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

English translation: South Nation Conservation
President's Message

NANBO was born, first and foremost, of the will to equip North American basin organizations with a network that enables all members to share knowledge and know-how and thus provide a foundation for reflection and action with the users of water resources.

The second benefit of our North American network is, without any doubt, membership in the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO). The INBO is a collective of regional networks that helps to inspire reflection on the future of our planet’s freshwater resources while providing access to numerous and varying viewpoints, studies and specialized works on water resource development. It also allows members to attend conferences, symposiums and forums during which debates on water can open up new channels of action.

NANBO of course assumes a responsible commitment from all its members to work together in order to face, in the near future, enormous changes that are as much a part of the problem as they are of the solution to water resource development issues. We must acknowledge that traditional forms of collective action have lost their momentum. Faced with challenges of a global scale, we may feel powerless as individuals, especially when it comes to the deterioration of our aquatic ecosystems, waterways, wetlands and woodlands.

I believe that it is up to the citizens of this planet to face these challenges head on, to rally, and to find new means of collective action.

Water is everyone’s business, and together we must seek creative and innovative solutions.

NANBO members must use this new network to consider the urgency of sharing experiences and viewpoints on a major aspect of the coming changes: integrated watershed management.

Given this context, “thinking locally to better act globally” and its counterpart “thinking globally and acting locally” together form the cornerstone of the building — the ecosystem — that is the watershed.

NANBO must therefore function as a crucible for forging North American watershed management approaches, while further enriching member initiatives through the knowledge sharing enabled by integration with the INBO.

Note that since its recent foundation, NANBO has focused its efforts on recruiting members who have demonstrated their will to position themselves at the forefront among watershed organizations in Quebec, Ontario, British Columbia, the United States and Mexico.

Particular attention has been paid to consolidating NANBO’s administrative and regulatory structure. The hiring of a project manager, along with the establishment of our head office in the City of Québec, made possible through a funding agreement reached with the Québec Metropolitan Community, have helped NANBO in starting up its activities.

I therefore invite you to attend the International Symposium on Integrated Water Resources Management on May 23, 2012, during which you can meet major players from Quebec, Ontario, Mexico, the United States and France, and we can begin our reflection on integrated watershed management in North America.

The second edition of this event, planned for 2013 in collaboration with our partners, will focus on our processes of reflection and action on the great aquatic ecosystem of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River basin.

The new NANBO web site, which will be officially online as of May 15th and is intended as a platform for North American watershed organizations to effectively exchange experiences and expertise, will undoubtedly be key to the success of this event.

I invite all North American watershed organizations to seriously consider joining NANBO, not only to ensure its vitality, but to have their voices be clearly heard by INBO as well.

The President of NANBO,

Hubert Chamberland
Architect and Urban Planner
Executive Director’s Message

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

In one of his texts, the Catalan author Joan Manuel Serrat asks the question:

“What would the world be without water?”

He offers the following response:

“If man is an act, water is history.
If man is a people, water is the world.
If man is alive, water is life.”

Consider as well this Amerindian legend:

One day a great fire broke out in the forest. All the animals were terrified and looked on helplessly as the disaster unfolded. Only the little Hummingbird, as determined as he was frail, busied himself by taking a few drops of water at a time in his beak and dropping them on the fire, and tirelessly continued this roundabout. After a while, the Porcupine, who had become annoyed by what he thought were the Hummingbird’s futile actions, called out: “Hummingbird! You must be crazy! Do you really think that you can put the fire out with a few drops of water?” “I may seem crazy,” replied the Hummingbird, “but at least I’m doing my part.”

Now consider that North America, particularly the northern part of the continent, holds a significant part of the planet’s freshwater resources, a share much greater than its demographic weight. Its responsibility in managing water could not be more vital.

At its General Assembly in Debrecen (Hungary), held in June 2006, the INBO entrusted the COVABAR representatives (Hubert Chamberland and myself) with the task of creating a regional North American network. NANBO was founded in the City of Québec with its first General Assembly held on October 15, 2009. Despite some difficulties engendered by unforeseen circumstances, NANBO today has members in the United States, Mexico, Canada and the Province of Québec. It reached its first partnership agreement with the Québec Metropolitan Community, which to date has provided substantial financial support and, most importantly, sustained collaboration for which we are very grateful. In close collaboration with the Regroupement des organismes de bassins versants du Québec (ROBVQ), NANBO has succeeded in establishing a permanent secretariat in Québec City, hired a project manager, and developed a variety of services for members and also, to a lesser degree, for the public, such as its Web site.

