MEETING MINUTES

MABR Roundtable Volume 7
Thursday, May 11, 2017 at 1pm
Qualicum Beach Civic Centre
747 Jones St., Qualicum Beach, BC, V9K 1S7

Attendees (14)

- Snaw-Naw-As First Nation – Mark Stephens, Band Manager & Rachel Watts, Employment and Training
- Qualicum First Nation – Chief Michael Recalma
- City of Parksville – MABR Liaison Chris Burger
- Town of Qualicum Beach – Mayor Teunis Westbroek, Councillor Neil Horner & CAO Daniel Sailland
- Parksville & District Chamber of Commerce – Kim Burden
- Community Representative – Ceri Peacey
- Vancouver Island University – David Witty, VIU Provost & Vice President Academic
- MABR – Monica Shore, Coordinator (Facilitator) & Sarah Lumley, Assistant Coordinator
- Island Timberlands – Ken Epps
- TimberWest – Steve Adams

Regrets (6)

- Mayor Marc Lefebvre, City of Parksville
- Thomas Reid, Vancouver Island Land Management Program
- Tony Litke, BC Ministry of Environment
- Sonja Zupanec, Islands Trust
- Madeleine Dwyer, Community Representative
- Appointee from Regional District of Nanaimo

Objectives

The main objectives of Roundtable Vol.7 were for participants to:

1. Continue to engage in respectful and meaningful dialogue with one another
2. Receive the latest updates on MABR initiatives and MABRRI research
3. Hear from one another about regional/organizational/community updates
4. Initiate planning for the MABR’s first Community Visioning Forum
5. Discuss the MABR’s long-term funding strategy

Welcome & Opening

- Welcome to Qualicum Traditional Territory by Chief Michael Recalma.
- Circle check-ins and introductions. Welcomed Rachel Watts from Snaw-Naw-As First Nation.
- Monica thanked the Town of Qualicum Beach for hosting the gathering.
- Group reviewed and collectively adopted the agenda (see Appendix A).
- MABR Roundtable Culture of Engagement posted on wall for all to see.
MABR Updates

Past

- **United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (1992):** This is a foundational UN document that frames the work of biosphere reserves; the Convention speaks of parallel connections between the loss of biological and cultural diversity. Roundtable members asked to review on own time.

- **EUROMAB Conference (France):** Pam Shaw & Graham Sakaki attended & presented on International Journal of Biosphere Reserves (published by MABRRI and launched in January 2017). Summary provided for all members.

- **Reconciliation in Action 3-minute video about the MABR Roundtable:** Thanks to those who were a part of this. Video was pre-screened at EuroMAB in France and launched publicly on April 19 2017. Available on MABR YouTube channel or on mabr.ca in gallery/videos tab.

- **MABR BioBlitz 2017:** 74 participants attended 2nd annual MABRRI BioBlitz in April 2017. Hosted two beginners’ sessions at VIU’s Milner Gardens & Woodland and one expert session at Oak Leaf Drive Community Park. Lots of positive feedback, enthusiasm, and new connections made. Report to be posted soon by end of May on mabrri.viu.ca. Roundtable discussed incorporating Indigenous knowledge and involving more Indigenous knowledge holders at future BioBlitzes—an opportunity for community members to learn more about local Indigenous cultures and history. Organizers will involve VIU’s First Nations Studies program next year. Roundtable also discussed how to add new sites in future years that help municipalities better understand the impacts of climate change on some of the creeks that are being restored in the region (e.g. Beach Creek in Qualicum Beach). Snaw-Naw-As and Qualicum First Nations both interested in being involved in planning of 2018 BioBlitz.

