

## District of Metchosin

Minutes

### Environmental Advisory Select Committee Meeting

Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.

Council Chamber

Metchosin Municipal Hall

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**Present:** Councillor Steve Gray, Garry Fletcher (Chair), Andy MacKinnon (recorder), Merrilee Hoen, Bill Cave

**Regrets:** Anna Hall, Ric Perron, Erin Van de Water

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

#### 1. Agenda, Additions and Approval

**Moved and Seconded** by Steve and Bill that the Committee approve the agenda with the following additions:

- 6e) AVICC Resolutions
- 7b) Trans Mountain Human Health Report
- 7c) Subdivision referral – 4696 Beckingham Road
- 7d) Building Code changes – Step Code
- 7e) Metchosin Respectful Workplace Policy and Training
- 7f) Invasive species control

**Carried**

#### 2. Presentations

None.

#### 3. Public Participation

Kym Hill, on developments on Centre Mountain. Do we have the Stormwater Management Plan yet? Steve says no. Kym says Langford has the Plan; why don't we? She has put in an FOI with Langford to get it. There has been lots of land clearing – all the drainage goes into Metchosin. We should have the Plan already. This is being done backwards – the Plan should be in place before any clearing. What is the effect of blasting on wells, on sharp-tailed snakes and other species at risk? Steve will convey these concerns to Jay and Shelly who are leading the Buffer Land Working Group.

Brent Donaldson. He's a member of Bilston Creek Watershed Protection Group. They're looking in Metchosin and beyond Metchosin's borders, at the effects of the Centre Mountain development and other development (including the Business Park) on Bilston Creek and its tributaries.

#### 4. Adoption of Minutes

**Moved and Seconded** by Steve and Merrilee that the minutes of the Environmental Advisory Select Committee meeting held on April 25, 2023 be approved.

**Carried**

## 5. Receipt of Minutes

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

**Carried**

Discussion on these Minutes:

- Council Minutes April 24, Tanker Traffic Risks, MEASC thanks Council for approving the letter we drafted for them to send to Minister Heyman
- Environment & Natural Areas May 8 Minutes, MEASC sends congratulations to Colin Sparks for receiving the CENIC Environmental Stewardship Award
- Environment & Natural Areas May 8 Minutes, Metchosin has been working to control a number of invasive plant species, including Black Knapweed, Japanese Knotweed, and Poison Hemlock. And they're planning a Scotch Broom Bash
- Many rabbits have been removed
- Environment & Natural Areas May 8 Minutes, Council has supported development and implementation of a strategy for spill response on the Shoreline with Beecher Bay
- Environment & Natural Areas May 8 Minutes, Council adopted a Biodiversity Resolution for UBCM

## 6. Business Arising from the Minutes

### a) Metchosin Climate Action Plan – Council Pinna Sustainability Workshop

Council is expecting a revised draft document from Pinna May 29. Council will send comments to Pinna by June 5. Pinna will have the revised document back in time for the June 12 Environment & Natural Areas Committee meeting. Pinna will finalize the Strategy and bring it to a late June or July Council meeting. Steve will share the May 29 version with MEASC representatives Merrilee and Andy.

### b) Improving Representation of WCMRC's GRS's in Sc'ianew Territory and Metchosin

Metchosin (including MEASC) members will meet with Beecher Bay representatives May 30 2:00 p.m. Garry will review WCMRC's latest list of GRS's before the May 30 meeting. There is a meeting June 8 10:00 a.m. with Beecher Bay, Metchosin and WCMRC in Metchosin Municipal Hall.

### c) Developing onshore spill response plans for Beecher Bay and Metchosin

This has been supported by Council, and passed along to Chief Stephanie Dunlop for Action.

### d) Buffer Lands Stormwater Management Planning

Councillor Gray reports that many people have expressed their concerns to Council about retention ponds and stormwater management in general. There are also concerns about species and ecosystems, not just volumes of water flow. In accordance with a recent policy adopted by Council on major stormwater management facilities, MEASC will be asked to review the buffer land stormwater management plan prior to approval.

### e) AVICC Resolutions

- The MEASC-initiated Resolution on Anchorages was supported at AVICC, and will go to UBCM
- The Resolution to end old-growth logging went to AVICC, where there was vigorous debate. It was decided to re-word the Resolution to read that we should support implementation of the Merkel/Gorley report "A New Future for Old Forests". This revised Resolution will go to UBCM

**7. New Business**

**a) BCEAO Condition 39 – Existing Shorelines Conditions Report.**

Why were only six areas considered? There seems to be no requirement to gather baseline information on species and ecosystems. This is inadequate. No northern elephant seals, no breeding birds, no rare plants. Merrilee & Garry will provide comments to Steve by mid-June.

**b) Trans Mountain Human Health Report.**

Just received. For our information only.

**c) Subdivision referral – 4696 Beckingham Road – Pending.**

The proposal is on its way. We should see it at the next MEASC meeting.

**d) Building Code changes – Step Code 3.**

May 1 the whole province has to be in Step Code 3 for new house construction. Should we go to Step Code 4? (MEASC members have no expertise on this matter.) Council is awaiting a staff report for more information.

**e) Metchosin Respectful Workplace Policy and Training (June 22 @ 7:00 p.m.)**

For information. There's general agreement that this is a good initiative. The Policy (as written) could use a good, thorough edit for clarity and consistency (and, in places, grammar!).

**f) Invasive species control.**

The 'Friends of Devonian' group can't work in Devonian right now (until CRD Parks has conducted archaeological inventories). So, they removed LOTS of ivy along William Head Road (near the Community Hall and on the Hall fence).

**8. Reports**

None.

**9. Correspondence**

None.

**10. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date**

**Moved and Seconded** by Bill and Andy that the Committee adjourn the meeting at 8:55 pm.

**Carried**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 27, 2023 at 7:00 p.m., Council Chambers