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NANBO is a regional network of the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO)

NANBO’s Financial Partner for the year 2012-2013

Communauté métropolitaine de Québec
A second wind for our sails!

The geographical regions of North America – from the mid-north up to the Arctic – are abundant with water resources necessary for human life and health. Through the integrated water resource management approach, NANBO supports the necessity to safeguard these fresh water reserves, which are increasingly essential to sustain communities while maintaining social cohesion as well as fair access and distribution.

Water quality is becoming an increasingly important aspect in the viable development of territories via the respect of biodiversity and the ecological threshold. An equilibrium between urban areas and natural lands also ensures harmonious cohabitation.

To reach these goals, we need to see beyond local or regional issues for a better understanding of the necessary promotion of the water resource.

A network like NANBO takes all its meaning in that sense. It offers a global vision of integrated water management by watershed clearly demonstrating the interrelationship of large ecosystems that make up the immense reserves of fresh water, like the Great Lakes-St.Lawrence and Gulf. Such a global vision is crucial in safeguarding water quality.

The need to combine forces for all those involved locally in the quality of water resources is now urgent. It is necessary to ensure knowledge and know-how exchanges and to promote best practices.

It is the duty and mandate of NANBO to set up an awareness-building platform to drive the evolution of our understanding of the issues related to water, even more so on a continent where the abundance of this resource tend to make us forget its fragility.

I had the opportunity, during the last fiscal year, to take part in a number of activities related to integrated water management by watershed - locally through bank stabilization projects or by raising awareness on the Richelieu watershed territory, regionally via a public Agora on sustainable metropolitan regional planning (in Montreal on Feb. 28 and March 1, 2013) and internationally at the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Symphony, a Symposium held in Québec City on June 26 and 27 on issues related to the St.Lawrence River/Great Lakes ecosystem and at the Causeries Champlain, a public debate on water under the twinning program of the Charente-Richelieu watershed in Cognac (Nov. 8).

Last but not least, I was honoured to contribute in the development of a collaboration charter between watershed organizations in Quebec and in France, and its signing in Vogüé (Ardèche) in France on November 15 and 16. The importance of gathering fruitful data through the productive exchange and comparison of methods was apparent throughout all of the above instances.

NANBO’s mission for the coming years can be summed up as follows: JOIN TOGETHER to better ACT locally.

It generally takes ten years to build up an operational watershed organization on a waterway territory; so we may ask how long it would take to forge a continental network?

I dare believe that it will be possible to create an efficient North American Network respected by our partners within only a few years. This will be achieved through the collective will to act and sense of urgency shared by my colleague administrators and the members of our organization.

The strength of NANBO lies within its members. In order to extend our network of basin organization across the continent, intensive efforts will be made towards recruitment.

Society and consumers have to be made aware of the importance of the quality of water to leverage influence on political and economic decision-makers; it is then through a transparent integrated water management approach that the quality of water can be properly ensured.

Consequently, the North American network will be a platform to foster communication and exchanges on the subject of water resources for all of the basin organizations in North America and will also liaise with other networks through its association with the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO).

The President,
Dear colleagues and friends,

Regardless of latitudes and climes, water remains a vital element for all communities.

The year 2013 was named the International Year of Water Cooperation by the United Nations. Its objective, as underlined in Stockholm at the World Water Day on March 22, is the consolidation of capacities, creation of partnerships and continued implementation of international processes and programs in the water sector.

Such cooperation bears several aspects, namely cultural, educational, scientific, social, political, legal, institutional and economic. Therefore, a multidisciplinary approach is essential to embrace this holistic vision and guarantee lasting success. In the words of UNESCO, water co-operation needs « a common understanding of what the needs and challenges are around water ».

Building consensus on the best ways to address water-related issues is precisely the mandate and the challenge of NANBO. Granting fair access to water as a useful and vital resource is NANBO’s fundamental goal. Beyond State borders and competencies, the integrated water management approach requires constant cooperation, expertise sharing, and the adaptability of laws and regulations.

Today, NANBO has members from the United States, Mexico, Canada, and even France (that latter having territories in the North American continental region). The Association’s membership is growing. Through a partnership with the Québec Metropolitan Community, a permanent secretariat was established in Québec city and furthers the development of services for members and to some extent, the general public. NANBO also organizes major events such as the 2014 International Symposium - The International Forum on Integrated Water Management, Tools to Act.

A lot remains to be done: increasing membership, diversifying and consolidating financial sources, expanding and consolidating the range of services, intensifying the promotion on integrated water management, raising awareness of governments, the private sector, institutions and citizens, contributing to the activities of INBO and organizations involved in integrated water management, etc.

