

District of Metchosin

Minutes

**Environmental Advisory Select Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.**

Council Chamber

Metchosin Municipal Hall

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

**Regrets:** Anna Hall

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 these changes: move 9a up to after agenda item 2 (same issue); add 9g (Sue Big Oil) and 9h (Zero Carbon Step Code).

**Carried**

**2. Presentations**

a) Nitya Harris: Predator Strategies, Lessons Learned from other Communities

Peter Pauwels sends regrets. Nitya Harris is with 'Coexisting with Carnivores'. There were 7-8 cougars and 61 sheep, killed in Metchosin in June 2023. Nitya explained best management practices for avoiding conflicts between carnivores and livestock. She reviewed management plans and bylaws from various communities. All designed to reduce conflicts with carnivores. How can Metchosin better deal with this issue? This has been referred to AASC also.

**Moved and Seconded** by Andy and Ric that MEASC recommend to Environment Committee that they invite Nitya & Peter to make a presentation to them, and that Environment Committee (with the assistance of AASC and MEASC) develop a plan for dealing with this difficult issue.

**Carried**

**3. Public Participation**

Brent Donaldson, sheep farmer for >30 years. He emphasizes that whatever subcommittee is established consults closely with local sheep farmers. He believes that many of the actions suggested and discussed are impractical (logistically and/or financially).

**4. Adoption of Minutes**

**Moved and Seconded** by Ric and Steve that the Committee approve the minutes of the Environmental Advisory Select Committee meeting held on October 24, 2023.

**Carried**

**5. Review of Minutes**

**a) Council and Standing Committee Minutes**

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

**Carried**

**b) Advisory Committee Minutes**

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

**Carried**

**6. Business Arising from the Minutes**

**a) Climate Action Plan**

- Evaluation Framework for Metchosin's Climate Action Plan
- Action Plan Update

Merilee translated Priority Action Items into this monitoring spreadsheet. Bill provided comments on Merilee's spreadsheet.

**Moved and Seconded** by Andy and Steve that Merilee and Bill work together to revise Merilee's spreadsheet to incorporate Bill's comments. And that MEASC then pass the spreadsheet along to Environment Committee, emphasizing the considerable resources (people and dollars) that will be required to monitor the effects of implementing a Climate Action Plan in Metchosin.

**Carried**

**Moved and Seconded** by Ric and Garry that Environment Committee invite the ReImagine West Shore Community group to address Environment Committee.

**Carried**

**b) BC Government 30% Protected Land by 2030 Commitment**

- MEASC's Green and Blue Spaces Strategy
- Draft BC Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework

**Moved and Seconded** by Steve and Erin that MEASC members send comments on Draft BC Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework directly to the provincial government.

**Carried**

**c) Tanker traffic in the Strait of Juan de Fuca**

Steve gave us an update on development of an op-ed.

**7. Reports**

**a) Bullfrog Management Project Results 2023**

**Moved and Seconded** by Andy and Bill that we support Stan Orchard's recommendation that Metchosin continue bullfrog control work in 2024.

8. **Correspondence:** None.

9. **Other Business**

**a) Human-Wildlife Conflict Prevention Strategies**

See Notes under 2a.

**b) Proposed Subdivision Application Referral, 4696 Beckingham Road**

Erin recommended that all proof of water supply for potential well sites should be done during the summer months.

**Moved and Seconded** by Steve and Andy that all of the concerns identified in the environmental assessments (Swell Environmental Consulting and Cascadia Biological Services) be specifically addressed prior to development.

**Carried**

**c) Fossil Fuel Non-proliferation Treaty**

**Moved and Seconded** by Andy & Steve that MEASC encourage Council to support this Treaty.

**Carried**

**d) Reducing Anchorages Outside the Port of Vancouver**

Steve gave a brief update.

**e) Invasive Species – Parrot’s Feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)**

Staff: Please put this on the next MEASC Agenda.

**f) Riparian Area Regulation**

Steve gave a brief update on the interaction between provincial legislation and municipal bylaws.

**Moved and Seconded** by Garry and Merilee that MEASC encourage Environment Committee to request staff to investigate whether Metchosin should have a specific riparian area bylaw.

**Carried**

**g) Sue Big Oil**

Steve gave us an update on this issue that has come before Council. Council decided not to pursue this.

**h) Zero Carbon Step Code**

Steve gave us an update on this issue that has come before Council. Council supports this.

10. **Adjournment and Next Meeting Date**

**Moved and Seconded** by Ric and Bill that the Committee adjourn the meeting at 9:13 p.m.

**Carried**

The next MEASC meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.