- **Biosphere Reserve Island Tour:** On May 6, Monica and husband Eli Enns took a 47-passenger bus of Indigenous knowledge holders, academics, and ethnoecologists from across Canada through the MABR. The group was welcomed by Elder Jim Bob at the Snaw-Naw-As Health Centre and learned about the *Snaw-Naw-As Garden of Spiritual Healing* that is located outside the Centre. Graham Sakaki presented on the garden project and process and explained how the relationship with Snaw-Naw-As First Nation has developed over the past few years. The tour group then paused for lunch at Little Qualicum Falls Provincial Park, welcomed by Chief Recalma of Qualicum First Nation. They then proceeded to various locations in the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve, culminating at the Tin-Wis Resort in Tla-o-qui-aht Territory for a gathering about Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas. The second day of meetings was part of the first regional gathering for the Indigenous Circle of Experts’ Pathway to Canada Target 1 (www.conservation2020canada.ca). This tour exposed many new people to the MABR and stimulated great interest and deep discussion about the ways in which Canada’s UNESCO biosphere reserves are working with Indigenous Peoples to conserve both biological and cultural diversity.

Present

- **Snaw-Naw-As Garden of Spiritual Healing:** Snaw-Naw-As Employment & Training summer students from could get involved, as well as other community members. Need to share more information about the project with Snaw-Naw-As community members, especially those who were close to Former Chief David Bob. Graham Sakaki and Rachel Watts to discuss further.
- **RDN Representative at the MABR Roundtable**: RDN Board of Directors required a greater understanding of the MABR’s purpose, objectives, and structure. MABR’s Monica Shore, Pam Shaw & Dave Witty presented to the RDN Board of Directors on May 9 to provide a general overview of the MABR. Board expected to appoint one member of board and one staff member to the MABR Roundtable. Potential for MOU between RDN and VIU re: MABR, identical to MOU signed by Parksville and Qualicum Beach. Discussions ongoing. Roundtable agrees that it would be valuable to have Julie Pisani re-appointed as the RDN staff person. Julie had been attending the Roundtable since the first meeting, contributing in a positive and productive way, and her role as Coordinator of the RDN’s Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Program is an asset to the MABR, as biosphere reserves can be understood as watershed management tools. Roundtable members hope that RDN will appoint members before the August Roundtable meeting.

- **Canadian Biosphere Reserves Day on the Hill in Ottawa on May 29**: Organized by MABR Coordinator Monica Shore in her role as 2nd Vice-Chair of the Canadian Biosphere Reserve Association. A non-partisan event coordinated in collaboration with 3 federal Members of Parliament: Hon. Ginette Petitpas Taylor (New Brunswick: Moncton-Riverview-Dieppe, Liberal – MP for Fundy Biosphere Reserve), Gord Johns (BC: Courtenay-Alberni, NDP – MP for MABR & Clayoquot Sound BR), and Robert Sopuck (Manitoba: Dauphin-Swan River-Neepawa, Conservative – MP for Riding Mountain BR). Day on the Hill to include an afternoon reception to demonstrate what Canadian Biosphere Reserves are doing, how they are helping to reach federal and international targets, and how they contribute generally to the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable development, and reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples.

- **Parksville Parks Project**: MABRRRI is working on a Parks Inventory and a 20 year Community Park Master Plan for the City of Parksville. The final Draft will be presented to Council at the end of August. Sarah Lumley took over the project leadership from Sarah Holden, whose team did a fantastic job inventorying the parks and hosting several consultation events and meetings between January and April 2017. MABRRRI is currently running a resident survey, which closes on May 26th (Parksville residents would have heard about this by mail). MABRRRI will be hosting an open house event on June 8th from 2-7pm in the Community Park called “Gazebo Talks” – all are welcome. MABRRRI has also been conducting individual meetings with various users of the park. There will be students out in the Community Park every Friday and Saturday in July surveying tourists. The Roundtable discussed how Snaw-Naw-As First Nation could be a part of the naming process of the 3 roads as a way to acknowledge history and language and to spread knowledge, awareness, and respect. Sarah Lumley, Project Coordinator, will ask Parksville Mayor Marc Lefebvre to bring the Community Park Plan discussion to Snaw-Naw-As Chief and Council. RDN has a budget for rebranding the region that Sarah and Chief Recalma can look into.