The tasks ahead are daunting. But is high time, if not urgent, to return water governance to its real administrators, i.e. the people of this world. Water belongs to humanity and Life in general, not to States, markets, businesses. Water belongs to communities. Water management and particularly integrated water management, is a question of democracy and solidarity.

Normand Cazelais
Background

At the General Assembly held in Debrecen (Hungary) in June 2006, the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO) entrusted representatives of Quebec with the task of creating a regional network of basin organizations in North America. This type of regional network already exists in Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America, Europe, the Mediterranean, etc.

In the weeks that followed, a steering committee comprised of representatives from Quebec, Ontario and the United States, was created. The work of this committee led to the founding of NANBO in Quebec City in October 2009, with technical and financial support of Québec Metropolitan Community.

Our Objectives

With the goal of promoting integrated watershed management as an essential component of sustainable development, we may:

- Develop lasting relations between the organizations interested in integrated watershed management and enable exchanges of experiences and expertise among them.
- Assist with professional development of members and develop public awareness around specific watershed management issues and regional concerns.
- Facilitate the identification and implementation of best practices for financial, institutional and integrated watershed management.
- Promote member organization projects, watershed actions and solutions.
- Enable online discussion forums and connect information centers to support the creation and dissemination of new knowledge.

Our Mission

Our mission is to further the science and the practice of integrated water resources management among basin organizations and other groups in North America by providing the network and the forum to share knowledge and experience within North America and beyond.
**Review of activities**

This report outlines the activities for the year 2012-2013. It thus presents a summary of actions taken between April 1st, 2012 and March 31, 2013, in the five streams of activity set up in the Action Plan - membership recruitment, administration and governance, communications, development of projects and programs, and development of agreements and partnerships.

**Membership recruitment**

During the period under review, the recruitment of members was a priority for the Board of Directors in view of further building NANBO's importance in North America. NANBO is proud to announce that ten new members were recruited last year, bringing its total active membership to 22. Most of the new members are based in Ontario, Canada, and thus bear strategic value to NANBO given the province's innovative approach regarding the Integrated Water Resources Management at the watershed level. The increase in membership will thus positively contribute to all members via discussions on best practices and the sharing of experience.

At the beginning of 2013, a membership recruitment strategy was initiated using rigorous methods. A comprehensive directory is currently being developed to list all organizations working in the field of Integrated Water Resources Management in North America and in Central America. The directory will thereafter be crucial in the implementation of the aforementioned recruitment strategy and will allow for follow-up with target organizations. Furthermore, 2013 is the United Nations International Year of Water Cooperation, thus highlighting the pertinence of NANBO's mission.

**Result:**

The recruitment efforts have allowed to obtain 10 new members.
List of NANBO members as of March 31, 2013

**Quebec (Canada)**
- Comité de concertation et de valorisation du bassin de la Rivière Richelieu (COVABAR)
- Conseil de gouvernance de l’eau des bassins versants de la Rivière Saint-François (COGESAF)
- Organisme de concertation pour l’eau des bassins versants de la Rivière Nicolet (COPERNIC)
- Regroupement des organismes de bassins versants du Québec (ROBVQ)

**Ontario (Canada)**
- Conservation Ontario
- Credit Valley Conservation (CVC)
- Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA)
- Hamilton Region Conservation Authority (HCA)
- Otonabee Region Conservation Authority (ORCA)
- Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA)
- South Nation Conservation (SNC)
- St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA)
- Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA)

**British Columbia (Canada)**
- Fraser Basin Council

**United States**
- Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP)

**Mexico**
- Comisión Nacional del Agua (CONAGUA)
- Comité técnico interestatal de playas limpias Jalisco-Nayarit
- Comité local de playas limpias Manzanillo
- Comisión de cuenca del río Ameca
- Comité de Playas Limpias de Armería-Tecomán
- Organismo de Cuenca Lerma Santiago Pacífico

**France (St. Peter and Miquelon Islands)**
- Association française des établissements publics territoriaux de bassin

NANBO has now members from Canada, United States, France and Mexico
Administration and Governance

Headquarters

The organization has established its offices at the Centre culture et environnement Frédéric Back, in downtown Québec.

Board of directors

The Board, composed of members from Quebec, Ontario, British Columbia, the U.S., Mexico and France, met twice during the 2012-2013 year to set the direction of the development of NANBO and monitor its progress.

Permanence

NANBO's team include an executive director, a projects manager and a part time collaborator.

