

District of Metchosin

Minutes

Environmental Advisory Select Committee

Wednesday, April 5, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.

Council Chambers

Metchosin Municipal Hall

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

Regrets: Erin Van de Water

Guests: Members of the Spill Response Team from Beecher Bay (Clarence Campbell, Michael Campbell, Tavion Charles, Tim Charles) and 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 Ric that the Committee approve the agenda as presented.

Carried

2. Public Participation

3. Reports

a) Metchosin Spill Response

- Chief Dunlop and Michael Campbell

Most of the meeting was occupied with discussing two topics: improving representation of Western Canada Marine Response Corporation (WCMRC)'s Geographic Response Strategies (GRS's) in Scia'new Territory and in Metchosin; and the importance of developing on-shore spill response plans for the two communities.

b) Improving representation of WCMRC's GRS's in Scia'new Territory and in Metchosin

For improving representation of WCMRC's GRS's in Scia'new Territory and in Metchosin:

- Both Beecher Bay and Metchosin believe that currently identified GRS's in their communities are inadequate, and don't represent all of the important locations that must be protected in the event of a spill.
- Beecher Bay (Michael Campbell, lead) is working on identifying the additional GRS's that they feel WCMRC must add to their strategic plans. They're looking at these for Scia'new Territory, and beyond (areas where a spill might impact Scia'new Territory).

- District of Metchosin is scheduling a workshop with WCMRC (Michael Lowry) and MEASC members (Garry Fletcher, Anna Hall, Andy MacKinnon) to do the same.
- As Beecher Bay and Metchosin are both working on identifying additional GRS's for WCMRC, and as Scia's new Territory overlaps almost completely with Metchosin's shoreline (they're considering areas as far as Albert Head), we should identify opportunities to work together.
- As Metchosin has a workshop scheduled with WCMRC later this month, to discuss adding GRS's to their plans, it makes sense to have Beecher Bay representatives at that workshop, and to present our GRS's together to WCMRC.

Action Items:

- Michael Campbell (Beecher Bay) and Garry Fletcher (MEASC) to coordinate activities in identifying GRS's.
- Garry, Anna & Andy to reach out to WCMRC (Michael Lowry) and let him know that Beecher Bay and Metchosin are working together to identify additional GRS's, and that representatives from Beecher Bay will join us at our workshop.

c) Developing on-shore spill response plans for Beecher Bay and Metchosin

For the importance of developing on-shore spill response plans for the two communities:

- Coast Guard and (for petroleum tankers) WCMRC are responsible for dealing with spills when they're on the water. But both Beecher Bay and Metchosin share a concern about how these spills get dealt with when they reach the shoreline.
- In the event of a spill, we need to ensure that there's a protocol in place that would have Coast Guard and/or WCMRC quickly alert our two communities.
- We need plans in place for how our communities will respond to a spill. Stephanie developed a draft Shoreline Spill Response Plan some years ago; that might be a good starting point.
- Tim Charles described a training plan that some of Beecher Bay's Emergency Response members had taken: Shoreline Clean-up Assessment Technique (SCAT).
- Again, it's recommended that our two communities work together to develop a shoreline spill response plan.

Action Items:

- MEASC recommends that Metchosin Mayor and Council reach out to Beecher Bay Chief and Council and reach agreement on jointly developing a shoreline spill response plan.
- Assuming that such agreement can be reached, MEASC recommends that Council identify Stephanie Dunlop (with the support of MEASC) as the Metchosin lead for developing this plan.

d) Additional areas of concern

Some additional areas of concern raised during the meeting:

- Garry Fletcher presented two handouts (attached) that showed the effects of wind and currents on when WCMRC could respond to a spill. The red lines (wind) and white arrows (current) indicate when wind or currents are too great (wind speed >28 km/h, current >3 knots) for WCMRC to respond to spills. Perhaps Metchosin Council should consider asking Transport Canada to direct oil tankers to not transit our coastline when wind or current are too high for a WCMRC spill response.
- Petroleum spills travel at 100% of the current speed, plus 5% of the wind speed.
- Stephanie Dunlop emphasized the importance of having a response on-site in the first hour (the “Golden Hour”), and how the mandate of WCMRC and Coast Guard is to be on-site within 3 hours. There was a discussion about how to involve experienced local mariners with skookum boats. There are concerns about how to ensure insurance and cover liability.

4. Adjournment and next meeting

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

The next scheduled MEASC meeting is Tuesday April 25 at 7:00 p.m.