DISTRICT OF METCHOSIN

AGENDA

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING
November 24, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers
Metchosin Municipal Hall

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1. Agenda, Additions, Approval

2. Presentations

3. Public Participation

4. Adoption of Minutes
a) Metchosin Environmental Advisory Select Committee, June 23, 2026 1

5. Receipt of Minutes
a) Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee, June 16, 2026 5
b) Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee, August 26, 2026 9

6. Business Arising from the Minutes
a) Metchosin Day Update
b) Shoreline Brochure Updates
c) OCP Sensitive Ecosystem Mapping Requirements Update

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

8. Correspondence

9. Other Business
a) Chek News Article: Saanich Councillor Proposes Motion to Adopt Tree Rights for Future Developments 13
b) The Myth of the Oil Spill Clean-Up _ Race Rocks Ecological Reserve- 15

10. Adjournment and Next Meeting

District of Metchosin

Minutes
Environmental Advisory Select Committee Meeting
Tuesday, June 23, 2026, at 7:00 P.M.
Council Chamber
Metchosin Municipal Hall

Present: Bill Cave, Garry Fletcher (Chair), Councillor Steve Gray, Merrilee Hoen, Andy MacKinnon (Recorder), Ric Perron

Regrets: Anna Hall, Erin Van de Water

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

1. **Agenda, Additions and Approval**

   Moved and Seconded by Ric Perron and Steve Gray
   THAT the Committee approve the agenda.

   Carried

2. **Presentations**

- None

3. **Public Participation**

- None

4. **Adoption of Minutes**

   Moved and Seconded by Andy MacKinnon and Merrilee Hoen
   THAT the Committee approve the minutes of the Environmental Advisory Select Committee meeting held on Tuesday, May 26, 2026.

   Carried

5. **Receipt of Minutes**

   Moved and Seconded by Steve Gray and Bill Cave
   THAT the Committee receive the Minutes of the Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee meeting held on Wednesday, May 19, 2026.

   Carried

6. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

   a) **Metchosin Day**
   - Use of larger tent;
   - Location; next to the Metchosin Biodiversity Project and Dark Skies;
   - Bring awareness for Biodiversity and Natural Assets Open House (e.g., make posters)
   - Display map on the table where people can identify species and ecosystems that are important to them (e.g. Garry Oak meadows) on their properties.
   - Sub-committee to organize for Metchosin Day: Ric Perron, Steve Gray, Merilee Hoen and Erin Van de Water.

   b) **Shoreline Brochure Updates**
   - Old brochure to be circulated for Committee review.

   c) **OCP Sensitive Ecosystem Mapping Requirements**
   - The Climate Adaptation group made a presentation to Council that was similar to the presentation they made to MEASC.
   - Steve Gray and Andy McKinnon will meet with the District Planning Consultant to discuss municipal map needs.

   d) **MEASC Membership**
   - Bill Cave's last MEASC meeting. Bill is a long-time MEASC member, and a Metchosin 'Friend of the Earth' award-winner. All MEASC members expressed thanks and admiration for all that Bill has contributed to our community and to this Advisory Committee.

   Moved and Seconded by Merrilee Hoen and Ric Perron
   THAT Councillor Gray initiate the process of advertising for a replacement MEASC member.
   Carried

7. **Reports**
   a) **Chair's Verbal Report**
   - None

   b) **Council Liaison Verbal Report**
   - MEASC's recommendation regarding invasive species control and habitat restoration efforts on District parks and properties was endorsed by Council on June 22.
   - Council intends to hold a workshop to reconsider joining the Sue Big Oil campaign, and to discuss Metchosin's Climate Action Plan and Council's strategic priorities

8. **Correspondence**
   a) **Sloan Slink, Published Work: Effects of Invasive English Holly on Soil.**
   - Report received, with thanks.

