

MEETING MINUTES

MABR Roundtable Gathering Vol. 27
Friday, September 15, 2023 from 09:00am to 11:30am
Location: Oceanside Place Arena
830 West Island Highway, Parksville BC V9P 2X4, Canada



Attendees (11)

Anne Skipsey, Town of Qualicum Beach
Blain Sepos, Parksville-Qualicum Beach Tourism Association, Executive Director
Catherine Watson, Community Representative
Chris Hutton, Islands Trust, Regional Planning Manager
Geraldine Manson, Snuneymuxw First Nation, Elder in Residence (VIU)
Graham Sakaki, MABRRI, Research Institute Manager
Jenica Ng-Cornish, MABRRI, Assistant Manager Projects
Kim Burden, Nanoose Economic Development Corporation, CEO
Lehann Wallace, Regional District of Nanaimo, Electoral Area G Director
Steve Adams, Mosaic Forest Management, Resource Technologist
Ray Woroniak, Community Representative

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 and research for the MABR/RI.

Welcome & Opening Prayer

- Round of introductions.
- Graham reviewed the *Culture of Engagement*.

Agenda Adoption

- Agenda adopted with addition from Graham: BC biosphere regional gathering.

Circle Updates from Roundtable Members

Kim Burden, Nanoose Economic Development Corporation (NEDC)

- NEDC community meeting coming up on October 4th to discuss a master plan for undeveloped land above highway, east of reserve land.
- Went on tour of agriculture tenures - currently harvesting manila clams and looking into kelp and oyster. Cognizant of ocean temperatures and impacts on these species.
- Visited Musqueam Capital Corporation regarding land development around UBC – lots was learned about ensuring cultural representative and sensitivities in a non-cultural atmosphere.

Chris Hutton, Islands Trust

- New to the Roundtable; no update at this time.

Steve Adams, Mosaic

- Mosaic and RDN tours beginning with start of school year into drinking watersheds.
- Hosting a forest hydrology tour this semester with a first-year VIU class.
- The signage project is underway – logs have been delivered and are being carved.

Lehann Wallace, RDN

- The RDN board is finalizing the Strategic Plan for the remaining 3 years of this term.
 - Water is one of the four priorities in this plan.
 - The Strategic Plan is an important document to engage in – link for engagement (strategic planning discussion) [here](#).
 - Lehann requested that everyone share among their organizations.

Blain Sepos, Parkville Qualicum Beach Tourism Association

- Data about accommodation revenue and visitor numbers 2023 – not official yet, but anecdotally softer than in 2022 (not a bad thing as 2022 was not sustainable in terms of resources available).
 - Two main indicators – hotel room stats and access to data that tracks internet usage in the region by cellphones. Provides insight to tourism in the region and shares info with stakeholders, local government, partners, etc. to make decisions.
- The Destination Strategy will be officially launching soon, which is focused around destination development and using the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a guiding principle.
 - Hoping to elevate partnership with MABR further to meet SDGs together.
- Submitting 5-year strategy to the Province on November 1st.
 - Hotel room tax is the main funding source for the tourism association.
 - Program with SOS to provide affordability support to accommodation workers was successful in 2023; investing more money this year.
- Projects around affordable housing:
 - Investments in capital projects (e.g., housing societies)
 - Impact of short-term vacation rentals on affordability in our region (Nanoose – Deep Bay – Cathedral Grove)

Anne Skipsey, Town of Qualicum Beach

- TQB is going to the UBCM Convention next week – sponsoring a motion on the control of Scotch broom and a motion put forward by the Sierra Club on biodiversity.
- Upcoming half-day workshop on local climate change and mitigation.

Community Representative Updates

Catherine Watson

- On August 14th MVIHES had Alanna (MABRRI) come out to review the Forage Fish project and provide training on the sample analysis process.
 - Will run another session in the fall.
- Attended the community consultation for the Parkville Wetlands Management Plan.

- Comments from other community members included concern about houses being flooded, and understanding how wetlands will interact with each other and the underlying aquifer.
- Working to get information about an agricultural representative to sit on the Roundtable.

