

## MEETING MINUTES

MABR Roundtable Gathering Volume 14  
Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 from 09:00am to 12:30pm  
First Floor Committee Room,  
Town of Qualicum Beach Municipal Office,  
660 Primrose Street #201, Qualicum Beach, BC, V9K 1S7.



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### Attendees (11)

Mandy Hobkirk, MABR Coordinator  
Dave Witty, MABR Director  
Michael Recalma, Qualicum First Nation, Chief  
Haley Tomlin, MABRRI Assistant Research & Community Engagement Coordinator  
Graham Sakaki, MABRRI Research & Community Engagement Coordinator  
Daniel Sailland, Town of Qualicum Beach, CAO  
Chris Burger, City of Parksville  
Steve Adams, Mosaic Forest Management  
Kim Burden, Parksville & District Chamber of Commerce, E.D.  
Ceri Peacey, Community Representative  
Maureen Young, Regional District of Nanaimo

### Regrets (8)

Pam Shaw, MABRRI Director of Research  
'Cumqwa:tun' (Lawrence Mitchell), Snaw-naw-as First Nation, Councilor  
Kianna Watts, Snaw-naw-as First Nation  
Michael Wyse, Snuneymuxw First Nation, Chief  
Geraldine Manson, Snuneymuxw First Nation, Elder  
Ed Mayne, City of Parksville, Mayor  
Brian Wiese, Town of Qualicum Beach, Mayor  
Sonja Zupanec, Islands Trust

### 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.
4. Take a tour to see the progress of the Qualicum Beach Waterfront Master Plan

### Welcome & Opening Prayer

- Mandy acknowledged the traditional unceded territory of the Qualicum and Coast Salish First Nations.
- Michael welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- Brief circle introductions.

## Agenda Adoption

- The group reviewed the Agenda (see Appendix A).
- Graham requested to add an update to the agenda on the Amazing Places project.

## MABR Updates

### **Past**

#### *Freshwater Alliance*

- Danielle presented at the last Roundtable gathering, asking for support from the Roundtable and Mandy followed up with her to see what our support would look like: it is a small commitment that includes quarterly meetings and logo sharing, following this, it is as much as we would like to commit.
- Our member responsibilities are to endorse their priorities: reconciliation, adaptation to climate change, and conservation and adequate funding for water management and monitoring.
- Mandy went through the opportunities that our support would provide:
  - Join networking opportunities with other groups working on freshwater health in BC; access to trainings, webinars, and other knowledge-based opportunities; member stories and projects can be profiled on the OWBC website, within media, etc.; access to support for events focused on freshwater priorities (financial, marketing, etc.); and we all get to be part of a larger movement to leave a lasting legacy for healthy freshwater in BC.
- Graham asked if we would be sharing MABR logo as opposed to each individual group, Mandy said it would just be the MABR logo.
- Kim asked if there is any risk being associated with an advocacy group.
  - Graham felt that there were few if any risks, and gave examples of their current initiatives (i.e. Nestle in Hope).
  - Steve had concern about making legal and policy changes – if that’s something we should be in charge of.
  - Dave noted that we could always unjoin the initiative if that is what we want.
- Everyone agrees to give them their support.
- Daniel asked that we get a list of the quarterly meetings so we can be on top of any discussions.
- For now, the MABR will dedicate some of Mandy’s time to take part in this.

### **Present**

#### *Highway Signage*

- The sub-committee met on November 13<sup>th</sup> for a second meeting.
- Mandy drafted a letter for review by Michael, Lawrence, and Dave, to be sent out to Mosaic that recognizes the traditional territory of Snaw-naw-as First Nation and Qualicum First Nation, as well as talking about the MABR (who we are); the letter shows support from both Nations.
- Totems will be traditional to these territories – male and female and approximately 10ft high.

