

MEETING MINUTES

MABR Roundtable Gathering Volume 23
Friday June 3rd, 2022 from 10:00am to 12:30pm
Oceanside Place Arena, Multipurpose Room
(830 West Island Highway, Parksville, B.C. V9P 2X4)



Attendees (7)

Blain Sepos, Parksville Qualicum Beach Tourism, E.D
Courtney Vaugeois, MABRRI, Assistant Research & Community Engagement Coordinator
Kim Burden, Parksville & District and Qualicum Chamber of Commerce, E.D
Lehann Wallace, Regional District of Nanaimo, Electoral Area G Director
Lorry Mackay, Mosaic, Summer Student (on behalf of Steve Adams)
Pam Shaw, MABRRI, Research Director
Ray Woroniak, Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers

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 (2023 – 2025).

Welcome & Opening Prayer

- Pam shared regrets from Chief Michael Recalma, Graham Sakaki, and Tom Reid
- Round of introductions

Agenda Adoption

- Agenda adopted.

Circle Updates from Roundtable Members

Blain Sepos, Parksville Qualicum Beach Tourism

- Parksville Qualicum Beach Tourism have been working with stakeholders and the community to gather research on tourism in the area. They have been working on collecting data for the last year by getting access to a system that gathers anonymous mobile phone data. Blain has been working with a firm to develop a dashboard to show the data. This dashboard is ready to be launched and it is projected to be launched mid-June. The stakeholders in the region can utilize the data to learn about what visitors to the region do and how much they spend. They are also

looking to add in data around hotel and short-term rental statistics. The dashboard will be a one-stop-shop for stakeholders when they are building their businesses.

- This data and the dashboard are especially important to them as they are taking on the role of stewarding the Tourism Master Plan for the region. They will be hiring a firm that is well-known for this type of work throughout Canada to help with the project. They hope to develop a plan in place to mitigate issues around conflict with tourism within the region.

Lorry Mackay, Mosaic, on behalf of Steve Adams

- Mosaic's [2021 Sustainability Progress Report](#) is now published. Mosaic has also created a new carbon program and they opened a new campground on Moon Lake.

Lehann Wallace, Regional District of Nanaimo

- So many exciting things have happened over the past few months. The property acquisition of the estuary to create the Eagle Preserve hits the \$11 billion mark of private land acquisition in the region. The acquisition of the estuary is a good example of work that requires collaboration to keep it going. It draws a line in the area with other stakeholders that the people in the area value the environment and they spoke with their personal cheque books.
- Lehann questioned if there is an opportunity for a MABR/MABRRI representative to come to the RDN to provide an overview of the MABR, MABRRI's accomplishments, the MABR in Bloom report, and partners at the Roundtable? Ideally this presentation can happen before the end of this term. An election is coming so this will be timely.

Kim Burden, Parksville & District and Qualicum Chamber of Commerce

- The Chamber is an advocacy organization.
- The summer is coming, and they have a bunch of events planned. The registration for the Craig Street market is down from pre-COVID. Canada day is coming up, which is always a huge celebration in Parksville – they have lined up a great day (parade, pancake breakfast, games, six entertainment acts, and fireworks).
- The Chamber has put a few policies forward – one on housing. They have recommendations to open the charter and make changes to the development timeline. They anticipate this will all be well-received.
- They are also working on an interesting project with Vancouver Island University (VIU) Master of Community Planning program where they are developing position papers to go to local government. They want to develop some positions on core issues of the region, such as parking and sewer water, and share those on the behalf of the business community to share their position.
- In October, Kim has been asked to participate on a panel to the Canadian Chamber of Commerce as the Parksville & District and Qualicum Chamber of Commerce has been successful in creating funding channels for their chamber.
- Kim will retire part-time in the next year.

Courtney Vaugeois, MABRRI

- Courtney handed out hard copies of the [MABR in Bloom: Community Profile](#), which is the first community profile for the region. Dr. Sylvie Lafreniere and her team are also finalizing a

supplemental COVID-19 report. The video recording for the Sense of Place Study, led by Dr. Lindsay McCunn will be uploaded to the MABRRI website in the next month.

- MABRRI representatives (Pam, Graham, Courtney, and Jenica) are going to Banff next week (June 6-8) to present on the View from 2117 project at the Canadian Mountain Network Knowledge Sharing Summit
- Jenni Keppler is a current German Visiting Graduate Researcher, she arrived in May and has been working on her research looking at the feasibility of water-free sanitation solutions in the MABR.

Pam Shaw, MABRRI

- Great things are happening at MABRRI, this is the biggest year ever (keep growing each year).
- There have been conversations happening at VIU about moving MABRRI's office space, potentially to Parksville.
 - Lehann: There is a structure on the 23 acres of French Creek Estuary that is slated for demolition, she can put Pam/Graham in contact with the person there and it might be able to be used as a transitional structure for MABRRI.
 - Kim also has access to space.