Ray Woroniak

- Biosphere Awareness Day (November 2024) – on agenda for SD69 meeting; Mandy will accompany Ray to present at school district meetings.
 - Have had some difficulty reaching high school teachers.
 - Have done some engagement with community groups to gauge interest. The event could likely have at least 50 different community groups with tables and displays.
 - The Roundtable endorses Ray to talk to the student union about hosting the event at their school.
- Kwalikum Secondary School (KSS) PAC secured \$1,500 from the David Suzuki Foundation to reconcile the abandoned basketball court (see photos Ray sent via email) back to its natural state and create a healing forest.
 - Does the MABR Roundtable support this – provide a letter of support, boots on the ground, have a rep on the committee, etc.?
 - Yes, the Roundtable supports. **Action:** Mandy to draft a letter of support and circulate to Roundtable members before next meeting.
 - Graham and Steve indicated interest in supporting the project boots-on-the-ground.
 - Discussion: This provides an opportunity moving forward to have a more structured formula for Roundtable endorsement to allow opportunity for engagement and time for decision making:
 - Identify the rationale for supporting endorsement
 - Work on how it aligns, what concerns there may be, then respond to vote
 - Submissions made to Mandy, fill out templates, review pros and cons
- Through conversations with the Coordinator of the Arrowsmith Community Justice Society (ACJS), the MABR could be doing more to meet SDG 16. Perhaps we can support the ACJS by some MABR members participating in volunteer opportunities in their restorative justice program.
 - Catherine is a trained restorative justice facilitator.
 - **Action:** Discuss at next meeting how this can work; Ray to invite ACJS for a presentation at next meeting.
 - Snuneymuxw First Nation has an Indigenous Justice Community – Geraldine to connect on whether the two organizations can connect.
- QB Streamkeepers restored some gravel beds on Beach and Grandon Creeks. Fish counts indicate zero Coho in Grandon Creek.

MABR Sign

- Members voted on their preference for the MABR sign to be displayed below the “Welcome to Parksville” sign at Exit 46 on Highway 19.
- Overall feedback: Reduce amount of wording to consider how much is readable at 60 + km/hr.

MABR Updates

MABR 25th Anniversary at the McMillan Arts Centre – Graham

- The MABR is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2025 and hoping to have an art exhibit at the MAC through all of July and August 2025. Based on conversations so far with the MAC:
 - Exhibit broken down into the 10 Amazing Places, and 1 for Mount Arrowsmith itself.
 - 10 photos of the Amazing Places in windows, with each accompanying wall designated to showcasing the respective Amazing Place. Open calls for artists with 5-7 art pieces for each Amazing Place for sale.
 - Carving studio in enclosed area out back.
 - Rolling stills along main panel of multimedia room.
- Aiming to align the 25th anniversary with a name update for the MABR to include Hul'q'umi'num' words for Mount Arrowsmith.
 - Considering aligning this with submission to Canada geographic to get an official name change for Mount Arrowsmith.
- Discussion:
 - Is the MABR Roundtable the appropriate group to lead the name change? We may need to look for some good partners who are better equipped – First Nations are a good start.
 - There are a few different Hul'q'umi'num' words for Mount Arrowsmith – will need to work together to determine an agreed upon name among Coast Salish Nations who sit on the Roundtable. Note: Nuuchahnulth Nations have been invited to participate as members of the Roundtable, but deferred participation to Coast Salish Nations, as the MABR is primarily within their Territories.
 - Concentrate on the MABR name first – augment Traditional name in the title, without worrying about renaming all geographic land names. Launch MABR name change in 2025, perhaps we don't need to rush Canadian geographic name change but keep the conversation open.
 - Important to provide education and demonstrate respect for Traditional lands and languages.
- Keep this item as an ongoing update and continue conversations with Snuneymuxw, Snaw-naw-as, and Qualicum First Nations.

