DISTRICT OF METCHOSIN

AGENDA

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING

April 22, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers
Metchosin Municipal Hall

---

1. Agenda, Additions, Approval

2. Presentations

3. Public Participation

4. Adoption of Minutes
a) Environmental Advisory Select Committee, March 25, 2025 1

5. Receipt of Minutes
a) Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee, March 18, 2025 5

6. Business Arising from the Minutes
a) Spongy Moth Spraying Program
b) Race Rocks Ecological Reserve
c) Environmental Groups in Metchosin, Project Criteria and Student Support
d) Local Biodiversity and Natural Assets Plan
- Identification and mapping of sensitive ecosystems
- Next steps

7. Reports
a) Chair's Verbal Report
b) Council Liaison Verbal Report

8. Correspondence

9. Other Business
a) Significant Trees Policy W-100.84, Committee Review & Update 9
b) Schedule A of Tree Management Bylaw No. 287 (Significant Trees), Committee Review & Update 11
c) Climate Action Plan Priorities 13

10. Adjournment and Next Meeting

District of Metchosin

Minutes
Environmental Advisory Select Committee
Tuesday, March 25, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers
Metchosin Municipal Hall

Present: Bill Cave, Garry Fletcher, Councillor Steve Gray (Council Liaison), Anna Hall, Merrilee Hoen, Andy MacKinnon (Recorder), Ric Perron, Erin Van de Water

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

1. Agenda, Additions, Approval

Addition: presentation by Jennifer Tynan and Jochen Moehr on Spongy Moth.

Moved and Seconded by Ric & Bill that the Committee approve the agenda as amended.
Carried

2. Presentations

A presentation about Spongy Moth spraying, by Jennifer Tynan (Communities United for Clean Air) and Jochen Moehr. Jennifer described the history of Spongy Moth spraying, beginning in the 1970s. Spraying Foray 48B, a mixture of the bacterium *Bacillus thurginiensis* variety *kurstaki* (Btk) and undisclosed chemicals (some of which are likely carcinogens). This year, there's no spraying in BC for Spongy Moth. Jennifer described her concerns about effects of spraying on human health. Jochen spoke more more about the effects on insects: Spongy Moth is rare in BC and not established; Foray 48B is not specific to Spongy Moth, but affects other lepidopterans; and the spraying should be stopped. Anna pointed out that this spraying is close to habitat for Southern Resident Killer Whales, and so there's concern about carcinogens in the mix. She also expressed concerns about cascading effects in ecosystems: for example, birds eating poisoned insects could be immune-compromised and so more susceptible to diseases such as avian flu. MEASC members expressed their concern about this issue and encourage Council to take action.

3. Public Participation

Metchosin resident Karine Bordua is concerned about the effects of spraying for Spongy Moth on other species, water supply, human health.

4. Adoption of Minutes

Moved and Seconded by Steve and Ric that the Committee adopt the minutes of the Environmental Advisory Select Committee meeting held February 25, 2025.
Carried

5. Receipt of Minutes
a) Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee, February 18, 2025
b) Committee of the Whole, March 10, 2025

Moved and Seconded by Merilee and Erin that the Committee receive these minutes.
Carried

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) Spongy Moth Spraying Program

Moved and Seconded by Andy and Bill that MEASC recommends that Council invite Jennifer and Jochen to make this presentation to Council. We further recommend that Council consider bringing this issue to AVICC and UBCM.

Carried

b) Local Biodiversity and Natural Assets Plan

Steve recounted the history of the development of this plan. CRD is also working on a Biodiversity Plan. Steve will incorporate edits from Merilee and Andy, and others. Andy has spoken with Staff at the Conservation Data Centre, and they're keen to provide us with data, but we'll need GIS capabilities.

Moved and Seconded by Erin and Garry that Steve revise the document, and circulate the revised document. He'll also speak with the CAO about developing municipal GIS capabilities (or finding funding to contract the work).

Carried

c) Race Rock Ecological Reserve

Garry's still trying to find out whether Race Rocks is in Metchosin. He'll report back at our April meeting.

d) Environmental Groups in Metchosin, Project Criteria and Student Support

Merilee is waiting to hear back from Nancy Shackelford (UVic, Restoration of Natural Systems) about Project Criteria. Discussion also about other Departments at UVic (e.g., Geography) or other institutions (Camosun College, Environmental Tech, or Royal Roads University).