- They discussed location and decided that site visits were necessary (which will occur later today).
  - Will visit Snaw-naw-as and Qualicum First Nation locations to determine potential locations for signage.
  - Dave said that Lawrence was interested in having it at their new gas station. This would mean people could spend more time visiting the totems and signage (rather than driving past it on the highway).
  - MABR signage will be a part of these, in the same area, but with First Nation totems being the principal part of the stop.
- Also discussed having a story telling sign (potentially video) at the site. Graham said that there is some funding for Traditional Place Names projects to help create that.
- The entire project is estimated to be approximately \$112,000.
- Likely a two to three-year project, possibly longer.
- Where do we get the funds?
  - Consultation is underway with Mosaic for the log donations.
  - Graham said that there is potential to find some more grants for more traditional place names/projects.
  - Chris asked if there were any federal avenues – this project will likely have economic gains as well for each of the Nations.
  - Michael said that there is likely some type of grant dollars for this type of project – he is investigating it.
  - Graham said that if Michael finds any grants that he and Mandy can help write them.
  - Mandy mentioned we spoke about a fundraiser/gala at a previous meeting.
  - Kim asked if we have a charitable number because direct asks are much easier.
    - Could ask the “group of 100 men”.
    - Spoke about going to the business route.
  - Dave asked to form a sub-committee for fundraising. This will be Dave and Kim.
  - Graham said that we could go to Gord Johns for money.
  - Dave said maybe Tim Horton’s would contribute – as they will be at the Snaw-naw-as gas station.
- Michael said that when these are unveiled there will be a very important ceremony – it’ll be a celebration.
  - The unveiling will be the totems already standing and an unveiling of them.
  - On the West Coast (Haida Gwaii) they stand them up for the ceremony.

## **Future**

### *Roundtable Matrix*

- This came up from a discussion that we had a few Roundtable meetings ago.
- Graham presented the matrix poster which had MABR members down the side, and each of UNESCO’s strategic objectives along the top: (1) conserve biodiversity; (2) sustainable development; (3) research and education; and (4) adaptation to climate change.
- Each group was provided dot stickers to point out what their group’s main objectives are.
  - MABRRI: 1, 2, 3 & 4
  - Qualicum First Nation: 1, 3 & 4
  - City of Parksville: 2 & 4
  - Town of Qualicum Beach: 2 & 4

- Mosaic: 1, 2, 3 & 4
- RDN: wants to discuss with others from the RDN before committing.
- VIU: 2, 3 & 4
- Parksville & District Chamber of Commerce: 2 & 4
- Community: 1, 2 & 3
- Currently, it seems that there may be a couple of gaps – conserve biodiversity, and research and education.

### *EuroMAB 2023*

- When Pam and Dave went to EuroMAB 2019, in Dublin, there was a conversation with Rebecca (Clayoquot Biosphere Trust) about if there was interest in hosting EuroMAB 2023. There will be a decision in 2020 with regards to where 2023 would be.
- There was a EuroMAB hosted in Belleville that was a bit of a disappointment, therefore there is skepticism with regards to what Canada could do.
- EuroMAB brings about 300 people.
- There is interest amongst BR members in coming to Canada, but we will need to convince those higher up in Paris to come to Canada.
- Dave met with Miriam (the person in charge) in Paris, and built some bridges. The MABR is now seen as a leader with regards to Biosphere Reserves because of our Roundtable and our work with First Nations – the Guiding Principles we put in place early on, and our model of funding (EuroMAB is funded primarily by government funding).
  - Dave, Pam, and Rebecca spoke to Miriam to discuss hosting the next one jointly.
- It's a fair bit of work to pull it together – Dave has confidence that we could do it.
- Dave feels it could be a really good tourism opportunity for Oceanside and in Tofino. Miriam needs a package by March 2020 to discuss what we would offer and a budget – what would be the cost to participants.
  - Should be a no money lost initiative.
  - There will be some upfront costs, but reimbursements will be provided.
  - Ultimately, it is up to EuroMAB to decide if we can host it.
- Daniel thinks it would be very exciting for us to host something like this – there is a natural connection as we are already an attractive area for many Europeans and we have a lot of things going on that we could highlight.
  - Thinks that we could do many things in all the different regions of the MABR.
  - Daniel said that he would run it by Council to see if there would be interest in helping put the package together.
  - There are a lot of volunteers in this area and lots of good resources.
- Kim said that we should engage the Parksville Qualicum Beach Tourism Association (PQBTA). They will have access to marketing dollars to allow us to promote it without using in-house resources.
- The conference is typically 2.5 to 3 days, 4 max; one day of tours and 2 days of conversation.
- Kim said we should maybe unofficially expand the tourism aspect (before & after); as well as during, for spousal opportunities – ensure we set up the additional stay.
- Dave said it is attractive that there would be two Biosphere Reserves involved.
- Graham said the next EuroMAB will be in September so the time of year seems flexible. We could propose April/May or what works for the area.
- Steve said that Mosaic could likely offer a forestry tour. Graham added that there are typically 4 options of tours to choose from.