**Future**

- **Canadian Biosphere Reserve Conference and Annual General Meeting from June 19-22 in Baie Comeau, Quebec**: Sarah Lumley and Chief Recalma to attend. (Costs covered by SSHRC grant obtained by Quebec’s Manicouagan-Uapişhka Biosphere Reserve and Canada Man and the Biosphere Reserve Committee member Dr. Maureen Reed, University of Saskatchewan.)

**Updates from Roundtable Members**

- **Steve Adams, TimberWest**: TimberWest approved a $2000 donation for the Snaw-Naw-As Garden of Spiritual Healing.
- **Ceri Peacey, Community Representative:** (1) MVIHES Coordinator Faye Smith passed away and is greatly missed by whole community and many groups; (2) New logo for Hamilton Marsh, tours for Brant Wildlife Festival went very well and were very well attended; (3) Having a lot of issues lately with Bullfrogs in Hamilton Marsh. Are people doing anything/could they?; (4) Arrowsmith schools becoming ambassadors for Hamilton Marsh.

- **Kim Burden, Parksville & District Chamber of Commerce:** (1) Chamber of Commerce holding AGM in the park on evening of June 8, 2017; MABR came up at a board meeting: questions around how can we increase the presence of VIU in the region? Opportunities with agricultural community, engage with research/manufacturing interests with wood products. Will keep us posted on those conversations moving forward.

**MABR Long-term Funding Strategy**

- Group agrees that the MABR Coordinator role is essential to the operations and continued success of the MABR. Not possible to meet the UNESCO mandate or to maintain the Roundtable and current programming without staff.

- The MABR Coordinator position has been funded by VIU since October 2014. Initially half time, then gradually up to full time as of September 2016. Monica’s contract ends on April 30 2019, at which point the goal is to have the MABR Roundtable take on shared financial responsibility for funding the Coordinator position. VIU wishes to continue to co-fund the position in collaboration with other stakeholders. Long-term funding will remain a standing item at Roundtable meetings between now and 2019. Draft of story/argument for funding the coordinator position to be prepared by staff and reviewed by Roundtable at August meeting.

- Monica going on maternity leave in July 2017. Coordinator responsibilities to be shared by people who have been involved in coordinating MABR and MABRRI projects for 1-2 years. Monica to volunteer her time to facilitate the Roundtable while on maternity leave, but planning of Roundtable gatherings logistics to be carried out by replacements.

**MABR Community Visioning Forum Planning Session**

- Roundtable members planning an all-day Community Visioning Forum on November 3, 2017. Location TBD. Goals are to broaden community engagement, connect Roundtable with community members, and to host such forums on an annual basis. Start with one-day event and potentially grow to a 2-day event in future years. MABR & MABRRI will be applying for grants to support larger symposium-style event in 2018. Knowledge gained from 2017 event will help to support application.

- Purpose of 2017 Community Visioning Forum is to identify what work is being done on biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, and reconciliation in the region, who (which groups) is doing what (big picture), and where the gaps are. MABRRI’s goal is to take this information and to create an open-source, interactive map that will increase knowledge sharing throughout the region around these 3 themes. Hope is for this to increase collaboration throughout the region, to build connections, to address areas that need greater attention, and to provide recognition for the tremendous amount of work that is being done by many.

- Important to prioritize engagement with youth and First Nations (all 7 in MABR) to ensure that their perspectives on these topics are heard. Involve students from elementary and secondary schools. MABR to lead the conversation.

- Part of reconciliation is acknowledging that cultural and biological diversity are interlinked. The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (1992) brought this connection to light; with the loss of biological diversity has come the loss of cultural and linguistic diversity at a paralleled rate.
This is one of the reasons it is essential to bring an Indigenous perspective on biodiversity and sustainability to the forefront of our conversations—part of reconciliation. This Forum is an opportunity to share perspectives and to promote mutual understanding and collaboration. To be discussed further at next Roundtable.