Normand Cazelais
Executive Director

Marie-Eve Buist
Annie Bérubé (Until January 2013)
Projects Manager

Antoine Verville
NANBO Contributor
(Deputy Director ROBVQ)
Several efforts have been invested in communications during this period, especially to publicize NANBO and its mission to the various partners.

In 2012-2013, NANBO’s multilingual website was extensively developed. The website - which is available in English, French and Spanish - was finalized in May 2012. Several new features are available for members. Daily news updates on Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) in North America are added to the website’s press review section. Other features include reference documents, a directory of IWRM organizations, case studies, guides, management and planning utilities, water information systems, and more.

Over sixty features have been added and are available in the three official languages of the organization. A newsletter is sent to our mailing list on a periodical basis to keep members and partners informed. The website promotes NANBO events with as many stakeholders and potential participants as possible.

Visit our website at www.mynanbo.org
Several efforts have been invested in communications during this period, especially to publicize NANBO and its mission to the various partners.

**Communications**

**“Accès Savoir”**

In February 2013, NANBO entered Université Laval's program “Accès Savoir” which pairs organizations in need of scientific research data with university students conducting relevant research work. A communication strategy for NANBO will be developed via this program in the coming months. This plan will support NANBO's recruitment efforts and will enhance our organization's visibility.

**NANBO General Assembly**

The NANBO’s board of directors, which is now composed of members from Quebec, Ontario, British Columbia, the United States, Mexico and France, thus ensuring a better representation of the entire territory it covers, North America.
Communications (...)

NANBO meetings with the delegations from Guatemala and Peru

In November 2012, our Executive Director met the Guatemalan delegation to Québec. Members of this delegation are involved in the research to tackle the problem of cyanobacteria toxicity in Lake Atitlan. The Guatemalan delegation showed a strong interest in joining NANBO. The following month a delegation from Peru was received in collaboration with the Regroupement des organisations de bassins versants du Québec (ROBVQ).

Visit of NANBO Executive Director in Canada's western provinces

Executive Director Normand Cazelais visited Canada’s western provinces in June 2012 to promote NANBO with IWRM organizations. This networking initiative also included a meeting with David Marshall, Executive Director of the Fraser Basin Council in British Columbia and member of the NANBO Board of Directors. The contacts made during this trip will be useful in expanding NANBO’s presence in Canada.

NANBO attended these events...

5th Ouranos Scientific Symposium

13th Meeting of Basin Organizations

Annual AFEPTB Symposium and NANBO’s signing of the Twinning partnership between ROBVQ and AFEPTB
The 1st Symposium on Water was held from May 23 to 25, 2012. NANBO organized the International Symposium on Integrated Water Management as part of the event. This gave both NANBO and the Québec region excellent visibility as conscientious stakeholders in tackling the challenges that face integrated water management. NANBO’s International Symposium was a great opportunity for participants to attend lectures given by leading experts from Québec, Ontario, France, Mexico and the United States.

A panel of three speakers, from Mexico, France and Ontario respectively, allowed participants to understand and compare three practical models of integrated water management, given their specific constraints, different settings as well as similar challenges. A plenary session on IWRM issues was also on the agenda. NANBO’s International Symposium fostered partnerships with members and with the other organizations attending the Symposium on Water. The International Symposium was also an opportunity to discuss about best practices and useful resources. This first NANBO event ended by the signing of the World Pact for Better Basin Management by Jean-François Donzier, Secretary of the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO) and a total of 26 Basin Organizations. Pierre Arcand, Québec’s minister for Sustainable Development, the Environment, Wildlife and Parks (MDDEFP), attended the signing ceremony and delivered a speech.
Many specific projects were undertaken during the year 2012-2013, in collaboration with various partners.

Development of projects (...)

NANBO participated in the 1st Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Symphony initiated by the International Secretariat for Water on June 26 and 27, 2012. NANBO collaborated for several months on the Project Steering Committee to help organize and implement this endeavour. The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Symphony allowed for strategic networking between organizations and communities involved in the Great lakes – St. Lawrence – Gulf region, a transboundary watershed of crucial importance for Canada and the US. NANBO President Hubert Chamberland participated in the development of a Declaration of Sustainable Municipal Water Management at the event. The President also attended the official reading and approval of the said Declaration at the General Assembly of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative on June 28, 2012.

Development of collaborative relationships with the Gaspé-Beaubien Foundation

NANBO is proud to announce that it is currently collaborating with the de Gaspé-Beaubien Foundation on an awareness-building and communication campaign for the Ottawa River. This partnership was initiated at the beginning of 2013, and growing involvement can be expected in the coming months.
Development of projects (...)