Much remains to be done: we must increase membership, diversify and expand our sources of funding, broaden and consolidate our range of services, further promote watershed management throughout North America, continue our wake-up and awareness activities among governments, businesses, institutions and citizens, and actively contribute to the activities of INBO and all other organizations interested in water management, among other things.

This second NANBO General Assembly is therefore of particular importance, and we are all well aware of the fact. It will be held in conjunction with the International Symposium on Integrated Water Resources Management. The Symposium will close with an official signing ceremony of the World Pact for Better Basin Management, an INBO initiative from the 6th World Water Forum held last March.

Water’s vital importance is expressed in the most ancient foundation myths of human culture. We find it in the biblical story of the Deluge, the Greek myth of the sea being given to Poseidon and rainwater to Zeus, the Chinese legend of the master of waters, and the Indian tale of the promise of the golden fish. In each instance, water is closely associated with the creation of the world. And in each instance, water is represented as the primary element from which we are all created.

As the Comenius Project and others suggested at the start of the millennium, it is urgent that we give water governance back to its true owners, the inhabitants of our planet. Water belongs to humanity, not to States, markets or businesses. Water belongs to human communities. Water management — and watershed management in particular — is a matter of democracy and solidarity.

Normand Cazelais
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.

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 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 first two years of NANBO. It thus presents a summary of actions taken between October 15, 2009 and March 31, 2012, 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, NANBO focused on the recruitment of full members, basin organizations entrusted by the public using Integrated Water Resources Management in watersheds either national or transboundary, as well as clusters and cooperation structures that were developed.

To expand its membership, the NANBO team has taken several steps in the three main areas of intervention of the NANBO territory: Quebec, Ontario and Mexico.

First, in Quebec, several communications were undertaken with watershed organizations recognized by the Quebec government under the Act to affirm the collective nature of water resources and to enhance their protection. In addition to individual contacts, a presentation was made in the 6th Rendez-vous des OBV, organized by the Regroupement des organismes de bassins versants du Québec (ROBVO).

A similar presentation was made at a meeting of "Conservation Authorities" in Ontario.

In addition, a recruitment mission was undertaken in Mexico, with the help and technical collaboration of the "National Water Commission" (CONAGUA).

**List of NANBO members as of March 31, 2012**

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

- **Ontario**
  - Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA)
  - Conservation de la Nation Sud (CNS)
  - Credit Valley Conservation (CVC)

- **U.S.**
  - 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

**Result:** This mission enabled the recruitment of 4 new Mexican members.
Since the founding meeting in October 2009, several steps were undertaken towards administrative consolidation and the establishment of a governance structure.

Administration and Governance

Permanence

Firstly, to ensure the permanence of the organization for the period between April 2010 and March 2011, an agreement was signed to share staff with the Regroupement des organismes de bassins versants du Québec. This agreement allowed the hiring by NANBO of a part-time staff member to support management in fulfilling its mandates.

In addition, a contracted administrative assistant was also hired to structure the organization’s accounting system.

Then, in January 2012, a full-time project manager joined the NANBO team, allowing the organization to restart operations and work on developing new projects.

Board of directors

The Board, composed of members from Quebec, Ontario, the U.S. and Mexico, met four times to set the direction of the development of NANBO and monitor its progress.

Headquarters

Steps were taken to establish NANBO’s headquarters in the Québec Metropolitan Community. Thus the organization has established its offices at the Centre culture et environnement Frédéric Back, in downtown Québec.
Several efforts have been invested in communications during this period, especially to publicize NANBO and its mission to the various partners.

Communications

**NANBO website**

NANBO has worked to develop its new trilingual website, designed as a true exchange platform, accessible to all and completely free. Actors in the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) will have access to a toolbox designed to meet their needs for information and networking.

Users can therefore keep abreast of the latest IWRM news in North America, see case studies, enrich their knowledge through the guides and fact sheets, enjoy practical tools for managing and planning, and see the experiences of other users. A list of network expertises will also be online in order to facilitate networking and problem solving.

The NANBO website will be expanded gradually with input from its users, since they will be able to share their own tools, experience, guides, etc. A need for such a platform for exchanges across North America had been expressed at the inception of NANBO and we invite you to visit the website and to participate actively in its dynamism!

**Visit our website at** [www.mynanbo.org](http://www.mynanbo.org)

**Media presence**

Some publications and events enabled NANBO to enjoy some visibility among its partners. Here is the list of key papers:

- Press release on NANBO’s founding
- Publication in INBO’s newsletter November 2009
- Article in "Objectif Terre" December 2009
- Publication in INBO’s newsletter November 2010
- Joint press conference for the establishment of NANBO on the territory of the QMC
- Press release for the working meeting between the QMC-ROBVQ-NANBO-Centro Agronomico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza (CATIE)
- Various publications in ROBVQ’s Tempo newsletter
NANBO’s President, Hubert Chamberland, represented the organization at the 8th General Assembly of the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO), in January 2010 in Dakar, Senegal. He then presented the actions undertaken and the progress of NANBO to other regional networks.