7. Reports

a) Chair's Verbal Report

None.

b) Council Liaison Verbal Report

CRD has put out a strategy for the water system: comments welcomed. Scia'new were paying retail rate for water, while Metchosin was paying wholesale, but Scia'new are now paying wholesale rate also. Metchosin Biodiversity Project, Metchosin Foundation, and Bilston Watershed have partnered with UVic Environmental Law Centre to review Metchosin Bylaws. Climate Action Plan, Steve will bring materials to our next MEASC meeting.

8. Correspondence

None.

9. Other Business

None.

10. Adjournment and Next Meeting

Moved and Seconded by Erin and Anna that the Committee adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Carried

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 22, 2025 (Earth Day) at 7:00 p.m.

Parks and Trails Advisory Select Committee Meeting
March 18, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber
Metchosin Municipal Hall

Present: David Shanks (Chair), Jay Shukin (Council Liaison), Kathy Atherton, Caroline Donohue (recorder), Karen Hoffman, Jim Nan.

Regrets: Ron Aubrey

1. **Agenda, Additions, Approval**
   Approved, no additions

2. **Presentations**
   None

3. **Public Participation**
   Jeanette McMillian
   - Commented that she is disappointed in the active transportation plan survey, particularly the fact that other peoples' comments could be deleted and multiple responses submitted for the same individual using different IP addresses.

4. **Adoption of Minutes**
   a) Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee, February 18, 2025

   Carried.

5. **Receipt of Minutes**
   a) Environmental Advisory Select Committee, February 25, 2025
      - Jay: noted that Steve Gray is working on a biodiversity plan

   b) Committee of the Whole, February 10, 2025
      - Jay: A number of resolutions were brought forward regarding invasives, which raised questions regarding concerns over herbicide use. Jay volunteered to develop a policy on invasives on District land and roadways, which will include the use of herbicides. Will aim to bring this to the Committee of the Whole meeting in June.

   Moved by David to extend an invitation to Neil West from MISC to present on invasive management and to add an item to future PTASC meeting.

   Carried.

6. **Business Arising from the Minutes**
   a) Beckingham Subdivision
      - Kathy: Walkabout has not happened yet

   b) Blinkhorn Nature Park
      - Naming has been corrected on the website by staff – issue resolved

7. **Reports**

a) Parks & Trails Coordinator Verbal Report

- Bob is still considered the question of insurance re: Trail Stewards
- Jim cleared the two fallen trees in Metchosin Wilderness park and cleaned up graffiti
- Eleanor Mann and Montreul Heights identified as needing Broom pull.
- Kathy is working on a comprehensive list of all our parks, trails, and orphan land to be shared shortly.

b) Council Liaison Verbal Report

- Caroline Donohue has been appointed as Trails Coordinator. Announced at Council on March 17.
- No other committee appointments at this time – anyone interested in joining is welcome to express interest at any time.
- 2024 4th quarter financial report was issued yesterday. Discussion around surplus and where the additional funds came from. Jay noted the following:
  - Trails maintenance: $4,308 spent / $5,000 budgeted.
  - Trails development: $1,423 spent / $10,000 budgeted
- Budget discussions ongoing – aim is to finalize by mid-April

c) Chair Verbal Report

- None

8. **Correspondence**

- None

9. **Other Business**

a) Duke Road East Trail Update

- Meeting held with the DRE sub-committee and Engineer and CAO on Feb 18th
  - Survey reviewed and ideas discussed. Engineer identified similar challenges we were aware of and mentioned some potential solutions.
  - Engineer to provide a Phase 1 trail detailed design to the CAO
- Site visit on Feb 21st with Bob, Bruce (Westbrook Engineering) Ron, David and Harold Perepalkin.
  - Discussion centered on road narrowing to slow/calm traffic, bus stops, delineators, and potential crosswalk
  - Engineer indicated Phase 3 could be a lot easier/cheaper than initially anticipated by utilizing extra width of the existing paved surface. This would align and expand on the previously approved line painting approved by Council via Councilor Epp.

Moved by David that Jay be added to the Duke Road East sub-committee to replace departing member Ryan.

Carried.

b) Parks & Trails Master Plan Updates

- Finalizing ideas for the open house
- Will have information boards as well as large map for discussion

c) Discussion of Draft ATNP

- Concern regarding differing definitions of trail types – PTASC to provide Urban Systems with input on definitions
- PTASC continues to see DRE as a valid active transportation and public safety project. Also saw merit in projects within the village core (Metchosin Rd & Happy Valley, in particular, as well as Rocky Point trail (Arden to Hans Helgesen), and Metchosin Road trail (Colwood to DRE). Discussion occurred on the potential of developing a trail to the Galloping Goose from Hans Helgesen.
- Discussion on survey results – some concern over the survey methods and as a result how representative they are of community views.
- Jay will forward PTASC's detailed comments on to Council

10. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date

- Meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm and next meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2025.

