

District of Metchosin

Minutes

Environmental Advisory Select Committee Meeting

Tuesday, June 27, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.

Council Chambers

Metchosin Municipal Hall

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

Regrets: Ric Perron

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

1. Agenda, Additions and Approval

Moved and Seconded by Steve and Bill that the Committee approve the agenda as presented with the addition of “Sue Big Oil Campaign” under item (7c).

Carried

2. Presentations

None

3. Public Participation

Kym Hill, from Bilston Watershed Habitat Protection Association.

Ms. Hill looks forward to collaborating with MEASC, the District, and contractors relating to Bilston Creek Watershed and the effects of the Centre Mountain development on the watershed.

4. Adoption of Minutes

Moved and Seconded by Andy and Bill that the Committee approve the minutes of the Environmental Advisory Select Committee meeting held on May 23, 2023.

Carried

5. Review of Minutes

a) Council and Standing Committee Minutes

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

Carried

b) Advisory Committee Minutes

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

Carried

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) Metchosin Climate Action Plan

- Steve thanked Andy and Merrilee for their work on this. The plan has been completed and adopted; the Agricultural Advisory Committee is in the process of

- creating an agricultural plan with considerations from the Climate Action Plan.
- Some next steps:
 - o Zero Carbon Step Code is under consideration by Council – moving to electric instead of natural gas or fossil fuels
 - o Investigate membership in Canadian Federation of Municipalities to qualify for certain climate and other grants
 - o EV charger – CRD grant request for funding for 2 EV units for Metchosin
 - o Further promote the CRD web-based Navigator for energy rebates and grants.

Action Item: Steve and Merrilee will work on an evaluation framework for the Climate Action Plan

Moved and Seconded by Andy and Steve that the Committee recommend that Council not support any extension of natural gas supply to new developments.

Carried

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

- Jamie (WCMRC GRS mapper) will look to add sites identified as sensitive. Michael Lowry, WCMRC will call a meeting with Sc'ianew and Metchosin to review the new proposed GRS's in the next few months.

Moved and Seconded by Steve and Garry that the Committee recommend Council send a letter to Transport Canada to follow up on the same points as the April 24, 2023 letter sent to Provincial Minister of the Environment George Heyman.

Carried

c) Trans Mountain EAO Condition 39 – Existing Shorelines Conditions Report

- We cannot make the July 6 deadline extension to provide comment, as the next Council meeting is July 17.
- Garry wondered about the inclusion of Race Rocks in their assessment since Race Rocks aren't, technically speaking, in Metchosin. Suggested a statement to address Metchosin shorelines as a whole being at risk.
- Anna added that since we will miss the July 6th deadline for input on the Existing Shoreline Conditions Report, if we submit a letter stating that we will provide more detailed input at a later date, it could be beneficial in having our input considered.

Action Item: Steve to draft a letter with Staff to Trans Mountain stating we will provide more detailed input at a later date.

Action Item: Garry to draft a more detailed response letter.

d) Trans Mountain EAO Condition 38 – Human Health Risk Report

- The proposed correspondence was drafted by local resident Dr. Valerie Jaeger, MDCM, PhD pharmacology & toxicology, MPH. Dr. Jaeger has significant experience managing public health matters in relation to a fossil fuel spill.

In discussion and by consensus, the draft letter was revised as follows:

Delete heading Mitigation and delete final paragraph.

Replace with the following:

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Province to seek the agreement of Transport Canada such that tankers are not permitted to enter our nearby oceans when spill response teams are not permitted to respond due to adverse sea conditions.
2. It is unrealistic to expect that the time course of response could achieve meaningful containment in the initial phase of air borne COPCs. These are modeled to begin in the first hour. Therefore, eye wash stations and air quality monitoring units should be pre-placed within the community on a proactive basis and community members trained in their use. The cost of the stations and monitoring units and training in their use should not be borne by the municipality.
3. The Province should assist local governments to:
 - Stockpile PPE and spill response equipment
 - Develop land-based shoreline response plans, and
 - Community-wide evacuation plans

Moved and Seconded by Steve and Merrilee that the Committee recommend Council forward the amended draft letter to the Provincial Minister of Environment.

Carried

e) **Buffer Lands Stormwater Management Planning**

- District has received a storm water management report, review process underway. MEASC will be involved in many steps along the way.
- Any storm water management plan is months away from approval.
- Flow chart received by the Committee
- Detailed design phase prior to approval
- Langford will be drafting an MOU/LOA stating that Langford will assume responsibility and liability for the detention pond
- Langford has confirmed they will not need to build additional access for pond maintenance and the plan is to do as much maintenance manually as possible
- Nicole Shukin has presented her “Trail and Swale” concept to the Buffer Land Working Group and then to Mayor Little with Councillors Shukin and Donaldson.
- Correspondence from Kym Hill dated June 26, 2023 was received by Council members via email. Kym submitted an FOI request to Langford, interested in water quality, quantity and ecosystem condition in the Bilston Creek watershed, she would like to have a hydrologist involved.
- Langford staff and consultants will be meeting with Metchosin in the coming weeks

7. **New Business**

a) **Proposed Rezoning Application Referral – 4696 Beckingham Road**

- MEASC members met the owner representative and their biologist to walk the property on June 24th
- MEASC supportive of clustering houses to allow for more parkland and appreciates the approach to preserve important natural assets
- OCP Sec. 6.8 was discussed.
- Developer stated financial hardship of carrying costs while awaiting approval from

- District. and costs associated with a quality proposal on the environmental front.
- Observations and recommendations from the tour of the property submitted to the Planner include:
 - o Preference for lowest density possible
 - o Maximum preservation of wildlife corridors and confirm adequacy of recommended width of corridor at the proposed road crossing
 - o Follow all recommendations in the Environmental Overview Report
 - o Determine baseline density considering riparian areas and terrain – earlier plans stated 14 minimum 5 acre lots
 - o Further evaluate the value proposition of increasing density by 4 lots to cover the costs of piped water
 - o Use of restrictive covenants will be important

b) Federal Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Fund – Possible grant application

- Japanese Knotweed along Bilston Creek, American Bullfrog, Green Crab in Witty’s Lagoon, Black Knapweed at Tower Point (funded by CRD), Olympic View, Duke Rd, Cliff Dr.
- Discussed involving Stan Orchard, could be tricky because the need for dedicated boat and crew, might be better to plan for next year
- Metchosin has memorandum with CRD, Jenny Eastman might be able to help

Action Item: Steve to contact Bilston Habitat Watershed Protection Association to gauge interest as a first option, followed by Stan Orchard for Bullfrogs as a second option

c) Sue Big Oil Campaign

Moved and Seconded by Merrilee and Garry that the Committee recommend that Council joins View Royal and other municipalities to pursue this lawsuit if there is enough support from other municipalities.

Carried

8. Reports

None

9. Correspondence

a) Jill Peterson, Metchosin Community Day

- Does MEASC want to have a booth on Sept 10th? Yes, MEASC would be happy to set up a booth.

Action Item: Andy will reply to Jill.

Action Item: Bill will organize displays.

10. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date

Moved and Seconded by Erin and Bill that the Committee adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Carried

The next meeting will be held at the call of the Chair via Zoom if necessary throughout the summer months, otherwise, the next in-person meeting will occur Tuesday, September 26, 2023