NANBO’s President, Hubert Chamberland, represented the organization at the 6th World Water Forum held in Marseille from March 12 to 17. This event was an opportunity for our President to participate in presentations and meetings with representatives of organizations from around the world, to discuss current issues in the Integrated Water Resources Management.

NANBO also joined the Pact for better basin management at the official signing ceremony, where 69 representatives of river, lake and aquifer basin organizations from all continents also affixed their signatures. The Pact, initiated by INBO, incorporates the principles most effective for achieving sustainable management of water resources and has the primary objective of enhancing the effectiveness of basin management around the world by encouraging the sharing of experiences.

To read the full text of the “World Pact for Better Basin Management”, initiated by INBO, please visit their website www.riob.org
Some specific projects were undertaken during the first two years of NANBO, in collaboration with various partners.

**Development of projects**

**Twinning of Quebec and Costa Rica**

First, in collaboration with the ROBVQ, NANBO held a first working meeting with the "Centro Agronomico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza" (CATIE). This meeting, attended by representatives of ROBVQ, the QMC, the Offices jeunesse internationaux du Québec (LOJIQ) and the Ministère du Développement durable, de l’Environnement et des Parcs (MDDEP), aimed to establish a first professional partnership between Quebec and CATIE.

**Result:**

This event resulted in a proposed exchange of experiences between these two regions, led by ROBVQ (Projet Aller Retour). This project is therefore a first step toward establishing an ongoing relationship between Quebec and CATIE.
NANBO collaborated on the project steering committee of the First Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Symphony, initiated by the International Secretariat for Water and supported by the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative. This project, organized to hold public events on the St. Lawrence and to develop relationships between the upstream and downstream of the watershed, will culminate on June 26 and 27, 2012, during a Rendez-vous organized as a dynamic and interactive meeting in the port of Québec City.

For more information on the Symphony
www.sie-isw.org/fr

Cooperative approaches between NANBO and Laval University were initiated. First, the founding of NANBO was held as part of an event organized by the Office de recherche internationale sur l’eau (ORIE) of this university. In addition, two articles were published about NANBO in the paper "Objectif Terre", a publication of the Institut Hydro-Québec en environnement, développement et société (Institut EDS). Discussions on possible collaboration between the Institute and NANBO were also initiated during a working meeting.
NANBO, in partnership with the ROBVQ and under the Premier Rendez-vous sur l’eau, is organizing the International Symposium on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), to be held from May 23 to 25, 2012.

This event, made possible through the financial contribution of the Quebec Metropolitan Community (QMC), was born of the need to share local, national and international experiences in implementing the IWRM. This day will involve key players from Quebec, Ontario, the United States, Mexico and France, around the themes of «The integrated Water Resources Management in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Basin» and «The IRBM around the world».

As a regional network of the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO), NANBO will also organize a signing ceremony of the "Pact for Better Basin Management", initiated by INBO at the 6th World Water Forum held in Marseille in March 2012. Thus organizations present at this special ceremony presided over by Mr. Jean-François Donzier, Permanent Technical Secretary of INBO, will join the 69 organizations from all continents that have signed the Pact of Marseille.
Development of agreements and partnerships

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 an international symposium on integrated water resources management in Quebec City in May 2012.

In addition, steps were taken with several other partners, including the City of Québec, the International Joint Commission, the Department of International Relations, the National Capital Office, the Ministère du Développement durable, de l’Environnement et des Parcs and the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO).

NANBO warmly thank the Quebec Metropolitan Community, not only for its financial support, but also for his invaluable contribution since 2009!
As of March 31, 2012, the organization had seven directors from Quebec, Ontario, the U.S. and Mexico.

**NANBO Team**

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

Jean Landry, Secretary-Treasurer  
Regroupement des organismes de bassins versants du Québec  
Quebec

Charles Billington  
Rideau Valley Conservation Authority  
Ontario

Dennis O’Grady  
South Nation Conservation  
Ontario

José Luis Ortega  
Comisión Nacional del Agua  
Mexico

Mike Puddister  
Credit Valley Conservation  
Ontario

William G. Howland  
Lake Champlain Basin Program  
U.S.

**NANBO’s headquarters**

Normand Cazelais  
Executive Director

Annie Bérubé  
Project Manager

Antoine Verville  
NANBO Contributor  
(Deputy Director ROBVQ)
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](http://www.monroban.org)