

DISTRICT OF METCHOSIN
Minutes

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at 7:00 pm
COUNCIL CHAMBER, MUNICIPAL HALL

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

Regrets: None

Guests: Nicole Shukin (Friends of the Metchosin Buffer Land), Alison LeDuc (Bilston Watershed Habitat Protection Association)

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm

1. **Agenda, Additions and Approval**

Moved and seconded by Andy and Erin that the Committee approve the agenda with the additions of a Councilor's Update and the discussion of a committee chair replacement.

Carried

2. **Presentations:**

Nicole Shukin gave a presentation titled "Green Infrastructure" where she outlined a proposal for a Swale and Trail system for the buffer lands to handle stormwater from the Centre Mountain development site. The proposal is to have a swale in tandem with a trail along a two kilometer section of the Metchosin Langford border. The swale would provide bio-filtration for the stormwater and the trail would help keep people from wandering through the buffer land. The trail could be connected to the Galloping Goose to become part of the regional trail system. Andy commented that a swale would not necessarily provide any better water management than the forest that is already there and did not recommend altering the forest for this purpose. Management would be needed on the Langford side and that is unlikely without developer cooperation. The Bilston Watershed Habitat Protection Association and Friends of the Metchosin Buffer Land are planning where to next make the presentation. Meeting with the developer is a possibility.

3. **Public Participation:** None.

4. **Adoption of Minutes**

Moved and Seconded by Andy and Steve that the minutes of the Metchosin Environmental Advisory Select Committee meeting held on February 28, 2023 be approved.

Carried

5. **Receipt of Minutes**

Council & Standing Committee Minutes

Moved and Seconded by Steve and Bill that the Committee receive the Council & Standing Committee Minutes for information.

Carried

Advisory Committee Minutes

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

Carried

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) Councillor's Update

The climate change survey designed by Pinna was available on the Metchosin municipal website from March 3rd to 23rd. The results are now being compiled. The purpose of the survey was to gauge the community's feelings about climate change, what they care about and what they would be willing to do. Merrilee and Andy will assist Steve in providing direction on this project.

Invasive species: rabbits. The District is engaging a contractor to remove rabbits from the downtown core. Steve noted that bullfrog control is an on-going budget item. CRD Parks is providing training on archaeology awareness for volunteers engaged in invasive plant removal in various locations within Metchosin.

Budget: The shoreline plan has been moved to next year's budget. This is noted as a future issue for consideration by MEASC. Some funding for a hydrologist to assist the buffer land detention pond work has been added to the budget.

The MEASC annual report prepared by Ric is now in the hands of staff for incorporation into the overall District annual report.

b) Draft Response to Trans Mountain Letter

Garry has prepared a draft letter to inform the BC Environment Assessment Office (EAO) about our concerns with TransMountain's response to the Mayor's letter on EAO Condition 35.

Moved and Seconded by Andy and Ric that Steve and Garry will revise the letter further and forward it to Council with a recommendation that Council send the letter to the EAO.

Carried

c) Buffer Lands Stormwater Management Planning

Steve has recommended the following points for inclusion in any policy that Council may adopt concerning major stormwater management projects:

1. minimize removal of trees
2. minimize destruction of environmentally sensitive features
3. maximum absorption of water into the ground
4. control volume so that post development flow is no greater than pre-development flow
5. measures to reduce turbidity and minimize contaminants
6. other environmental concerns identified by MEASC

d) Coastal Marine Strategies, BC Gov't Intentions Paper

The Environment Standing Committee reviewed a draft response and supporting documents prepared by staff and directed that it be rewritten so the cover letter highlights concerns and priorities identified in the supporting documents: Members of MEASC were encouraged to send

their own letters. One criticism is that the Intentions Paper doesn't address the effects of land based activities on the oceans.

e) Shoreline Spill Response within Metchosin

MEASC will meet with Metchosin Fire Chief Stephanie Dunlop and Michael Campbell, who works with WCMRC at Beecher Bay in the Council Chambers on April 5, 2023 at 7:00pm to discuss the local Metchosin Spill Response.

7. New Business:

a) MEASC Liaison Member on the Buffer Land Working Group

Erin, Anna and Andy expressed interest but it will depend on the number of meetings and the night of the week as to who will be able to attend.

b) Committee Chair

Garry Fletcher will assume the position of Chair starting May 1, 2023 to replace Ric Perron who will be away for an extended period.

8. Reports: none

9. Correspondence: none

10. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date

Moved and Seconded by Rick and Erin that the Committee adjourn the meeting at 9:05 pm.

Carried

Next meeting date: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 7:00pm, Council Chambers