

## MEETING MINUTES

MABR Roundtable Gathering Vol. 28  
Friday, December 1, 2023 from 09:00am to 11:30am  
Location: Town of Qualicum Beach Committee Room  
#201 - 600 Primrose St, Qualicum Beach, BC V9K 1S7

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### Attendees (13)

Mandy Hobkirk, MABR Coordinator  
Jessica Pyett, MABRRI, Assistant Manager Administration  
Pam Shaw, MABRRI, Research Director  
Graham Sakaki, MABRRI, Research Institute Director  
Ray Woroniak, Community Representative  
Steve Adams, Mosaic Forest Management, Resource Technologist  
Catherine Watson, Community Representative  
Blain Sepos, Parksville-Qualicum Beach Tourism Association, Executive Director  
Michael Garland, Qualicum Beach Chamber of Commerce, CAO  
Lehann Wallace, Regional District of Nanaimo, Electoral Area G Director  
Sylvia Martin, City of Parksville, Councillor  
Andrea Shaw, Ministry of Agriculture and Food  
Anne Skipsey, 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 and research for the MABR/RI.

### Welcome & Opening Prayer

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

### Agenda Adoption

- Agenda adopted.

### MABR Updates

#### Brant Wildlife Festival – Mandy

- 2024 Brant Wildlife Festival is the first one the MABR is facilitating in April 2024. We are looking to bring more visitors from outside the region to attend the event.
- We are currently requesting sponsorships for the Festival. **Action:** Mandy will send a digital copy of the sponsorship tiers to everyone to share with their networks.
- Opportunity for members to show support at a delegation. Presenting on Monday to the City of Parksville, everyone is welcome to join. **Action:** Mandy will send out details so folks can add that to their calendar.

- Requesting Brant level tier funding from the municipalities - most provide 5K every year. Our budget is 48K.
- MABR presented to the RDN to request general funding support for multiple projects (not only for the Brant Festival itself). If the RDN wants to support the Festival, we can set aside 5K or 7K and can put the RDN as a sponsorship tier. **Action:** Lehann will bring that forward at the RDN meeting.

#### **Template for MABR Support Requests – Mandy**

- Mandy put together a more formalized way to request support from the MABR Roundtable. Proposing that Mandy would work with the organizations to fill the form out. Does not want the process to be too onerous for the organizations.
- Discussion:
  - Mandy noted that we have never had this application process before. In the past Mandy has always taken this upon herself – are we interested in having a subcommittee on this topic or should it be case-by-case basis? Should we have a framework, and would there be any exceptions?
  - With respect to exceptions, if the group asking for support has a mandate that is a conflict of interest, or a new group is formed that has not developed a reputation or could reflect poorly if the mandate is not clear, Mandy would bring it to the Roundtable.
  - Anything that is around advocacy we do not support. Each case should be determined based on common sense or comfortability and on a case-by-case basis. Mandy can make the executive decisions on this, as often times people need their letters of support approved quickly with fast turnaround.
- Mandy will create a template for support requests.

#### **Biosphere Awareness Day – Ray**

- KSS Student Voice has agreed to host the Biosphere Awareness Day. Made it clear to staff and students that this will focus on the SDGs and the community groups that do come will have to demonstrate what SDG they are achieving in the community. This could be a big event with over 1,000 people. The only hiccup is a new principal will be starting in February so it makes it a bit difficult and will need to explain to her what is going on.
- Discussion:
  - Mandy noted that this is an opportunity to connect with youth, the SDGs, and stewardship groups in the region. The format is not set in stone and lots of workshops need to be developed.
  - The structure is more or less a trade show. The date will likely be in November in the KSS gym.
  - A question was asked whether or not the MABR SDG Youth Grant is open for calls yet?
  - Mandy responded that the grant is now open. The new chamber of commerce is getting up to speed. We were contacted by a couple of different groups, but no one formally applied.
  - Ray added that the KSS Student Voice was wanting money for environmental symposium so will check in with them.

#### **Regional Gathering in Howe Sound – Mandy**

- Building off the biosphere gathering that happened in Clayoquot, next year it is happening in Howe Sound. Graham called ECCC to see if we can pay for hotels for Roundtable members. We

can send 10 delegates and pay for accommodations. Food is covered. Only thing that will not be covered be is travel. Who is interested in attending this year? The deadline to apply is December 22.

- Catherine, Blain, and Lehann expressed interest.
- **Action:** Mandy will send out a reminder for everyone to get back to her.

