

District of Metchosin

Minutes

**Environmental Advisory Select Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday, 27 May, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.**

Council Chamber

Metchosin Municipal Hall

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**Present:** Councillor Steve Gray, Garry Fletcher (Chair), Merrilee Hoen (recorder), Bill Cave, Andy MacKinnon, Anna Hall

**Regrets:** Ric Perron, Erin Van de Water

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

1. **Agenda, Additions and Approval:** Addition to Business Arising from the Minutes: facilitating community/student projects.

**Moved and Seconded** by Steve and Andy that the Committee approve the agenda as amended.

**Carried**

2. **Presentations**  
None

3. **Public Participation:**

Nicole Shukin supported new zoning designations mentioned in the Local Biodiversity and Natural Assets Plan. In regard to the problem of fill being dumped on steep, upland slopes, she suggested that these sensitive areas be recognized for protection with a new zoning designation. Andy suggested it would be appropriate to address these steep slope issues within the Soil Deposit and Removal bylaw. Nicole also suggested that Metchosin's ditches and road sides be recognized as corridors for plants and animals and that this be considered in plans to control invasives in these areas. She also requested that MEASC ask the Fire Hall steering committee and Council to include green building principles into the planning of the new Fire Hall e.g. adding a green roof. Nicole announced that there will a Broom Bash in the Buffer lands on June 1, 2025 from 10-12 am.

and that this be considered in plans to control invasives in these areas. She also requested that MEASC ask the Fire Hall steering committee and Council to include green building principles into the planning of the new Fire Hall e.g. adding a green roof. Nicole announced that there will a Broom Bash in the Buffer lands on June 1, 2025 from 10-12 am.

Alison LeDuc followed up on Nicole's comments about ditches as important wildlife corridors. She recommends maintaining vegetative ditches that are just mowed a few times of year. Public Works advocates that ditches be cleaned out thoroughly for flood control. Rare and endangered plants have been found in Metchosin ditches and some found only there. Alison reports that Kristen Miskelly of Satinflower Nursery would be willing to recommend plants for the ditches that would be less likely to interfere with drainage.

4. **Adoption of Minutes**

**Moved and Seconded** by Steve and Andy that the Committee approve the minutes of the

Environmental Advisory Select Committee meeting held on April 22, 2025.

**Carried**

**5. Review of Minutes**

**Moved and Seconded** by Andy and Bill that the Committee receive the Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee for information.

**Carried**

**6. Business Arising from the Minutes**

**a) Race Rocks Ecological Reserve (RRER)**

Garry reported that the District Letters Patent indicate that RRER is not in Metchosin. The municipal coast boundary ends 300 m from the high water mark. RRER is a BC Park that, by regulation, must be part of a Municipality or Regional District. Garry has seen a BC Parks reference that lists RRER as part of Metchosin but this is currently incorrect.

**Action Item:** Steve will inquire if the reserve can be included as part of Metchosin.

**b) Local Biodiversity and Natural Assets Plan**

**• Identification and mapping of sensitive ecosystems.**

Steve has been collecting feedback and input from community groups and individuals in response to the Plan. For example, Bill submitted information proposing a single tree and biodiversity bylaw based on bylaws from other jurisdictions. This process is expected to be completed by the end of June.

**c) Facilitating community/student projects**

Merrilee has been researching the criteria for Community Engaged Learning at UVic. Dr. Nancy Shackelford, Academic Director, Restoration of Natural Systems Program has responded with community engagement guidelines for working with ER 390 students. There are several similar opportunities with other departments at UVic.

**Action Item:** Merrilee will submit an article to the Metchosin Muse drawing attention to the opportunities for community groups to collaborate with UVic students on projects that will assist the groups and provide students with course credit and practical experience.

**7. Reports**

**a) Chair's Verbal Report: none**

**b) Council Liaison Verbal Report:**

Spongy moth: Council would like to hear a presentation from Dr. Jennifer Tynan and Dr. Jochen Moehr, who presented at our last meeting, and may decide to submit a resolution to the UCBM. Council decided also to ask for a presentation on the spray program from a federal government representative.

Significant Trees: The Committee of the Whole decided to consider removal of the Significant Tree section from the Tree Bylaw when the proposed amendments to the bylaw are brought before Council.

Fire Hall: The feasibility study is nearing completion. On May 26, Council considered a Fire Hall Steering Committee proposal to remove the Municipal grounds at 4450 Happy Valley Road from the ALR in case the Committee were to later recommend using the front field for the project. Council did not approve this proposal.

8. **Correspondence:** none

9. **Other Business**

**a) Draft Invasive Species on Municipal Land and Roadsides**

Steve is still gathering comments from MEASC and CRISP. He expects to submit our suggested revisions to Jay by the end of the week.

**b) MEASC meeting with Western Canada Marine Response Corporation (WCMRC)**

Michael Lowry, WCMRC, presented an update about an oil spill response to Council. Another meeting will be arranged with Michael, MEASC and other community experts to follow up on some information requested at a previous meeting with MEASC on GRS locations.

10. **Adjournment and Next Meeting Date**

**Moved and Seconded** by Bill and Andy that the Committee adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

**Carried**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday June 24 at 7:00 p.m.