9. **Other Business**
    a) **2026 Climate Plan Update**
        - Draft was provided to Council.
        - Page 4 was missing, will be circulated. it.
        - Committee members to review and comment.

10. **Adjournment and Next Meeting Date**

- The next MEASC meeting will take place September 22, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

DISTRICT OF METCHOSIN

AGENDA

Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee Meeting
Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.
Council Chambers
Metchosin Municipal Hall

Present: David Shanks (Chair), Jay Shukin (Council Liaison, Recorder), Ron Aubrey, Ian Baxter, Caroline Donohue, Emma Horgan

Regrets: Kathy Atherton, Chris Thibodeau

Meeting called to order at 6:04 p.m.

1. **Agenda, Additions, Approval**
   - The June 16, 2026, PTASC Agenda, with the addition of Item 9. b) Metchosin Day, was approved by consensus.

2. **Presentations**
   - None.

3. **Public Participation**
   - Jim Nan, as the Blinkhorn Trail Steward, addressed the Committee with an update on Blinkhorn trail, including information on:
     - Graffiti and signage;
     - Entry point use and maintenance from Lindholm Drive; and
     - Metchosin Invasive Species Collective (MISC) removal of European Ash, Herb Robert (Stinky Bob) and English Bluebells from the park.

4. **Adoption of Minutes**
   - The May 19, 2026, Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee Meeting minutes were adopted.

5. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

   a) **Trail Visit Update and Next Appointments**
   - Emma Horgan - Montreal Heights:
     - Trail entry is not clearly marked, and the trail route is not clear on the upper portion;
     - Possibility of trail sign relocation to outside of the gate before the private road.
   - Ian Baxter - Village Core trail and Sea Bluff Trail:
     - No issues.
   - Caroline Donohue - Libra Trails:
     - Broom.
   - Jay Shukin – Chapel Heights:
     - No issues.
   - Jay Shukin - Bob Mountain and Wayne's Rock:
     - Some overgrowth.
   - Future Trail Assignments: PTASC members will send in their goals for future walks ASAP.

b) Beckingham Trail, Galloping Goose Regional Trail Connector

- Work party to clear and demarcate the trail for Galloping Goose (GGRT) connection. **Action: Jay Shukin to schedule and discuss with CAO.**
- Monitor in wet season.

c) Hillman Trail Clean-up

a) Completed by Westmount School volunteers on June 2nd.
b) The CAO met the volunteers on site to provide an orientation, and a sign-in sheet was used.
c) Trail needs to be graveled in sections to address mud and wet. **Action**: develop a brief plan to share with CAO.

6. Parks & Trails Master Plan Update

- No update.

7. Reports

a) Parks & Trails Coordinator Verbal Report

- Corresponding with public interested in a memorial bench; the Village area or Duke Road could be options.
- Local Scout troops have offered to place bat boxes at Buckbrush Swamp with CAO approval.

b) Council Liaison Verbal Report

b) Buffer Land Park Dedication Bylaw to be adopted by Council.
c) A future 'workshop' session on climate change and environment has been discussed.

c) Chair Verbal Report

d) Meeting with a MISC member to discuss on-going work at Blinkhorn, particularly around European Ash, Bluebells, and Stinky Bob.
e) Duke Road South subdivision update.
f) Recruitment for Trail Steward Program: Muse, Metchosin Day, Fire Hall sign
g) Map updates for Parks and Trails Master Plan.

d) Buffer Land Report

h) Creating a five-year plan;
i) Table at Metchosin Day;
j) Royal Roads student research has begun;
k) Water level monitoring stations on Metchosin and Bilston; and
l) Clarification desired on Buffer Reserve Fund

8. Correspondence

- None.

9. Other Business

a) Park Bench Inventory

- Provided to PTASC for information.
- Suggestion that this be posted on the PTASC page on the District's webpage.
- Inventory needs to be updated with the recently installed Hillman Trail bench (April 2026).

b) Metchosin Day

- Presentation materials to bring
  - Info on the Trail Stewards program;
  - Maps and trails information (including the Big Map);
  - Contact sheets;
  - Giveaways;
- Update Big Map and bigger print version of the map book.
- Contact the M-Day organizers to confirm. (completed).

10. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date

- Next meeting date August 18, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

DISTRICT OF METCHOSIN

MINUTES

PARKS & TRAILS ADVISORY SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, August 26, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.
Council Chambers
Metchosin Municipal Hall

Present: David Shanks (Chair), Jay Shukin (Council Liaison), Ron Aubrey, Ian Baxter, Emma Horgan, Chris Thibideau

Regrets: Kathy Atherton, Caroline Donohue

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

1. **Agenda, Additions, Approval**
   - Approved by consensus

2. **Presentations**
   - **Buffer Land Signage and Trail Stewards**
     Richard Simpson presented on behalf of Friends of the Buffer Land (FoBL) regarding two matters: signage and the Trail Stewards Program:
     - The Buffer land lacks formal signage to inform, address risk, and promote ecological restoration; and
     - Trail Stewards for the Buffer Land could help manage risks.

Committee Clarification:
- Commercial dog walkers in the Buffer Land;
- Creek crossings and signage.
- Buffer Land sign recommendations for PTASC, the Trails Coordinator and staff to be brought forward at future Committee meeting.

Moved by David Shanks
That David Shanks, Ian Baxter and Caroline Donahue form a Trail Steward Sub-Committee to coordinate interest regarding the Buffer Land and other parks that may come through PTASC's booth at Metchosin Day.

Carried

3. **Public Participation**
   - None.

4. **Adoption of Minutes**
   - **Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee, June 16, 2026**
     - Approved by consensus.

5. **Business Arising from the Minutes**
   - **Trail Visit Update and Next Appointments**
     - Updates:
       - David Shanks, La Bonne Connector: No issues;
       - Ian Baxter, Blinkhorn: No issues;
       - Chris Thibideau, Lusse Way and Lissandra Trail: Some drainage issues/moist areas; some impact from horse travel. Trail sign should be fixed; and
       - Emma Horgan, Hillman Trail and Chapel Heights: No issues.
     - Next Appointments assignments:
       - Jay Shukin - Deer Park entry to Eleanor Mann;
       - Ron Aubrey and David Shanks - Latoria Creek Bridge; and
       - Ian Baxter - Buckbrush Swamp.

   - **Parks & Trails Master Plan Update**
     - The Committee reviewed changes and discussed:
       - Commercial dog walking.

   - **Metchosin Day**
     - The Committee discussed and appointed tasks for the PTASC table.

   - **Hillman Trail**
     - The Committee discussed the following issues:
       - Low spots which should be graveled; and
       - Gravel supply.

6. **Reports**
   - **Parks & Trails Coordinator Verbal Report**
     - None

   - **Council Liaison Verbal Report**
     - CAO request for feedback on park closures due to wildfire risks.
     - Committee meetings on hold until new Council term in October 2026.

     Committee Discussion:
     - Do not agree with closing parks

   - **Chair Verbal Report**
     - Beckingham Trail work in progress to connect with the Galloping Goose Trail.

- **Buffer Land Report**
    - FoBL draft five-year plan update;
    - Royal Roads student research on plant composition within the Buffer Land;
    - Biologist recommendation to explore artificial regeneration; and
    - Metchosin Day.

    Moved by Ian Baxter:
    THAT David Shanks, Ian Baxter and Jay Shukin form a sub-committee to liaise with the CAO and Friends of the Buffer Land.

    Carried

7. Correspondence

- None.

8. Other Business

- None.

9. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date

The meeting was adjourned and next meeting to be called by the Chair.

Chek News
July 20, 2026

Saanich councillor proposes motion to adopt tree rights for future developments

A motion to be introduced into Saanich's council meeting proposes that the municipality adopt the Universal Declaration of the Rights of the Tree.

