

District of Metchosin

Minutes

Environmental Advisory Select Committee Meeting

April 23, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Council Chambers

Metchosin Municipal Hall

Present: Bill Cave, Steve Gray, Anna Hall, Merrilee Hoen (Chair), Andy MacKinnon (Recorder), Ric Perron, Erin Van de Water.

Regrets: Garry Fletcher

1. Agenda, Additions, Approval

Moved and Seconded by Steve and Bill that the Committee approve the agenda.

Carried

2. Presentations

None.

3. Public Participation

Alison Leduc, Bilston Watershed Habitat Protection Association. She is concerned about the effect of the Beckingham Subdivision on wetlands (incl. Hewitt Creek). Eighteen new wells will supply water to as many as 36 new residences. It is assumed that these wells will access Aquifer 606. BWHPA has hired GW consultants for a hydrogeological study. This independent assessment should be available by end-of-May.

Nicole Shukin. At Council, Counsellor Epp proposed that Council meeting with AASC about livestock issues ought to include MEASC representation also. She appreciated Tom Henry's "balanced" approach to the issue. Ms. Shukin feels that it's important that MEASC will have input to this issue.

4. Adoption of Minutes

a) Environmental Advisory Select Committee, March 26, 2024

Moved and Seconded by Ric and Erin that the Committee approve the Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Select Committee of March 26, 2024.

Carried

5. Receipt of Minutes

a) DRAFT Environment and Natural Areas Committee, March 11, 2024 (not adopted)

b) DRAFT Finance Committee Meeting, April 8, 2024 (not adopted)

c) Parks and Trails Advisory Committee Meeting, March 19, 2024

d) Agricultural Advisory Select Committee Meeting, March 25, 2024

Moved and Seconded by Steve and Anna that MEASC receive these Committee Minutes for information.

Carried

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) Human/Wildlife Conflict: Letter to Council from the Agricultural Advisory Select Committee (AASC)

Councillor Gray gave us an update on Council and Committee actions on this Agenda item.

Moved and Seconded by Merrilee and Andy that Anna and Steve gather recommendations about how to move forward on this issue, to bring to the Finance Committee meeting with AASC and Peter Pauwels. All MEASC members are welcome to attend.

Carried

b) Capital Regional District Biosolids, Draft Letter to Minister Heyman from Regional Mayors, 2021

Received for information.

c) Climate Action Plan – Community Engagement

Merrilee met with Karyn Woodland (Regenerate BC) and shared the Community Engagement portion of our Climate Action Plan. Karyn thought that this was good. We need workshops, not a “lecture series”.

Moved and Seconded by Erin and Bill that Merrilee continue to work with Regenerate BC (Karyn) to design Climate Action workshops for Metchosin.

Carried

d) 2013 Shoreline Protection Plan

Moved and Seconded by Andy and Erin that MEASC recommends that this document be shared with Colwood, to help in development of their Shoreline Protection Plan.

Carried

Please add to Agenda for next MEASC meeting.

e) Mapping of Potential Sensitive Areas in Metchosin: Conservation Data Centre, Data Submission

Please add to Agenda for next MEASC meeting.

7. Reports

a) Chair’s Verbal Report

None.

b) Council Liaison Verbal Report

Steve gave us an update on the issue of thinning forests in the CRD watershed, primarily for fireproofing. Andy has been reviewing CRD materials.

c) Capital Regional District: Climate Projections for the Capital Region 2024

Received for information.

d) Climate Action Plan – Draft Progress Report

Merrilee reports that we can look forward to regular Repair Workshops in Metchosin.

8. Correspondence

a) Cougar Predation, Correspondence received from:

- Shannon Hamilton
- Nicole Shukin

Received, with thanks.

9. Other Business

a) District of Metchosin Public Works Policy W-100: Elimination of Pesticides and Herbicides for Cosmetic Purposes on Municipal Grounds

Let's revisit this issue. Steve will dig up past Minutes. Recommendations from last time we discussed this: expand to include more than just municipal lands; and expand to include for more than just "cosmetic" purposes. How will this be represented (if at all) in our Agriculture Plan?

Please put on our next Agenda.

b) District of Metchosin Non-GMO Resolution

For information.

c) Wells and Alternatives Workshop, April 27, 2024 2:00-4:00 p.m.

For information.

10. New Business

a) Beckingham Subdivision Referral

For discussion at our next MEASC meeting.

Moved and Seconded by Andy and Erin that Steve, Ric and Erin prepare draft recommendations for discussion at our next MEASC meeting.

Carried

Please include on our next MEASC Agenda.

11. Adjournment and Next Meeting

Moved and Seconded by Bill and Erin that the Committee adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m.

Carried

The next MEASC meeting will be Tuesday, May 28, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.