#### **Periodic Review Letters of Support – Mandy**

- As a biosphere region we need to do a periodic review every 10 years. It is due at end of January 2024. We have been asking the Roundtable for letters of support. We have drafted those to help with workload. If anyone has any questions, please let Mandy know.
- **Action:** Letters of support due January 15<sup>th</sup> if possible.
- Catherine asked if that includes community reps? Mandy responded that maybe more of a personel support letter as a member of the Roundtable.
- Ray – what is the intent of the letter to show benefits of the biosphere? How the MABR is benefitting us? Ray can put some ideas together.

#### **Leigh Residence Application – Graham**

- Working on trying to acquire Leigh house, a heritage house in the heart of Qualicum. We submitted an expression of interest and were approved by the Town. The idea for the location is for MABR promotion and a community think tank.
- Unfortunately, VIU’s Senior Management Team denied liability of the house. However, VIU is one of 14 members of the Roundtable.
- Discussion:
  - Can anyone from the Roundtable assume responsibility of the Leigh House and MABRRI/MABR will pay the invoices? OR should we incorporate the MABR into a society so we can rent it ourselves?
  - Benefits of incorporating – we can access more grants that way and opens some more doors. Currently, the VIU Foundation collects donations for MABR/MABRRI (e.g. for the Brant Wildlife Festival). However, a society falls under different functions and is a completely different structure than the Roundtable. Would shift the Roundtable to an advisory committee. As well, society costs a lot of time and money. We could also potentially work with some of our partners like MVIHES or FFCCS who have societies.
  - **Action:** It was suggested to provide Mike a thumbnail on this and provide the initial expression of interest that was submitted for the Leigh House. Qualicum Beach Chamber of Commerce have had ideas for making the residence a Visitor Information Centre or something similar, perhaps there is a possibility to partner on this.

#### **OECM Project Update – Graham**

- Funded by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) to designate Other Effective Conservation Measures (OECMs) within the biosphere. MABRRI is in the third year of funding and we requested an extra top up of 140K.
- Town of Qualicum Beach have approved Heritage Forest as the first OCEM in the MABR. Hopefully Parksville Wetlands and Shelly Creek can be included as well. Qualicum Beach also have a potential location adjacent little mountain. Forestry land can potentially count for OECMs. But we would have to look at what’s appropriate for Mosaic.
- If anyone wants more information on this project please reach out to Graham. If anyone wants to be on the partnership meetings that run every 3-6 months at Tigh Na Mara let us know.

### SSHRC Partnership Grant – Graham

- Did not get to this, will add to next update.

## Community Representative Updates

### Catherine Watson, Community Representative

- Took a Greenshores course - an approach to protect marine and freshwater shorelines. Shore friendly ways to develop and build for private homeowners. Aligns with some of the SDGs and how the Roundtable could use that training to support/promote it. Maybe we can create a section in presentation on Greenshores.
- Discussion:
  - Food security was always in our strategic research plan in previous years. When we talk about the SDGs they are as they are – we need to locate those targets to make them achievable at the local level. Hard to look at all 17 and think they are all important equally at the local level. There is some federal funding available for localizing the SDGs – Graham can work with municipalities to write the grant that looks at the local level to determine if their local policy is meeting SDGs.

### Ray Woroniak, Community Representative

- There is a new group formed by BCCF working to map and conduct hydrometric measuring of every creek from Comox down Island.
  - Steve suggested to work with him for permits and access if needed.
- Community flow monitoring network – cfmnvi.com – data can be found there. Measuring quantity rather than quality.
- The Museum started a new youth program that focuses on environment and climate change that starts in spring.
- New idea to start a group called Friends of Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region. To recognize themselves as friends as the MABR.
- **Action:** Request to gain access to a MABR or VIU email address Ray – would be helpful to have a formal address when reaching out to community.

## Roundtable Member Updates

- Steve – Finished restoration with MVIHES led by Dave Clough. Hosted a tour for VIU Forestry students. The instructor was an old boss at Mosaic – Chris Cole.
- Blain – year long process to renew hotel tax in the region. In years 2-5 there is considerable environmental goals and provides a benchmark for emissions for the visiting economy. MABR may be a good partner to collaborate with.
- Michael – Chamber has been very active and a lot of inquiries to support good initiatives. Working with local First Nations on interpretative centre. We see that as lacking when people come here. Will be down on the waterfront. From a business perspective can certainly do a lot more.
- Pam – working to apply to CCUNESO for a Research Chair. Applying as a co-chair with Eli Enns – bright light in Indigenous Protected and Conservation Areas. Made it through round 1 and next deadline is January. Does not come with money but can lead to opportunities.