- Cost of Forum to be determined. Must remain affordable. A fee of $25 is being considered. Some tickets to be subsidized to avoid financial barriers.

**Delegations to the Roundtable**

- MABR Community Representative Ceri Peacey proposed the idea of creating the space for delegations to the Roundtable. She is often approached by community members with concerns about the region. Suggested a 10 minute window, perhaps 1 per meeting, to allow people to engage/feel included.

- Group consensus was that that the Roundtable is not the right place for this, that it cannot function as a filter or mediator, nor is there time to adequately address the problems presented by delegations with only four meetings per year. It was felt that concerns about specific issues should be directed to the stakeholders, organizations, or companies with whom there is a perceived issue.

- Roundtable members agreed that having information from the community is extremely valuable. This is why the Community Rep positions were created, why the Community Visioning Forum will be an important platform, and why MABRRI is a research institute that involves the community in all projects.

- The purpose of the Roundtable is to create a space for diverse regional stakeholders to come together to discuss proactive and collaborative ways to increase biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, and reconciliation in the region. The pre-2010 advocacy approach did not work. The MABR has developed something different that has been praised by the Canadian Commission for UNESCO as a new and positive model for biosphere reserve governance.

**Closing**

- Chief Recalma, Qualicum First Nation: We must work with each other, share what we are doing, and leave our baggage at the door

- Rachel Watts, Snaw-Naw-As First Nation: This is a new form of communication, a safe space, and a learning process. This will be part of our story.

- Monica to send out a Doodle poll to determine date of next/August Roundtable Meeting.

- Host to be determined once date is set.
Objectives

The main objectives of this Roundtable gathering are for participants to:

6. Continue to engage in respectful and meaningful dialogue with one another
7. Receive the latest updates on MABR initiatives and MABRRI research
8. Hear from one another about regional/organizational/community updates
9. Initiate planning for the MABR’s first Community Visioning Forum
10. Discuss the MABR’s long-term funding strategy

AGENDA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:00-1:10</td>
<td>Arrivals: Nametags &amp; refreshments</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:10-1:25</td>
<td>Welcome/Opening</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Words of welcome from Chief Michael Recalma, Qualicum First Nation</td>
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<td>- Circle intros (lengthier circle updates to take place later)</td>
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<td>- Review and collectively adopt agenda</td>
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<td>- Reminder of the MABR Roundtable Culture of Engagement</td>
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<td>1:25-1:50</td>
<td>MABR Updates</td>
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<td>Past:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- EuroMAB Conference in Sarlat, France (April 3-5)</td>
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<td>- Reconciliation in Action video completion (launched April 19)</td>
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<td>- BioBlitz (April 22)</td>
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<td>- Island Tour (May 6-7)</td>
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<td>Present:</td>
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<td>- Snaw-Naw-As Garden of Spiritual Healing</td>
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<td>- RDN Representative at MABR Roundtable TBD</td>
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<td>Future:</td>
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<td>- Canadian Biosphere Reserves - Day on the Hill (May 29)</td>
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<td>- Gazebo Talks for Parksville Community Park Master Plan (June 8)</td>
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<td>- Biosphere reserve gathering in Baie Comeau, Quebec (June 19-22)</td>
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<td>1:50-2:20</td>
<td>Circle Updates</td>
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<td>- What’s new with you/your organization? Any connections with the MABR updates?</td>
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<td>2:20-2:30</td>
<td>BREAK</td>
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<td>Dialogue &amp; Collaborative Planning</td>
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<td>- MABR long-term funding strategy</td>
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<td>- Delegations to the Roundtable</td>
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<td>3:20-3:30</td>
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<td>- Last words to Chief Michael Recalma</td>
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<td>- Next Roundtable date, host, agenda</td>
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