

District of Metchosin
Minutes

Environmental Advisory Select Committee
October 28, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers
Metchosin Municipal Hall

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

Regrets: Garry Fletcher, Anna Hall

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

1. Agenda, Additions, Approval

- Addition: 9.f. MEASC Membership.

Moved and seconded by Steve Gray and Ric Perron

THAT the Committee approve the agenda as amended to add item 9.f. MEASC Membership

Carried

2. Presentations

None.

3. Public Participation

None.

4. Adoption of Minutes

a) Metchosin Environmental Advisory Select Committee, June 24, 2025

- Suggested editing 7b (Council Liaison Verbal Report).

Moved and seconded by Andy and Bill

THAT the amended minutes of the Environmental Advisory Select Committee meeting held June 24, 2025, be adopted as amended that item 7.b) read as “Concerns have been raised about the process in selecting Council’s preferred firehall redevelopment plan.

Carried

5. Receipt of Minutes

a) Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee, June 17, 2025

- A committee member noted that in August 19 PTASC Minutes (9d) there was a Motion “THAT the Committee request a site a visit with MEASC representative(s) for a site visit of proposed subdivision property to understand the Arbutus trees seeking to be preserved”. (This was a follow-up from the June 17 PTASC Minutes [9a]).
- No request to date from PTASC.

Moved and seconded by Andy MacKinnon and Ric Perron

THAT that MEASC Chair, Garry Fletcher, follow up with PTASC on a proposed site visit.

Carried

b) Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee, August 19, 2025

- Members discussed Agenda Item 9b (Road Resurfacing Program):
 - the “Longstanding issue that PTASC is not being informed when paving is considered, seeking path forward to improve the communication and provide PTASC the opportunity to provide input”.
- MEASC used to provide input for road resurfacing also, in general advocating for bicycle lanes.

Moved and seconded by Andy MaKinnon and Erin Van de Water

THAT following on PTASC’s Minutes, August 19, Agenda Item 9b (Road Resurfacing Program), that both PTASC and MEASC be informed when paving is considered.

Carried

c) Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee, September 16, 2025

Moved and seconded by Merrilee Hoen and Erin Van de Water

THAT the Committee receive the June 17, August 19, and September 16, 2025, Parks and Trails Advisory Select Committee’s minutes for information.

Carried

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) West Coast Marine Response meeting and open house

- Members Steve Gray and Garry Fletcher attended the meeting
- Ric Perron attended Open House
- Reviewed WCMRC’s mapping of sensitive sites. These seemed to include the additional sites identified by MEASC members. The general plan is to keep oil offshore and mop up what they can.

7. Reports

a) Chair’s Verbal Report

None.

b) Council Liaison Verbal Report

- Steve Gray attended a recent meeting on the Mary Hill Tribal Project and provided an update.
- CRD provided an update on the invasive European Green Crab. 45 individuals have been reported from Witty's Lagoon. Alison Leduc is working with CRD Parks to set up Witty's surveys.
- There's a The Stewardship Centre for BC webinar November 13, from 12-1p.m. Cat Bylaws in BC: Management Practices for Urban Free-Roaming Cats Registration link: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/cat-bylaws-in-bc-management-practices-for-urban-free-roaming-cats-tickets-1778644436389?aff=oddtcreator>
- Steve Gray requested an update on the Beckingham subdivision from the CAO. Mr. Payette has confirmed agreement with Swell Environmental Consulting to provide MEASC membership with the Beckingham Estates Environmental Completion Report. This report will be forwarded to MEASC members for comment.
- There's a Science Forum December 9-10 on 6PPD (the stabilizer used in production of rubber tires) from 1-4 pm each day. This substance comes off tires and shows up in waterways. Bilston Watershed Habitat Protection Association will participate. Zoom registration link: https://waecy-wa.gov.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_267QJcJFSMq8s-55e1MTTw#/registration
- CRD Water has purchased the Kapoor Lands.

8. Correspondence

None.

9. Other Business

None.

a) Meeting housing needs in Metchosin

- Steve Gray provided an update.
- MEASC members re-iterated their concerns about the process: that all proposed changes should be evaluated for (from our June 24, 2025, Minutes) “ecological impacts, such as biodiversity and dark sky preservation, and transportation infrastructure and healthcare capacity.”

b) Permissive Tax Exemptions, Update

- Committee was aware of recent Council decision.

c) Invasive Species in Metchosin (Gorse, etc) – Next Steps, Update

- Steve Gray provided an update on Council decision on utilizing Good Neighbour Bylaw to address noxious weeds (including gorse) on privately held lands in Metchosin.
- The Capital Region Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP) list is for CRD only while the Community Charter's Schedule 1 under *Spheres of Concurrent Jurisdiction – Environment and Wildlife Regulation* (CC) list is provincial and contains many species that don't occur in Metchosin.
- The CC Schedule is static – the CRISP list is regularly updated.

Moved and seconded by Andy MaKinnon and Erin Van de Water
THAT the Committee recommend Council use the Capital Region Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP) list of alien invasive species rather than the Community Charter's Schedule 1 under *Spheres of Concurrent Jurisdiction – Environment and Wildlife Regulation* when creating bylaw to regulate invasive species in Metchosin.

Carried

d) Invasive European Green Crab

See 7b (Liaison Verbal Report).

e) Bullfrog Management

- MEASC found Stan Orchard's RECOMMENDATION reasonable and supported by the data he provided.

Moved and seconded by Andy MacKinnon and Erin Van de Water
THAT the Committee recommend Council renew Stan Orchard's contract for 1 year, to do the work identified in his RECOMMENDATION based on his 2025 work.

Carried

f) MEASC Membership

- MEASC membership for Erin Van de Water, Ric Perron, Merrilee Hoen and Anna Hall expires December 31, 2025. All have been contacted to ask if they're interested in continuing as MEASC members.

10. Adjournment and Next Meeting

Moved and seconded by Merrilee Hoen and Ric Perron
THAT the Committee adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

Carried

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