The Third International Forum on Integrated Water Resources Management – Tools for Action, will be held in Québec City in May 2014, thanks to a partnership between NANBO and the Conseil de gouvernance de l’eau des bassins versants de la rivière Saint-François (COGESAF) and the ROBVQ. The Forum will welcome speakers from all around the world for discussions on crucial topics of our time, first and foremost the management of transboundary watersheds in the era of climate change. This important international event will be on our agenda of events promoting IWRM at the watershed level in North America.

Project France-Quebec with the Québec's Department of International Relations, La Francophonie and External Relations

In October, a project was submitted to the Québec's Department of International Relations, La Francophonie and External Relations, jointly with the ROBVQ and the Association Française des Établissements Publics Territoriaux de Bassins (AFEPTB).

The project was approved in April 2013 and will allow us to develop a twinning program for basin organizations in Québec and France. Existing relations between NANBO and AFEPTB will be used as a baseline. Over the last years these two organizations have cooperated through an effort initiated by our president, Mr. Hubert Chamberland. In the scope of this innovative project, NANBO is mandated to develop twinning tools transferable to similar projects in other regions, for the greater benefit of our members.
The Quebec Metropolitan Community (CMQ) was NANBO’s first financial partner. Since its creation in 2009, the CMQ has helped NANBO in its efforts to secure funding. Their financial contribution also allowed the establishment of its head office in Quebec City, recruitment of members, start-up activities and international symposiums on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in Quebec City.

In addition, steps were taken with several other partners, including the Québec’s Departments of Sustainable Development, the Environment, Wildlife and Parks and of International Relations, La Francophonie and External Relations.

NANBO warmly thanks the Quebec Metropolitan Community, not only for its financial support, but also for its invaluable contribution since 2009!
As of March 31, 2013, the organization had eight directors from Quebec, Ontario, British Columbia, France, the U.S. and Mexico.

**Hubert Chamberland, President**
Comité de concertation et de valorisation du bassin de la Rivière Richelieu
Québec

**Abel Jimenez Alcazar, Vice-president**
José Luis Ortega, Vice-president (Until December 2012)
Comisión Nacional del Agua
Mexico

**David Marcovitch, Director**
Association française des établissements publics territoriaux de bassin
France

**Jean-Paul Râîche, Secretary-Treasurer**
Jean Landry, Secretary-Treasurer (Until May 2012)
Regroupement des organismes de bassins versants du Québec
Québec

**William G. Howland, Director**
Lake Champlain Basin Program
United States

**David Marshall, Director**
Fraser Basin Council
British Columbia

**Dennis O’Grady, Director**
South Nation Conservation
Ontario

**Don Pearson, Director**
Conservation Ontario
Ontario

**Guillermo Vargas Rojano, Director**
Organismo de Cuenca Lerma Santiago Pacífico
Mexico

**Charles Billington, Director**
(Retiring May 2012)
Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
Ontario

**Mike Puddister, Director**
(Retiring May 2012)
Credit Valley Conservation
Ontario
Becoming a member of the NANBO network means not only supporting our mission by providing symbolic financial support, it also means contributing to the development of an emerging network and participating in its dynamism by sharing your vision, knowledge and experience in integrated water resources management with organizations facing similar challenges in North America and around the world.

The Benefits of Membership

- Discounts on our events;
- Promotion of your organization during our events;
- Association with a continent-wide IWRM network;
- Access to a North American network of experience and expertise;
- Promote your activities, initiatives, tools and publications on the website and the toolbox;
- Increase your visibility by listing your organization in the NANBO directory; and
- Automatic membership in the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO).

And in the Long Term...

- Benefit from twinning opportunities and transfer of knowledge with other North American water organizations and networks; and
- Much more...

Who Can Become a Member?

Regular Members

- Organizations which have been entrusted by relevant public authorities with integrated management of river basin water resources at the national, federal and transboundary levels; and
- Cooperative structures and river basin agencies developed by and among these organizations.

Partner Members

NANBO is also open to other groups involved directly or indirectly in integrated water resources management:

- Government departments and agencies responsible for water management in each country, state or province in North America and engaged in integrated and sustainable water resources management;
- Cooperation organizations that support integrated and sustainable water resources management actions and projects in North America;
- Commercial, industrial or energy enterprises;
- Universities and other research institutions; and
- Relevant authorities.

Register online at www.monroban.org