The declaration recognizes trees as having ecological, cultural, and community value, and that they have the right to natural growth, life, and regeneration. If the motion is adopted, Saanich would view trees as living beings worthy of protection in their own right.

Saanich Coun. Nathalie Chambers says implementing the declaration into municipal bylaws and planning supports sustainable development. The proposal asks that viewing trees as living beings may shape future stewardship, policy and planning in Saanich.

"The declaration of the tree will only help those conversations. What we want to do is expand our understanding of land use. The highest and best use for ecosystems is not just real estate," she stated.

One of the primary reasons for the motion is Bill 44, passed in 2024, which requires B.C. municipalities to increase housing density by allowing three to four units on lots previously zoned for single-family homes or duplexes.

"Bill 44 is making tree protection really difficult," said Chambers.

Matthew Nefstead, a staff lawyer with West Coast Environmental Law, says that the declaration would inform the types of analysis undertaken when deciding whether to approve a new development in the district.

"[The declaration] would make sure those cultural and ecological values are taken into account in deciding what outcome is best for the community."

Chambers adds that the declaration also mandates the Environment Committee to establish

"specific targets and innovative measures aimed at the progressive implementation of this commitment, in a spirit of sustainable development and inter-municipal collaboration."

If the motion passes, Saanich would be the second municipality in Canada to adopt the declaration, behind Terrasse-Vaudreuil in Quebec, which recognized the resolution on June 9.

The Myth of the Oil Spill Clean-Up

Posted on **Thursday,November 12, 2026** by **Garry Fletcher**

The Myth of the Oil Spill Clean-Up: Why Our Winds Leave Us Defenseless Nearly Half the Year

By Shamseddin Alsesheikh and Garry Fletcher, with research assistance by Gemini AI

Given the new political push to increase tanker traffic past Race Rocks in may be appropriate to visit an inconvenient truth.

As oil tankers carrying heavy crude transit the narrow corridor of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, coastal communities along southern Vancouver Island are routinely assured that a **"world-class"** marine spill response regime stands ready to protect our shores. With the Trans Mountain expansion elevating tanker traffic to as many as 34 vessels per month, these assurances form the foundation of public safety promises.

However, five years of meteorological data from Environment and Climate Change Canada's weather station at Race Rocks reveal **a major flaw in this safety net:** the mechanical equipment meant to contain and skim spilled oil is rendered **unusable nearly half the time.**

Under Transport Canada's TP 14909 Environmental Response Standards, standard mechanical recovery equipment—such as oil containment booms and floating skimmers—loses effectiveness when sustained winds reach 28 km/h (15 knots). Beyond this threshold, wind-driven waves shear oil underneath containment skirts, splash slicks over barriers, and create dangerous working conditions for small response vessels.

An analysis of hourly climate records from 2021 through 2025 demonstrates that **wind speeds at Race Rocks reached or exceeded 28 km/h for 43.1% of all recorded hours across the five-year period.**

Far from being an occasional winter storm issue, this operational blackout is actually most severe during the summer. Driven by intense thermal pressure gradients between the hot interior and the cool ocean, gap winds funneling through the Strait cause cleanup equipment to be inoperable for an astonishing 79.1% of all hours in July.