- Lehann – all-consuming with financial plan at RDN. Challenging role as Area G Director. Julie Pisani is moving on in January. DWWP is still there it is not at risk from the financial plan. More news coming regarding financial plan and a lot is happening.
- Sylvia - wanted to do something with liaison report at council meeting. Councilors don't know who MABRRI is so obtained some talking notes from Mandy and that has helped. Exposure for the Brant Festival and bring things up for young people.
- Andrea - only been in her current role for 6 weeks, background is in agriculture. Worked closely with ECCC and various partners in governments.
- Anne - Just got through strategic planning and with all new legislation asked to focus on changing OCP and bylaws to comply with province. Having a celebration of national tree day in September – bigger thing on education. Working on a “fix it fair” “repair café in the Spring.
- Graham – Put out a call for an expression of interest to form a Scientific Steering Committee to provide advice on MABRRI projects. Got 3 strong applicants to bring to our team – Lauren Touchant, Jeff Lewis, and Matt Bowes. We think Geraldine Manson will be on Reconciliation and there are some conversations with biology on who will step up there. It will bring further expertise into our projects strictly for the research institute. All the potential candidates are PhDs. We are also looking at applying for a couple of large grants for SDGs – would really like to partner with a municipal government on this but need to work on it asap as it is due in January.

### Invited Presentation – Arrowsmith Community Justice Society

- Presentation from Alyssa Cota program coordinator at local restorative justice program.
- When minor crimes or incidents happen in the community, the RCMP may decide this is the best way forward. Together they come up with a resolution agreement between the victim and offender. It is a creative process. Her role is to protect participants.
- The program has been around since 1999. Community awareness is an area they struggled with in the past.
- How can the MABR contribute? Promotion and awareness, networking, as well as suggestions on organizations that may need volunteer work.

### Closing

- The next Roundtable meeting is scheduled for March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Tentative location is Parksville.
- **Action:** suggestion to create a rotation list for Roundtable hosting.
- **Action:** Let Mandy know if anyone has any agenda items for next meeting.
- **Action:** For next agenda let everyone know that we will be taking a photo of the Roundtable so we can get all our partners represented for photos. Need all our partners on there.
- **Action:** Missing a lot of partners this time at this meeting. Reach out if we need to change the date/times of the Roundtable to accommodate them.
- **Action:** Suggestion to add Qualicum First Nation as a location for hosting.

## Appendix A

### MABR Roundtable Gathering Vol. 28 Agenda

Friday, December 1, 2023 from 09:00am to 11:30am  
Town of Qualicum Beach Committee Room  
#201 - 600 Primrose St, Qualicum Beach, BC V9K 1S7

**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 and research for the MABR/RI.

#### AGENDA

| Time          | Activity  |
|---------------|---|
| 09:00 – 09:10 | <b>Welcome/Opening</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Words of welcome</li><li>• Acknowledgement of First Nation unceded Territory</li><li>• Around the circle brief introductions</li><li>• Review and collectively adopt agenda</li><li>• Reminder of the MABR Roundtable Culture of Engagement</li></ul>  |
| 09:10 – 10:10 | <b>MABR Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Brant Wildlife Festival – Mandy</li><li>• Template for MABR Support Requests – Mandy</li><li>• Biosphere Awareness Day – Ray</li><li>• Regional Gathering in Howe Sound – Mandy</li><li>• Periodic Review Letters of Support – Mandy</li><li>• Leigh Residence Application – Graham</li><li>• OECM Project Update – Graham</li><li>• SSHRC Partnership Grant – Graham</li></ul> |
| 10:10 - 10:30 | <b>Community Representative Updates</b>   |
| 10:30 – 10:40 | <b>Coffee Break/Health Break</b>  |
| 10:40 – 11:10 | <b>Roundtable Member Updates</b>  |
| 11:10 – 11:25 | <b>Invited Presentation</b><br>Arrowsmith Community Justice Society   |
| 11:25 – 11:30 | <b>Closing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Final reflections</li><li>• Next Roundtable date and host</li><li>• Closing words</li><li>• <b>New Roundtable group photo</b></li></ul>  |