Pam on behalf of Tom Reid, Nature Trust of BC

- Englishman Estuary
 - Year 2 of our juvenile salmonid sampling program conducted in partnership with SFU's Jonathan Moore (Salmon Watersheds Lab) and Snaw-naw-as FN.
 - Migratory and breeding bird surveys underway.
 - Completed Surfside RV Park (lagoon area) marine riparian planting project.
 - We will be undertaking a lower river habitat enhancement project (close to the estuary) that will install some LWD to create lower river juvenile rearing and returning adult salmon habitat. Project is being done in partnership with Snaw-naw-as FN (Chris Bob is our main contact).
 - Mariner Way – site clean-up commenced. Nickel Brothers will be removing most of the buildings later in June early July. Planning for second phase underway (e.g. riprap removals).
 - Have worked on re-routing some trails in the estuary to avoid erosion areas.
 - Invasive species inventory and removal work ongoing.
 - Continuation of our estuary resilience and monitoring work in the estuary; studying whether the estuary will be able to adapt and be resilient with sea level rise etc.
- Englishman River
 - Ongoing priority acquisition work. Hope to be able to announce something in near future.
 - Will be providing input/feedback to RDN trail assessment work at ERRP.
 - Invasive species inventory and removal work.
- Dudley Marsh
 - Amphibian inventory.
 - Invasive species work.
 - Water control structure maintenance and monitoring.
- South Winchelsea Island
 - Invasive species inventory and removal.
 - Species at risk monitoring.

MABR Updates

MABRRI's Strategic Research Plan

- [MABRRI's 2019-2022 Strategic Research Plan](#) is up for renewal this year. MABRRI is seeking guidance from the MABR Roundtable for the research objectives and the research themes.
- Pam posed the question: Do we move away from the 3 pillars of sustainability as the research themes? The members agreed that the 3 pillars may be outdated, and it might be best to move away from them.
 - Pam suggested moving towards the 5Ps of sustainable development: People, Planet, Peace, Prosperity, and Partnership.
 - Conversation followed about the definitions for Peace and Prosperity.
 - Blain noted that it is often hard to bring people together without conflict and tension, so he views peace as connecting people. Kim added 'within our communities' peace could involve finding ways to use our culture of engagement to the region.
 - Prosperity may be a contested term and may not be the best one.
 - Overall, the group was unsure about the use of the 5Ps, perhaps they need to be re-defined to meet the MABR's needs. Pam suggested the 5 functions of Canadian Biosphere Reserves.
 - Lehann thinks the 5 functions of the Canadian Biosphere Reserves sound good. Kim agrees and says it would be easier than re-defining the 5Ps to fit our needs. Blain agrees.
 - It was suggested that it may be best to develop our own themes rather than redefining ones that others have developed (SDGs, 5 Ps, etc).
- Lehann suggested that the language should align with the provincial and federal levels. This could align with funding, policies, and local governments.
 - If MABRRI is aligned with the provincial and federal governments, and UNESCO, how can MABRRI also form a leadership role for the region?
- Blain suggested that this is a perfect time to align all our plans together (Tourism Master Plan).
- Lehann noted that 'reconciliation' is an important term that should be included in the plan.
- It was agreed that the plan should include more action and strategy.

Other considerations for MABR/MABRRI

- Guiding principles may need to be revisited by the Roundtable as well.

Presentation from Ray Woroniak, Director of Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers, on the KSS Stream and Salmon Project

- Ray is looking for support for a Salmonoid and Stream Stewardship program at KSS. The program would focus on environmental stewardship with youth through place-based learning. Ray is working with School District 69 Superintendent, Peter Jory, to develop a catalogue of courses. They have received support from several organizations, such as NALT and Friends of French Creek, who will offer presentations.
- He will work with Mandy more on this next spring. Ideally it is launched by 2024/25. NALT is hoping to receive funding to help develop the catalogues. Then Peter Jory will disseminate it across the schools. They will include a blend between Indigenous learning and environmental stewardship. Ray has met with Chief Recalma and has received support from him, with his only

request being that when the program is announced, there will be a ceremony led by Chief Recalma.

- BC Conservation Foundation and DFO like this program idea as students will be gaining hands-on experiences which can lead to future job aspirations.
- At this time, he is looking for the Roundtable's support. Support from the MABR will support the SDGs, the MABR's mandates, and the school district. His philosophy is to find something in common with diverse groups to make it easier to have more difficult conversations - youth education can be one of those common topics. The school trustees and board of trustees have voted to write a letter of support. Ray is currently gathering support from the smaller community groups then he plans to go higher up seeking provincial support.
 - The present Roundtable members expressed their support and encouraged Ray to follow-up.

Closing

- Graham will send out a doodle poll for the next meeting.

Appendix A

MABR Roundtable Gathering Vol. 23

Friday, June 3rd, 2022 from 10:00am to 12:30pm

Oceanside Place Arena, Multipurpose Room (830 West Island Highway, Parksville, B.C. V9P 2X4)



Roundtable contact: Pam Shaw (250) 619-9739

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
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 – 11:00	Roundtable member updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What's new with your organization?
11:00 – 11:10	Coffee Break/Health Break
11:10 – 12:25	MABR Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MABRRI Strategic Research Plan• Presentation by Ray Woroniak – KSS Stream and Salmon Project (10 mins)
12:25 – 12:30	Closing <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final reflections• Next Roundtable date and host• Closing words