

District of Metchosin

Minutes

Environmental Advisory Select Committee Meeting

January 28, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber

Metchosin Municipal Hall

Present: Bill Cave, Councillor Steve Gray (Council Liaison), Merrilee Hoen (Acting Chair), Andy MacKinnon (Recorder), Ric Perron, Erin Van de Water

Regrets: Garry Fletcher, Anna Hall

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

1. Agenda, Additions and Approval

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

Carried

2. Presentations:

None.

3. Public Participation

None.

4. Adoption of Minutes

Moved and Seconded by Erin and Bill that the Committee adopt the minutes of the Environmental Advisory Select Committee meeting held December 18, 2024.

Carried

5. Receipt of Minutes

None.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) Spongy Moth Spraying Program

Erin is still gathering information on this.

Staff: please include this again as an Agenda Item for MEASC's February 2025 meeting.

b) Invasive Himalayan Blackberry (HBB) Regional Management

Councillor Gray provided an update on his work as a Metchosin representative with the Capital Region Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP). He also provided us with a status list for invasive plant species in the CRD, examples of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for control of Himalayan Blackberry and other plant species, and a review of 'Pesticides and Pest Management' in BC.

Recent control efforts in Metchosin (by CRISP and our municipality in partnership) have focused on Egg-leaved Spurge, Black Knapweed, Poison Hemlock and Japanese Knotweed.

Moved and Seconded by Merrilee and Andy that MEASC advise Committee of the Whole that efforts to control Himalayan Blackberry should be low-priority for Metchosin, and should focus on control, not eradication, as per CRISP rankings.

Carried

Moved and Seconded by Erin and Bill that a Public Works staff member should be a Metchosin representative on CRISP, alongside (for now, at least) Councillor Gray.

Carried

7. Reports

a) Chair's Verbal Report

None.

b) Council Liaison Verbal Report

None.

8. Correspondence

None.

9. Other Business

a) District of Metchosin Council – 2025 Priorities

Councillor Gray reviewed Council's 2025 Priorities.

We noted that at least one item would likely occupy some of MEASC's time in 2025: "Continue working to protect our environment, supporting initiatives focused on land conservation, biodiversity enhancement, and water / watershed protection."

Local Government Riparian Area Regulation

Moved and Seconded by Merilee and Ric that Committee of the Whole recommend to Council that staff investigate the utility of applying Local Government Riparian Area Regulations in Metchosin, enacted through Environmental Development Permit Areas plus zoning.

Carried

Proposed Biodiversity and Natural Assets Plan

Councillor Gray provided several examples of plans from other municipalities and Regional Districts.

Staff: please include this again as an Agenda Item for MEASC's February 2025 meeting.

10. Adjournment and Next Meeting

Moved and Seconded by Steve and Andy that the Committee adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Carried

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.