- Daniel said that QB Civic Center can hold 500 people, and then people can stay in the Parksville area as well. He added there would likely be no cost for the facility as MABR is one of QB partners.
- Chris said this is something that could warrant provincial involvement – so that it is not only local government based effort. Get support because it is bringing a huge group of international people in. Should engage Michelle, Scott, and Gord.
- Dave said if we could show that we have provincial and federal interest, EuroMAB would be keen. We will need letters of support from all 3 levels of government and from CCUNESCO (Ellie or Kate).
- Daniel will flag it with Council in December – if they agree then QB will be in.
- Kim will contact Michelle & Scott.
- Dave, Graham, and Mandy can work on the broad scope of what would be on the agenda. Graham and Mandy will provide Daniel with ideas from last EuroMAB that will help him with Council.
- We will have a draft that we can go through at our next gathering in February.

#### *External Communication Plan*

- Dave's concern is that a lot of the MABR's work is MABRRI, aside from the other signage and totem projects in the works. He said the problem is that most people still don't know much about the MABR. We should think about developing a communication plan – how to raise recognition within the BR.
  - Want to have a bigger impact in how people think about our community
- Ceri said that even with how big the Brandt Wildlife Festival is getting, there are still a lot of people that haven't heard of it.
- Dave said we should have leadership in the community and go into the schools (kindergarten to high school) to talk about important matters.
- Graham said there is the MABR Youth Program – which offers 4 different courses now.
  - They have been really successful and we want to expand it now. We currently do about 15 a year.
- Maureen said that they still teach recycling and other initiatives throughout schools – maybe we can affiliate with them.
- Chris said the beginning of the Communication Plan should discuss engaging with people – building on the youth program and getting more young people engaged.
- Graham said that we can propose in the Communication Plan that we do one symposium a year with a gala/event. Kim suggested build off of the VIEA model.
- Ceri said that a big thing is linking partners – they had Ducks Unlimited at the Hamilton Marsh tour. Maybe we could partner more with all other organizations in our community and include them.
- Kim suggested bringing all the local groups together to have communication.
- Daniel says that that if we are focused on youth then maybe we engage with the superintendents and teachers. Environment and business work together – discuss how it's all linked. Schools are always open to working with us.
- Kim said we should be focused on both high school kids and adults.

#### *Funding for MABR Coordinator Position*

- When Dave was at VIU his office committed to funding a Coordinator position for 5 years. He retired in 2018 and no longer has control of the budget.

