nations as well, perhaps starting with Tseshah and K'ómoks First Nation.
- Michael mentioned that the political relationship changes when the Council changes. However, he doesn't see why the Roundtable shouldn't reach out, the other Nations might have something to offer. He also reminded the table that the Culture of Engagement says that we should leave our feelings and emotions at the door.
- Teunis indicated that based on Michael's input, he is in favor.
- Mandy suggested it would be good to check in with Geraldine and Cheryl as they weren't able to attend today.
- Jennah replied that the First Nations communities will become more active and it wouldn't hurt to extend the invite now/sooner rather than later. She doesn't see any harm in doing so, but it could help with the future relationships. Kim shared Jennah's opinion.
- Graham suggested the need to consider the impact and the voice that they can share. He questioned if the other Nations would find it valuable and worth their time to join the Roundtable.
- Michael agreed with Graham's comment.
- Graham expressed that the original intent of the Roundtable was to extend the invite to each Nation over time and that intent shouldn't be lost, but it doesn't need to be done immediately. Perhaps they can host a meeting with the other Nations next year.
- Mandy will connect with Geraldine, Cheryl, and Michael for further discussion.

Non-advocacy Policy

- Mandy introduced this at the last meeting. She sent out the updated draft based on the comments from the last meeting.
- Roundtable members reviewed the updated draft.
- Ceri questioned how the policy will impact her as a community representative.
 - Mandy answered that the policy will only affect her while representing the Roundtable.
- The policy has been approved by all members in the meeting. Mandy will upload it to the website.

SDG Youth Community Grant Program

- As mentioned at the last gathering, the MABR/MABRRI launched a youth initiative to support the SDGs in the region. We only had one applicant for this call – the School Garden Club at Kwalikum Secondary School. They will revamp the school garden, build garden boxes, grow fruits and veggies, and create a pollinator garden.
- MABRRI hired a videographer to capture the garden before and after work is done and to interview the student project lead. This video will be used as a promotional video for the SDG

Grant Funding program and the MABR. Mandy expressed a thank you to Kim for helping distribute the funds to the school.

- Jennah thinks it's a great grant, but felt that the eligibility was limiting. She asked if it could be opened up to community groups or other youth groups in the region who are not connected to the School District.
- Graham mentioned that the big concern was how to distribute the funding. After discussing it with the School District, who agreed to distribute the funds, it was deemed the best approach originally. The money was sent to the school who will manage the funding. However, MABRRI/MABR would be happy to have further discussions about how to safeguard the funding in the future. Graham will have a discussion with the legal department at VIU. Kim asked to be included in any future conversations.

MABRRI Strategic Research Plan

- The MABRRI Strategic Research Plan needs to be updated as it is coming to the end of its term (2022). MABRRI hopes to work on it and have it finalized by the end of 2022.
- The research objectives did not change over the last few years, but those can be re-evaluated by the Roundtable.
- The focus of the Roundtable should be on the research themes and priority areas, which are built on the 3 pillars of sustainability (environmental, social/cultural, economic), but each include sub-themes. It is up to the Roundtable to determine the sub-themes.
- This item has been moved to the next meeting.

Closing

- Next Roundtable gathering
 - Scheduled for March 4th, 2022 from 9:00am – 11:30am.
 - Mandy will send out a survey to determine if it will be held on Zoom or in person.

Appendix A

MABR Roundtable Gathering Vol. 21 Agenda

Friday, December 10th, 2021 from 09:00am to 11:30am
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. Hear from one another about regional/organizational/community updates.
3. Discuss past, present, and future events for the MABR/RI.
4. Re-visit MABRRI's Strategic Research Plan (2022 – 2025).

AGENDA

Time	Activity
09:00-09:15	Welcome/Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Words of welcome• Acknowledgement of First Nation unceded Territory• Moment of silence for Maureen Young• Around the circle brief introductions• Review and collectively adopt agenda• Reminder of the MABR Roundtable Culture of Engagement
09:15-10:00	Roundtable Member Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What's new with you/your organization?
10:00-10:05	Coffee Break/Health Break
10:05-11:20	MABR Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tseshaht and K'ómoks First Nation – Mandy• Non-advocacy Policy – Mandy• SDG Youth Community Grant Program – Mandy• MABRRI Strategic Research Plan (1 hour) – Graham
11:20-11:30	Closing <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final reflections & action items• Next Roundtable date, host, agenda• Closing words