DISTRICT OF METCHOSIN

SUBJECT:	**PUBLIC WORKS AND PARKS** **Significant Trees**	**SECTION:** **POLICY:** **COUNCIL:** **AMENDS:**	**W-100** **W-100.84** **October 24, 2016**

Objective

To provide a registry that identifies Significant Trees in Metchosin through the Significant Tree Inventory Schedule "A" of *District of Metchosin Tree Management Bylaw No. 287*. The Significant Tree Inventory provides a voluntary means for community members to identify trees on their property with either cultural or ecological significance. Council will determine, upon the advice of its advisory committees, which trees are included on the inventory.

Definition

Significant Trees are those trees that have been identified by their owners due to the trees' importance to the community for either ecological and/or cultural value, and that are included on the Inventory list (Schedule A of Bylaw No. 287) by Council.

Council will consider recommendations from the Heritage Advisory Select Committee and/or the Metchosin Environmental Advisory Select Committee with respect to the cultural significance and ecological significance of any tree for which an application has been submitted. Criteria considered by the advisory committees will include:

Ecological Significance:

- native species
- habitat for endangered and/or dependent species
- age of the tree (different species are considered 'old' at different times)
- genetic value
- ecological value

Examples may include (MEASC to provide examples)

Culturally Significance:

- culturally modified trees (bark-stripping or other associations with First Nations)
- historic value
- trees ssociated with individuals or places that have historical significance in the community
- Community landmarks

Examples may include trees that have been culturally-modified (bark stripping), trees were planted by Metchosin pioneers, (HASC to provide examples)

Policy

District staff will refer any Significant Tree Applications to MEASC or HASC to make recommendations regarding the inclusion or removal of a tree from the Inventory, with MEASC providing ecological expertise while HASC providing comments on the cultural values of the trees.

1. HASC will review applications with cultural significance and liaise with the property owner to identify the cultural significance of the tree and make a recommendation to Council regarding whether to include or remove the tree from the Significant Tree Inventory.

2. MEASC will review applications with ecological significance and liaise with the property owner to identify the ecological significance of the tree and make a recommendation to Council regarding whether to include or remove the tree from the Significant Tree Inventory.

3. Subsequent to review by HASC and/or MEASC, Council will review applications to add trees to the Inventory on an as-needed basis. If, in Council's opinion, requests occur too frequently, Council may choose to limit consideration of additions or deletions to the Inventory to once a year.

4. Once a tree is added to the Inventory in the bylaw, property owners will receive a tag identifying it as being a Significant Tree as determined by the District of Metchosin Tree Management Bylaw No. 287, which can be affixed to the tree.

5. The Significant Tree Inventory will be available on the District of Metchosin's website, including a description of the tree and its significance. Property owners can choose to include the location and photograph of their Significant Tree(s) for the benefit of interested community members.

TREE MANAGEMENT BYLAW NO. 287

SCHEDULE "A"

LEGAL DESCRIPTION	ADDRESS	SPECIES	COMMON NAME
Part of Sec. 2, East of Metchosin Rd., & South of Plan 1184	4609 William Head Road -*Ben Acre*	Fraxinus americana Juniperus scopulorum Populus trichocarpa Ulmus procera	North American White Ash Rocky Mountain Juniper Black Cottonwood English Elm
Pcl. C, Sec. 40 & 41, Met. Dist.	5447 Rocky Point Road - *Glenrosa*	Acer macrophyllum Ilex aquifolium Juglans regia	Bigleaf Maple English Holly English Walnut
Pcl. C, Sec. 1, Met. Dist., Plan 197R	4360 Metchosin Road - *St. Mary's Church*	Chamaecyparis lawsoniana Pend. Quercus robur	Lawson's Weeping Cypress English Oak
Lot 1, Sec. 32 & 33, Met. Dist., Plan 9963	5041 William Head Road	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir
Lot 1, Sec. 1, Met. Dist., Plan 17824	4290 Metchosin Road - *'Chosin Pottery*	Carpinus betulus	European Hornebeam
Lot 3, Sec. 1, Met. Dist., Plan 13156	4283 Metchosin Road	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir
Lot 5, Sec. 26, Met. Dist., Plan 23020	592 Gemini Drive	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir

LEGAL DESCRIPTION	ADDRESS	SPECIES	COMMON NAME
Lot 4, Sec. 42, Met. Dist. Plan 26149	1045 Matheson Lake Road	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir (2 trees)
Lot D, Sec. 6, Met. Dist., Plan 37852	709 Pears Road - *Deerleap*	Araucaria araucana Cornus nuttallii Juniperus scopulorum Pseudotsuga menziesii Quercus garryana Thuja plicata	Monkey Puzzle Tree Pacific Dogwood Rocky Mountain Juniper Douglas Fir Garry Oak Western Red Cedar
Lot 1, Sec. 1, Met. Dist., Plan 41421	4268 Metchosin Road - Part of *Witty Farm*	Quercus garryana	Garry Oak (9 trees)
Lot 2, Sec. 1, Met. Dist., Plan 41421	4276 Metchosin Road - Part of *Witty Farm*	Quercus garryana	Garry Oak (6 trees)
Not available	DND, Mary Hill - off William Head Rd.	Acer macrophyllum Arbutus menziesii Pseudotsuga menziesii Quercus garryana	Bigleaf Maple Arbutus Douglas Fir Garry Oak
Not applicable	Lombard Drive	Populus nigra italica	Lombardy Poplar (46 trees)

Priority Action Items	Climate Action Plan 2025	STATUS as of April 2025
All	CRD GHG Inventory by Sector data (all the available reports from 2020 to 2028)	See CRD 2022 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Report
1.0	**Land Use, Agriculture and Waste**	
1.1 a)	Investigate and report to Council on development of land-use conservation and enhancement targets.	Council's Strategic Plan targets agricultural land, forest canopy, riparian and shoreline areas for conservation. Contribute to 30 by 30 targets when making land use decisions. Tax exemptions policy under review wrt targetted incentives for conservation. Investigating a new zoning designation: Conservation Zone P4 for the buffer lands and other parcels as identified. 2025 CRD Biodiversity Bylaw; MEASC consultation on draft Biodiversity and Natural Assets Plan outline underway.
1.1 b)	Engage with partners to solicit external funding for new habitat protection and restoration projects	District supported Sc'ianew Nation on Mary Hill Tribal Park initiative with partners including HAT and Pearson College. Engaging with Metchosin Foundation, BC Parks Foundation and HAT. Invasive management priorities include American Bullfrog, feral rabbits and Canada Goose. Habitat stewardship with CRISP and CRD, BWHPA, MISC and Moralea's Meadow volunteers.
1.1 c)	Leverage land acquisition funding to buy and convert additional District lands into designated protected areas.	Consider a regional or municipal land conservation funding levy?
1.2 a)	Develop Agricultural Plan - climate resilience, enhanced biodiversity and low carbon agriculture	Agricultural Plan adopted with implementation now underway.
	Additional opportunities:	
1.0	*Lobby senior and regional governments for improved land protection and ecological preservation.*	2023 UBCM Resolutions - anchorages, biodiversity and old growth forests; 2024 UBCM Meetings with Provincial Ministers - old growth forests, groundwater protection and monitoring and, reducing seabed damage from anchorages 2024 Endorsed Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty 2024 Letter to Premier Eby re: local area protection fund and biodiversity law; Letter to Premier Eby to establish and support local conservation funds 2025 AVICC Canada Goose cull and BC Coastal Marine Strategy legislation