- Currently MABRRI funds the Coordinator position. The reality is, we need partners to step up and continue to fund the position. Dave doesn't see VIU contributing the entire cost of Coordinator wage.
- There are 5 representatives at the table that could hopefully contribute \$10,000 each – if that doesn't happen, it may be difficult for this to continue.
  - The City of Parksville, Town of QB, RDN, Mosaic, and VIU.
- Graham spoke to finding Eco-Canada to match 30% of the wages.
  - We've never found a grant that pays a position that's not research-based.
  - Donation money and some money is flexible that allows to pay the Coordinator wage.
  - Unsure of the best way, maybe a presentation to each of the councils to see if they will entertain the idea.
- Chris said he and Dave made a presentation to the City of Parksville about the MABR – it was well received.
  - There are some budgets that are in deliberation stage - we shouldn't be afraid to ask.
  - Maybe a similar approach – not come in cold – get in front of the councils and re-introduce them to the work that the MABR is doing and then ask for the funding.
  - Need one to come on board (local government) and then can leverage that.
- Kim says that we should go to the RDN for \$30,000 because Parksville and QB contribute to that already.
- Dave finds that there is more direct benefit to the towns in the MABR, and speaking to the RDN would be for the areas outside Parksville and QB.
  - VIU has proven the value of the position.
  - He feels it should be \$10,000 from each of the 5 – would have a hard time asking for \$30,000 from the RDN.
- Daniel says council is going to ask the question – if you're going to see the RDN, why do we pay \$10,000 because funds collected by the RDN are from all governments in the area.
  - RDN may try to link it to one of their grants.
- Maureen asked if this would be ongoing.
  - Consensus says that it should be a line item moving forward.
  - Dave feels that this should be a 5 year proposal – there should be room for review.
- Chris feels those that signed the MOU could be significant and we could leverage that.
- Kim said there is some ongoing discussion at the RDN with regards to economic development – could maybe fit into that sector.
- Steve recommends speaking to Chief Forester and First Nation Coordinator to get the funds.
  - Speak to the partnership with First Nations.
  - Have a timeline of committal.
  - Sell how VIU has contributed and how it has worked.
- Daniel said that Parksville and QB fund the Chambers by business licenses – could it be possible to get a small fund from there?
  - Kim suggested increasing the business fee by \$10 for anyone that has a business in the MABR and money collected goes to funding the coordinator's wage.

- There could be stickers given to each business that they are a “supporter of the MABR”.
- Kim feels the Chamber would be receptive and that it’s a really good idea – could be at least \$20K.
- Kim will speak to the Executive Director of the QB Chamber of Commerce.

#### *Amazing Places Project Update*

- Last year we implemented a GeoTour at each location from Destination BC and Parksville Qualicum Beach Tourism.
- In the 1<sup>st</sup> year of the GeoTour there were:
  - More than 1225 logged finds;
  - Over 800 participants; and,
  - 14 countries represented by visitors.
- The digital advertising campaign was seen by 3 million people.
- Increased traffic on MABR website by 33%.
- On December 6<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Mistletoe Trail at 5 amazing places in the MABR (Parksville Community Park, Milner Gardens, Heritage Forest, Notch Hill, and the Qualicum Beach Waterfront). Visitors are invited to take their photo under the Mistletoe and share their photos with #amazingplacesmabr.
- There will be a mid-week Geotour event in the off-season.
  - Introduce unique adventure labs – each connected to a theme (ex. Fish habitat).
  - Guide participants to 3 or 4 Amazing Places to find coordinates and solve a question. When they enter their answer for all three they get entered into a draw.
  - Each adventure lab will be launched in the first week of January, February, & March, and are only available Monday-Friday.
  - Prize is being organized by Blaine Sepos from PQBTA.
- Digital and editorial in 12 different newspapers, GIF, and Facebook advertisements.
  - Campaign is 3 to 4 weeks starting around December 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **Circle Updates from Roundtable Members**

