

District of Metchosin

Minutes

Environmental Advisory Select Committee Meeting

Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber

Metchosin Municipal Hall

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

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: add 6e) Climate Action Plan; 9c) Hydro Re-Greening Program; 9d) Lombardy poplar trees.

Carried

2. Presentations: None.

3. Public Participation

Brent Donaldson: update about recent cougar kills in the last seven days. Cougars were observed at a kill during the daytime on one farm. Nine sheep killed.

4. Adoption of Minutes

a) Environmental Advisory Select Committee, January 23, 2024

Moved and Seconded: by Steve and Andy that the Committee approve the minutes of the Environmental Advisory Select Committee meeting held on January 23, 2024.

Carried

5. Receipt of Minutes

a) Environment and Natural Areas Committee, January 15, 2024

b) Parks and Trails Advisory Select Committee, January 16, 2024

Moved and Seconded by Erin and Merrilee that the Committee receive these Committee Minutes for information.

Carried

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) Predator Strategies (lessons learned from other communities)

Steve reported that the Environment Committee agreed the MEASC recommendation that Council seek advice from the Agricultural Advisory Committee (AASC) and MEASC on addressing human wildlife conflict.

Action 3.3 in the Draft Agricultural Plan is for farmers to support the agricultural sector in managing wildlife conflicts on farms with support from the CRD, Ducks Unlimited and the District.

Anna agreed previously to assist AASC on behalf of MEASC.

b) Mapping of potential sensitive areas in Metchosin

Andy contacted the Conservation Data Centre (and Jacqueline Claire) on mapping. CDC stated they would not accept anything that is not digital. Our current maps are not digital. Andy will engage further with CDC.

c) Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty

Steve said the Environment Committee agreed the MEASC recommended that Council endorse the treaty. It will go to council next.

d) Dark Sky Draft Proposal

Steve followed up with Mr. Payette with regard to the District not following our own policy. Committee discussion was that compliance might best be achieved as the opportunity arises to replace lights/fixtures.

e) Climate Action Plan

Merrilee and Erin went to the open house hosted by AASC on the Draft Agricultural Plan, three goals identified in the plan to support a resilient farming sector in Metchosin. There is a meshing of the climate action plan with the proposed agricultural plan. There will be a monitoring and reporting framework built into the agricultural plan.

f) Ending the use of Glue Traps for pest management,

Glue traps are considered by many to be inhumane as compared to alternatives. Glue traps also cause death to non-target other small animals, birds, and other creatures.

Council's Environment Committee had asked Steve to work with MEASC on a resolution for AVICC/UBCM to ban glue traps in BC. In the meantime, Saanich has moved forward and submitted a resolution to AVICC on the topic. As a result, Council members have been encouraged to vote in support of the Saanich resolution at AVICC/UBCM.

7. Reports:

a) Councillor's Memo, District of Metchosin Environmental Year-In-Review (Partial List)

Steve reported on the work done by Metchosin Advisory Select Committees, Council's Standing Committees, Council, and staff in relation to environmental initiatives this past year. Steve thanked the Committee for their efforts and congratulations were offered to Steve and Council.

b) Media interest in Tanker traffic and environmental conditions

Garry and Steve met with Sidney Coles (local journalist) to discuss District concerns re: tanker traffic when spill response cannot be launched due to adverse environmental conditions.

Sidney followed with a Feb 26, 2024 article in The Westshore entitled: *Impacts of Underwater Radiated Noise in Juan de Fuca* that including some of our concerns. There is potential for follow up articles.

8. **Correspondence:** None.

9. **Other Business**

a) Provincial Biodiversity, Draft Letter

Following up on the biodiversity resolution sponsored by Metchosin and adopted by the 2023 AVICC/UBCM conventions, a letter has been drafted (see agenda package) to Premier David Eby seeking the establishment of a fund to support local governments in acquiring and protecting land and asking the province to enact a biodiversity protection law. Andy said much land is privately owned on south Vancouver Island.

Moved and Seconded by Steve and Merrilee to recommend that Council write and encourage the province to establish a Local Areas Protection Fund and to enact legislation to protect biodiversity.

Carried

b) Anchorages - Amendment to Bill C-33 (federal)

The amendment suggests a maximum two-week stay by a freighter. MEASC states it is an improvement but requires a shorter time frame, (like zero). Freighters shouldn't be anchored: anchor dragging, environmental expense to run their engines etc.

c) BC Hydro Re-Greening Program

Merrilee's initiative at Andy's suggestion, application for grant money for Moralee's Meadow. She has completed the application and the District has filed it. On March 4, it goes to Council for endorsement.

Moved and Seconded by Andy and Merrilee to recommend that Council endorse the BC Hydro Re-Greening Program grant application prepared by Moralee's Meadow volunteer group to support further ecosystem restoration.

Carried

d) Lombardy Poplar Trees

A tree fell onto a Metchosin resident's Jeep, ruining it (windshield, hood, bumper). Bob Payette has asked for advice from MEASC with regard to tree health on Lombard Road. Lombardy poplars lifespan is 30-50 years.

Moved and Seconded by Andy and Garry, to recommend that the District hire an arborist to investigate the poplars on Lombard Rd.

Carried.

e) Provincial Housing initiatives

Steve explained that Metchosin is exempt from new provincial requirements encouraging increased density with more than two dwellings per lot. This is because Metchosin is outside the regional urban containment boundary and no lots in Metchosin are serviced with both water and sewer. New STVR rules will apply.

10. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date

Moved and Seconded by Bill and Ric that the Committee adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

Carried

The next MEASC meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.