

District of Metchosin

Minutes

**Environmental Advisory Select Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.**

Council Chamber

Metchosin Municipal Hall

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**Present:** Councillor Steve Gray, Andy MacKinnon, Bill Cave, Merrilee Hoen, Ric Perron (chair), Anna Hall (by phone), Erin Van de Water (recorder)

**Regrets:** Garry Fletcher

**Guests:** Councillor Jay Shukin, Fire Chief Stephanie Dunlop

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

**1. Agenda, Additions and Approval**

**Moved and Seconded** by Andy and Bill that the Committee approve the agenda as presented.

**Carried**

**2. Presentations**

**a)** Councillor Shukin gave an overview of the origins and current status of stormwater management planning in the Buffer Lands. The buffer lands are owned by the District and there is a covenant on title allowing for the construction of one or more stormwater detention ponds by the developers of land in Langford. Metchosin's prior written consent for the size, design, and location of the detention ponds is required prior to construction and installation. Current status is that Council has asked staff to draft a policy to refer any new major stormwater management works to MEASC and P&TASC for input in the decision-making process. It is suggested that this proposed policy include what Council would be looking for in major stormwater management plans, such as minimizing tree-cutting and increasing permeable surfaces.

Questions:

- 1) Post-construction monitoring for water quality and flows - is there a plan?
- 2) Who is responsible for maintenance and monitoring? Will it be a strata development or will Langford be maintaining roads, stormwater works, etc?
- 3) Would it be possible to draft a letter from the District to developers with the intention of collaborating on a stormwater management plan that Metchosin would approve of?

**b)** Chief Dunlop gave a presentation on Shoreline Spill Response within Metchosin. Back in 2015, Chief Dunlop submitted a "Marine Shoreline, Inland Water and Land-Based Spill Response Plan" to Council but it didn't go anywhere. The fire chief has also reached out to WCMRC for potential training opportunities, exercises, or workshops the firefighters or volunteers could take part in to improve response time, but to date none have occurred. There are concerns over response time (WCMRC could take up to 72hrs to respond to a spill) and the possible dire consequences to both humans and marine animals along Metchosin's coastline without a rapid response.

**3. Public Participation**

**4. Adoption of Minutes**

**Moved and Seconded** by Ric and Erin that the Committee approve the minutes of the Environmental Advisory Select Committee meeting held on January 24, 2023.

**Carried**

**5. Review of Minutes**

**a) Council and Standing Committee Minutes**

**Moved and Seconded** by Steve and Andy that the Committee receive the Council and Standing Committee Minutes for information.

**Carried**

**b) Advisory Committee Minutes**

**Moved and Seconded** by Steve and Andy that the Committee receive the Advisory Committee Minutes for information.

**Carried**

**6. Business Arising from the Minutes**

**a) Trans Mountain Fate and Behaviour of Bitumen Research Response Letter**  
MEASC Draft Response Letter – discussion around who the author would be (Garry, MEASC or Council) and potential revisions.

**Moved and Seconded** by Andy and Ric that the Committee suggest moving this item to the MEASC agenda for March when Garry will be back.

**Carried**

**b) AVICC Anchorage**

Councillor Gray provided an update on Council's endorsement of the resolution on Reducing Anchorages Outside the Port of Vancouver. MEASC thanked resident Alison Leduc for her excellent work and Councillor Gray for his efforts in bringing this motion forward.

**c) Buffer Lands Stormwater Management Planning, Councillor Shukin**

MEASC provided input on how to help move forward developing a stormwater management policy for Metchosin.

**7. New Business**

**a) Coastal Marine Strategies, BC Gov't Intentions Paper**

Called for input from local governments. MEASC recommends that Council provide input on the three issues already reviewed: anchorages, oil-spill response, and the Trans Mountain report on their research on the fate and behavior of bitumen.

**Moved and Seconded** by Andy and Ric that the Committee recommend that Council provide input to the Provincial Government's Coastal Marine Strategies, as per their invitation for input.

**Carried**

**b) Shoreline Spill Response within Metchosin (with Chief Dunlop)**

Discussion around moving marine animals away from the spill area (hazing), toxicity of diluted bitumen, and risks to human and animal health. Questions about communication – how do we know there has been a spill in order to respond quickly? Currently there is no notification or alert system. Can the district purchase booms, pads, and socks to start a stockpile for use by firefighters and/or trained volunteers? How can we help and work with WCMRC? The following questions were raised for consideration at the upcoming workshop with WCMRC:

- What locations does WCMRC consider most important to protect along Metchosin's shoreline?
- What response actions would be appropriate for Metchosin to consider for those areas and any areas not designated as priority by WCMRC? Will WCMRC provide financial and other support for this work?
- How and when will the local community be notified of a spill?
- What human health dangers should be anticipated pursuant to a diluted bitumen spill? How does this affect planning and timing of WCMRC and local resident response?
- What specific planning is in place for addressing health of marine mammals in the event of a spill (e.g. hazing, treatment of affected mammals)?
- How might Metchosin residents and our Fire Department assist with spill response?
- Would WCMRC provide Metchosin with shore booms/socks to limit damage to the shoreline?
- How does WCMRC intend to work with other local communities in responding to a spill?

**Action Item:** Ric to circulate spill response documents from Chief Dunlop.

**c) MEASC Report for 2022 District of Metchosin Annual Report**

**Action Item:** Ric to compile and circulate annual report to MEASC members for review prior to the next meeting.

**d) Ecosystem Protection Bylaw**

Due to the late hour, this item was deferred to the next meeting.

**8. Reports**

None.

**9. Correspondence**

None.

**10. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date**

**Moved and Seconded** by Andy and Steve that the Committee adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

**Carried**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.