MINUTES

MABR Roundtable Gathering Vol. 5
Friday, November 4, 2016, 1:00 PM
Vancouver Island University
900 Fifth Street, Nanaimo BC, V9R 5S5

Attendees (13)

- Snuneymuxw First Nation – Geraldine Manson, VIU Elder in Residence
- Snaw-Naw-As First Nation – Former Chief David Bob & Mark Stephens, Band Manager
- Regional District of Nanaimo – Julie Pisani, Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Program
- City of Parksville – Mayor Marc Lefebvre & MABR Liaison Chris Burger
- Town of Qualicum Beach – Councillor Barry Avis
- Vancouver Island Conservation Land Management Program – Thomas Reid
- Island Timberlands – Ken Epps
- TimberWest – Steve Adams
- Vancouver Island University – David Witty, Provost & VP-Academic
- MABRRRI – Graham Sakaki, Research Coordinator
- MABR – Monica Shore, Coordinator (Facilitator)

Regrets (4)

- Qualicum First Nation – Chief Michael Recalma
- Town of Qualicum Beach – Councillor Neil Horner
- Parksville & District Chamber of Commerce – Kim Burden
- MABRRRI – Pam Shaw, Research Director

Objectives

The main objectives of Roundtable Vol.5 were for participants to:

1. Continue the respectful dialogue that began at previous gatherings
2. Hear from one another on regional/organizational/community updates
3. Receive latest updates on MABR projects and events
4. Discuss community applications to the Roundtable and elect 2 people

Welcome

- VIU Elder in Residence Geraldine Manson opened the meeting with a prayer and welcome guests to the Traditional Territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation
- Circle check-ins and updates from each person/organization since August 2016 gathering
- Agenda collectively adopted

Election of Community Representatives

- Discussion of community applications received in September 2016
- Connections to community, diversity, experience, knowledge, understanding of the biosphere reserve mandate, and skillset considered as factors for consideration
- Two candidates were selected, to be announced in the MABR’s December 2016 Newsletter
• All applicants to be notified of decisions before December
• It was also discussed that Islands Trust should have a seat at the Roundtable

MABR Updates since August

• Monica reported back on experience and learnings at the International Union for the Conservation of Nature’s (IUCN) World Conservation Congress in Honolulu Hawai’i in September 2016. Main observation was that a focus on Reconciliation and projects with Indigenous peoples does indeed address conservation; research from the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UN-CBD) demonstrated that where there are intact islands of biological diversity, there is also Indigenous cultural and linguistic integrity. This affirmed that the MABR’s focus in the last 2 years on building relationships and projects with local First Nations (e.g. Guiding Principles, Snaw-Naw-As Garden of Spiritual Healing, etc.) has been working toward one of three biosphere reserve functions: conservation of biological diversity. Report on the Congress to be posted to MABR.CA.
• 4-week ElderCollege course taught in Parksville in September went very well; 24 students (sold out); much enthusiasm and positive feedback received. 24 new MABR experts now in the community.
• 10 Amazing Places have been selected; unveiling taking place between November 2016 and January 2017 in PQB printed newspaper and through a social media/Facebook campaign on the MABR’s FB page. Amazing Places promo video in editing phase, to be launched in January 2017.
• The Canadian Biosphere Reserve Association is currently working on a federal funding proposal to seek support for research that addresses Canada’s 2020 Biodiversity Goals & Targets. A work in progress with positive feedback from the federal government to date. MABR has submitted a 1-pager to describe how MABRRI is addressing Target 3 through research on wetland conservation and restoration.
• The Canadian Commission for UNESCO is forwarding an initiative called ‘Reconciliation in Action’ and wants to feature the work of Canadian biosphere reserves around reconciliation. The MABR will be one of four biosphere reserves highlighted in this initiative. Plans in the making, details to be discussed. Possibility of creating a video about our story.

MABRRRI Updates since August

• MABRRRI is currently accepting submissions for the International Journal of UNESCO Biosphere Reserves, first issue available on-line in January 2017.
• MABRRRI is developing two new projects for the summer of 2017:
  1. Coastal Forest Plant Phenology Research and Monitoring (with Milner Gardens and the MoFLNRO)
  2. Bull Kelp Sample Collection and Marine Monitoring in the Salish Sea (with Nile Creek Enhancement Society and Project Watershed)
• MABRRRI’s current focus is on three projects:
  1. Wetland Mapping and Monitoring in the RDN (with RDN’s DWWP)
  2. Snaw-Naw-As Garden of Spiritual Healing (with Snaw-Naw-As First Nation)
  3. 2017 MABR BioBlitz (with Milner Gardens)
• MABRRRI is in the finishing stages on three projects:
  1. Carrying Capacity of the MABR (more funding required for next steps)
  2. Eelgrass Mapping in the Mid-Island Estuaries
  3. Lake Monitoring Trial Program on Spider Lake and Cameron Lake

Closing

• Next gathering scheduled for February 3, 2016. City of Parksville to host.
• David Bob, Former Chief of Snaw-Naw-As First Nation gave final words (Aunty Geraldine left at break)
• Gathering adjourned at 3:30pm