Roundtable Representation – Graham

- Is there a position at the Roundtable to allow for members to still be involved in a meaningful way, that's not connected to an organization?
 - Create an honorary category, or appointment position, ensuring there are criteria developed around it.
 - Similar to past president – keep them on for their knowledge, passion, etc.
- Ensure that guiding principles for these appointments are agreed upon by the whole Roundtable.
- Cannot create a position for a specific individual, but can create a position and nominate an individual for it.
 - The position needs to have a purpose on the Roundtable – could go through same process as community representatives.
- The Roundtable is in support of this.
- Blain offered to help with the process.

Leigh Residence Application – Graham

- TQB posted an open call for expressions for leasing and utilizing Leigh House at 184 West 2nd St., Qualicum Beach.
- MABR/RI applied and was approved for utilization as an MABR space.
 - Plans on how the space will be used is to be determined. To some extent, it will be staffed with MABRRI staff to welcome public in, and work together on the 5 strategic objectives of the MABR with community partners.
- The EOI asked for \$2750/month plus utilities; TQB Council offered to reduce to \$2,000/month including GST and plus utilities. Need to determine how to fund - currently can be written into grants as office space, but seeking community and Roundtable support.
- Lehann: Now is the time to engage with staff at the RDN under the grants program. Bring forward a motion for grant funding at delegation to RDN board (need rationale and incorporate partners who will all have a financial vote).
- Blain: partnering with and elevating the MABR is important for TQBTA. Some funds available to support – Graham and Blain to discuss.
- May be further appetite for donation from community members.

Transects TILL Update – Graham

- Deferred due to time constraint.

Canadian Mountain Network Summit – Graham

- The Canadian Mountain Network's Annual Knowledge Sharing Summit is being hosted at Tigh Na Mara in Parksville from September 25th – 28th. Registration is open to the public (at own expense).
 - MABRRI has 2 presentations: *Supporting the SDGs and UNDRIP through the CMN and Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas Pacific Hub and Advanced Planning Certificate*
 - Graham is facilitating a training session: *Good Beginnings and Ethical Pathways towards Braiding Knowledges*

Brant Wildlife Festival Update – Graham

- Compressing the festival to four days (April 5th – 8th) including as many events as possible on each day.
- If anyone is interested in hosting events, please get in touch with Mandy.
- Nature Trust BC is in the process of transferring funding.
- TQB formally referred fee for service to budget process.

Periodic Review – Graham

- MABR Periodic Review is due to the Canadian Commission for UNESCO (CCUNESCO) in January 2024.
- Will be seeking some support from the Roundtable – Mandy to send out invitation for engagement session on October 4th.

Roundtable Support – Graham

- Seeking audience support for delegation to the RDN. Mandy to send details via email.

BC Biosphere Gathering – Graham

- Gathering of BC biosphere regions scheduled for February 26th – 28th in Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound.
- Open invitation for Roundtable members to attend – MABRRI has some funding to support costs for travel. Let Graham or Mandy know if interested within the next couple months.
- The next BC biosphere region gathering (late 2024) will be hosted in the MABR.

Closing

- Next Roundtable date and host: potentially host at new MABR space at Leigh House in December. Mandy to send out calendar invite with date.

Appendix A

MABR Roundtable Gathering Vol. 27 Agenda

Friday, September 15, 2023 from 09:00am to 11:30am

Oceanside Place Arena (830 West Island Highway, Parksville BC V9P 2X4, Canada)

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

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AGENDA

Time	Activity
09:00 – 09:10	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
09:10 – 9:40	Roundtable Member Updates
9:40 - 10:10	Community Representative Updates
10:10 – 10:25	MABR Sign Voting Exercise Coffee Break/Health Break
10:25 – 11:25	MABR Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MABR 25th Anniversary at the MAC – Graham• Roundtable Representation – Graham• Leigh Residence Application – Graham• Transects TILL Update – Graham• Canadian Mountain Network Summit – Graham• Brant Wildlife Festival Update – Mandy• Periodic Review - Mandy• Roundtable Support – Mandy
11:25 – 11:30	Closing <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final reflections• Next Roundtable date and host• Closing words