Priority Action Items	Climate Action Plan 2025	STATUS as of April 2025
1.0	*Investigate opportunities to encourage wetland and riparian restoration.*	Providing financial support to BWHPA for water quality monitoring, clean-up and signage. Support Canada Goose management efforts. Staff report pending on a riparian area protection bylaw.
1.0	*Support partner efforts to enhance agricultural land preservation.*	Agricultural Plan implementation underway. Pending staff report on ALC compliant siting for buildings and size restrictions
1.0	*Continue support for invasive species management.*	Endorsed work of MISC. Supported Moralea's Meadow volunteer group in grant application. Collaborate with CRD on invasives removal. Bullfrog and rabbit management continues.
1.0	*Investigate the development of a municipal compost yard.*	
1.0	*Investigate the development of a waste gasification facility for the District.*	Participating in CRD Board decision-making on regional facility
1.0	*Investigate the development of recycling services.*	Community House (MCA) metal bin, ReImagine Westshore promotional efforts
1.0	*Push for recognition of carbon sequestration in CRD emissions inventory assessments.*	Requested in 2023 through CRD Climate Action Inter-Municipal Task Force
2.0	**Risk Reduction from the Impacts of Climate Change**	
2.1 a)	Complete extreme heat assessment and mapping	Completed by Fire Department
2.1 b)	Develop a shoreline protection plan to address sea level rise.	MEASC to review previous plan 2) Promoted Greenshores training 3) working with Sc'ianew and WCMRC to identify spill response GRS's 4) Responses to TMX EAO consultation requests 5) Correspondence with Province on tanker traffic regulation in hostile env. conditions
2.1 c)	Investigate and apply for funding to conduct a localized climate hazard and vulnerability assessment.	Fire Department - Climate Hazard study
2.2 a)	Integrate climate change into District asset management planning and policy development.	Asset management plan included in 2024 budget. "Natural" asset management plan under discussion
2.3 a)	Investigate and report to Council on opportunities to enhance groundwater protection and conservation (e.g., via increase rainwater harvesting, efficient irrigation, xeriscaping).	1) Staff are reviewing regulatory avenues re: well proofing 2) Three communitiy water workshops completed by April 2024 3) 2024 AVICC Resolution on aquifer monitoring 4) Ongoing approval process for Buffer Land detention pond 5) Council petitioned the Province to add observation wells to Aquifer 606 6) 2025 Partner with CRD for local bulk water fill station.
2.0	Additional opportunities:	

Priority Action Items	Climate Action Plan 2025	STATUS as of April 2025
2.0	*Investigate opportunities to use natural asset management tools and approaches to manage climate impacts.*	2024 budget incl. asset management planning; 2025 MEASC consultation on draft Biodiversity and Natural Asset Plan is underway
2.0	*Investigate building, plumbing code changes to permit outdoor greywater reuse.*	Provincial code
2.0	*Adoption of ZCSC Level 4 for all new builds*	Building bylaw amendments adopted

Priority Action Items	Climate Action Plan 2025	STATUS as of April 2025
3.0	**Buildings**	
3.1a)	Continue to share information and promote participation in the CRD's regional home retrofit and fuel switching program.	District website news item; CRD circular included in mailout with tax notice
3.2 a)	Encourage residents to undertake home energy audits	Ditto
3.2 b)	Encourage residents to undertake *Firesmart* Home Ignition Zone assessments.	Fire Dept Firesmart Program underway
3.2 c)	Develop a 'sustainability checklist' to for retrofits and re-developments	Are these available on the web? BC Hydro?
3.2 d)	Investigate cost/benefit of solar panels onproposed new firehall.	To be Included in feasibility study
3.0	Additional opportunities:	
3.0	*Advocate at CRD for enhanced recognition of carbon sequestration in greenhouse gas inventory.*	Requested in 2023 through CRD Climate Action Inter-Municipal Task Force
3.0	*Consider accelerated STEP code adoption at District level.*	Building bylaw amendments pending
3.0	*Promote voluntary adoption of Steps 4 and 5 of the BC Energy step code for private development.*	Check with staff?
3.0	*Investigate local implementation of property assessed clean energy (PACE) program.*	
4.0	**Transportation**	
4.1 a)	Investigate and report to Council on options to develop an active transportation plan for the District.	Active Transportation Network Plan pending. PTASC working on Parks and Trails Master Plan.
4.2 a)	Establish partnerships to repair and maintain existing public EV charging stations.	Two existing EV chargers in the Village Core will be replaced under a federal climate action program.
4.0	Additional opportunities:	
4.0	*Continue to lobby BC transit to further improve transit scheduling and bike-to-transit connectivity and advocate for BC Transit to accelerate implementation of on-demand transit service for Metchosin.*	Representation at Victoria Regional Transit Commission. Supported no fee and lower fee transit for youth. Westshore rapid bus is becoming a reality.
4.0	*Identify and apply for external funds to purchase and install additional public EV charging stations.*	
4.0	*Explore opportunities to support local businesses to install electric charging infrastructure.*	
4.0	*Require 220v EV charge connections - new builds + retrofits.*	Building bylaw amendments adopted
5.0	**Community Engagement**	
5.1	Encourage a community-led climate change and sustainability lecture series.	Supporting ReImagine Westshore and promoting ReGeneration community events.
5.0	Additional opportunities:	

Priority Action Items	Climate Action Plan 2025	STATUS as of April 2025
5.0	*Engage with partners to identify and solicit external funding for new habitat protection and restoration projects*	District supported Sc'ianew Nation on Mary Hill Tribal Park consideration with partners including HAT and Pearson College. District engaged with Metchosin Foundation and BC Parks Foundation on conservation corridor initiatives.