Ceri Peacey, Community Representative

- The Arrowsmith Naturalists’ 5th Annual Mushroom Festival was held on October 15<sup>th</sup> at the Coombs Fairgrounds. Approximately 1,050 people attended. Next year’s Mushroom Festival will be held on October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at the same venue.
- Many local individuals and organizations are concerned about the future of several remaining natural biodiverse areas. The Arrowsmith Naturalists' board of directors unanimously agreed to sponsor a meeting of 12 to 15 members of the local nature-concerned community who are knowledgeable about the remaining biodiverse natural areas within the MABR and RDN areas F, G, H & E. The “Pro-act for Nature” meeting will take place in QB on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019.
- The Faye Smith Memorial “Seaside Nature Park” at the Brant Viewing Area in Qualicum Beach will soon have the Indigenous artwork component installed. Jesse Recalma is carving four paddles to be affixed to the centre pillar of the pavilion.
- The VIU Elder College course in the PQB area on *Indigenous perspectives on the Environment* was filled on the first day of registration (November 18<sup>th</sup>).

- The 120<sup>th</sup> Christmas Bird Count—the longest running citizen science activity in North America—takes place in Nanoose on December 14<sup>th</sup> and in the PQB area on December 15<sup>th</sup> (coordinated by the Arrowsmith Naturalists). Numerous teams will be in the field and many individuals will also count birds at their feeders and in their yards on those same dates. All data is sent to the National Audubon Society for use in science—especially for conservation biology.
- There will be an open meeting of the Englishman River Water Service Management Board on November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The Forum, Parksville Civic and Technology Centre, 100 Jensen Avenue East, Parksville.
- The North Island Wildlife Recovery Centre in Errington will host the popular Magic Nights of Light on Friday and Saturday evenings from December 6<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> by donation. Proceeds help support wildlife recovery.
- Brant Wildlife Festival - the core time period is March 21<sup>st</sup> - April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020. They are always looking for sponsorship, and if any organizations within the MABR have stand-alone events to list in the Festival itinerary, they are always happy to oblige.
- Graham asked that we get the community updates prior to the meeting and we can distribute it to the group.

### Closing

- The next Roundtable gathering is set for 10:00am on February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020, at the Mosaic office in Nanaimo.

### Town of Qualicum Beach: Tour of Waterfront Master Plan

- Immediately after the gathering, members set out on a tour lead by Bob Weir, Director of Engineering & Operations, to see the work that the Town of Qualicum Beach has been doing to adapt and respond to sea level rise and climate change.
- Read more about it [here](#).



## Appendix A

### MABR Roundtable Gathering Vol. 14 Agenda

Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 from 09:00am to 12:30pm  
First Floor Committee Room, Town of Qualicum Beach Municipal Office,  
660 Primrose Street #201, 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. Discuss past, present, and future events for the MABR/RI.
3. Hear from one another about regional/organizational/community updates.
4. Take a tour to see the progress of the Qualicum Beach Waterfront Master Plan

#### AGENDA

Time	Activity
09:00-09:10	<b>Arrivals:</b> Nametags & refreshments
09:10-09:20	<b>Welcome/Opening</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Acknowledgement of Qualicum First Nation unceded Territory</li><li>• Words of welcome from Michael Recalma, Qualicum First Nation</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>
09:20-10:30	<b>MABR Updates</b> <i>Past:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Freshwater Alliance (Danielle's presentation) – Mandy to facilitate discussion</li></ul> <i>Present:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Highway Signage – Dave will provide update</li></ul> <i>Future:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review Roundtable Matrix – Graham to facilitate discussion</li><li>• EuroMAB 2023 – Dave to facilitate discussion</li><li>• External communication plan – Dave to facilitate discussion</li><li>• Funding for coordinator position – Dave to facilitate discussion</li></ul>
10:30-10:50	<b>Coffee Break</b>
10:50-11:20	<b>Circle Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What's new with you/your organization? Any connections with the MABR updates?</li></ul>
11:20-11:30	<b>Closing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Final reflections &amp; action items</li><li>• Next Roundtable date, host, agenda</li><li>• Closing words from Michael Recalma</li></ul>
11:30-12:30	<b>Town of Qualicum Beach: Tour of Waterfront Master Plan</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tour to see what Qualicum has done for sea level rise – Daniel will lead</li></ul>