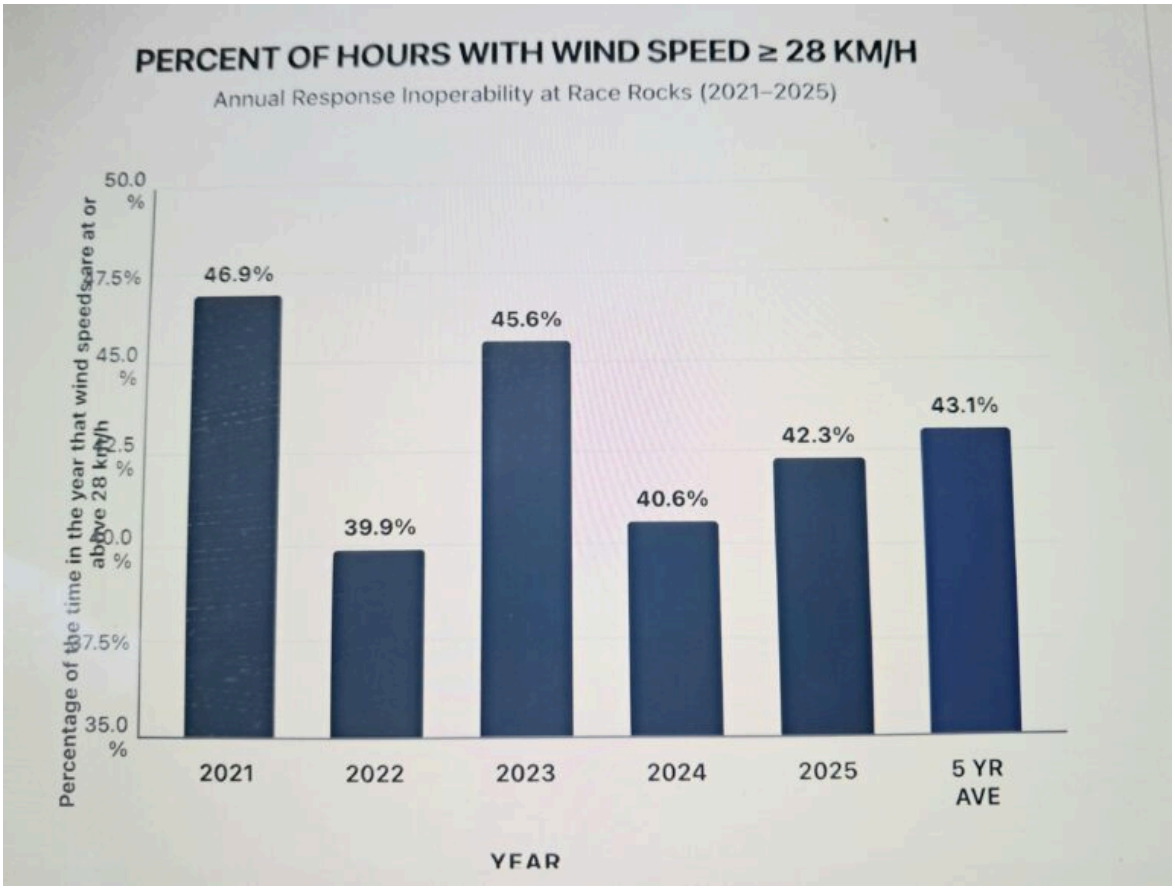
ANNUAL RESPONSE INOPERABILITY AT RACE ROCKS (2021–2025)

(Source: Environment and Climate Change Canada, Race Rocks Station 10943, 2021–2025)

When mechanical containment fails, surface oil spreads rapidly with wind and tidal currents, threatening ecological reserves, migratory bird habitats, kelp forests, and endangered marine life like the Southern Resident killer whales.

If cleaning up an oil spill on the water is physically **unfeasible 43% of the year—and nearly 80% of the time in mid-summer**—policy makers cannot rely on post-spill skimming as a primary line of defense. Transport Canada and the Pacific Pilotage Authority must prioritize strict preventive measures. This includes establishing mandatory transit pauses for laden tankers during high-wind events and enforcing high-capacity tethered escort tug requirements along the entire transit corridor.

We cannot control the weather in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, but regulators can—and must—control when and how crude oil tankers navigate it.



This entry was posted in **ER Warden Report**, **oil spill**, **Oil Spill Risk** and tagged **oilspill** by **Garry Fletcher**. Bookmark the **permalink [https://racerocks.ca/the-myth-of-the-oil-spill-clean-up/]** .