

District of Metchosin

Minutes

Environmental Advisory Select Committee Meeting

Tuesday, October 24, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber

Metchosin Municipal Hall

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

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

1. Agenda, Additions and Approval

Moved and Seconded by Steve and Merrilee that the Committee approve the agenda with two changes: the addition of a Presentation (Agenda Item 2) on Dark Skies by Ted White; and combining the two bullets under 6b (Criteria for Evaluating GHG Reductions and Action Plan) into one bullet: Criteria for Evaluating Metchosin's Climate Action Plan.

Carried

2. Presentations

a) Ted White, Healthy Communities Advisory Committee. Proper lighting is generally considered under Dark Skies as useful for astronomy but has a lot of other health and environmental benefits. Metchosin has a Dark Sky policy. Ted feels that Metchosin should become a Certified International Dark Sky community (there is only one in Canada so far, in Bon Accord, Alberta).

Action Item: Please include Dark Sky as a MEASC Agenda item for November. Ted White will provide materials for the discussion at our next MEASC meeting.

3. Public Participation: None

4. Adoption of Minutes

Moved and Seconded by Steve and Ric that the Committee approve the minutes of the Environmental Advisory Select Committee meeting held on September 26, 2023.

Carried

5. Review of Minutes

a) Council and Standing Committee Minutes

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

Carried

b) Advisory Committee Minutes

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

Carried

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) Buffer Land Stormwater Management

Metchosin's Environment and Natural Areas Standing Committee recommended (following our recommendation) that Metchosin engage a qualified professional to review the Stormwater Management Plan. Council decided we are okay for engineering and hydrology, but authorized hiring a qualified professional to review adequacy of the green infrastructure design.

b) Metchosin Climate Action Plan – Draft Working Papers on Evaluation Framework
• Criteria for evaluating Metchosin's Climate Action Plan

In 2028 there will be a review to evaluate progress on Metchosin's Climate Action Plan. Certainly, the Capital Regional District (CRD) data will help – that is the biggest piece. Merilee and Steve provided abundant additional material for evaluation, attached to the agenda package. Their notes were produced separately; they have not been amalgamated yet. This is just an update, for MEASC information. This meeting provided time for lots of MEASC discussion about agriculture, wells, and groundwater protection.

Action Item: Staff, please leave this as a standing agenda item, with the new title. MEASC members, please review and send comments on the materials that Merrilee and Steve have developed so far.

c) New Meeting Date and Committee Terms of Reference

Erin cannot make meetings on the current day, due to a conflict with monthly preschool meetings. After some discussion, Erin volunteered to ask the preschool to change their meeting dates.

7. Reports: None.

8. New Business

a) Bilston Watershed Habitat Protection Association, Summary of Recommendations Regarding Centre Mountain Storm Water Management Plan

These recommendations, and others, have been passed along to Councillor Shukin, who is taking the lead on this.

b) BC Government 30% Protected Land by 2030 Commitment

- BC Government Commits to Doubling the Protection of Lands in BC to 30% by 2030
- Protecting 30 by 2030

Concern was expressed that the provincial government might not get the input it needs to make the best decisions about new protected areas in Metchosin.

Action Item: Garry will revisit MEASC's Green and Blue Spaces Strategy and bring a report back to our next MEASC meeting.

9. Correspondence:

**a) Minister George Heyman, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy,
Human Health Risk Report, Trans Mountain, Condition 38**

Sooke has expressed concerns similar to Metchosin's regarding tanker traffic in the Strait of Juan de Fuca. MEASC members generally felt that Minister Heyman's recommendations were appropriate. Minister Heyman indicated that concerns transit when weather is rough is Transport Canada – perhaps include this in discussions with Sooke?

Action Item: Steve to draft a letter to PHO for consideration at our next MEASC meeting. Steve will ask Mayor Little if she will raise this issue with Sooke in the media.

10. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date

Moved and Seconded by Ric and Garry that the Committee adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Carried

The next MEASC meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.