

District of Metchosin

Minutes

**Environmental Advisory Select Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.**

Council Chamber

Metchosin Municipal Hall

---

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

**Regrets:** Gary Fletcher, Anna Hall, Ric Perron

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

**1. Agenda, Additions and Approval**

**Moved and Seconded** by Steve Gray and Bill Cave  
THAT the Committee approve the agenda as presented.

**Carried**

**2. Annual Chair Appointment**

**Moved and Seconded** by Andy MacKinnon and Erin Van de Water  
THAT Garry Fletcher will be MEASC Chair for 2026.

**Carried**

**3. Presentations**

None

**4. Public Participation**

None

**5. Adoption of Minutes**

**Moved and Seconded** by Steve Gray and Merrilee Hoen  
THAT that the Committee approve the minutes of the Environmental Advisory Select Committee meeting held on November 25, 2025.

**Carried**

**6. Receipt of Minutes**

**Moved and Seconded** by Andy MacKinnon and Bill Cave  
THAT the Committee receive the minutes of the Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee meeting held on November 18, 2025.

**Carried**

**7. Business Arising from the Minutes**

**a) Oil Tanker Moratorium ACT**

i. Letter From Metchosin Council To Minister of Transport

- It's good to see Council's letter, reflecting MEASC's support for the protection of BC's coast from the threat of oil spills and environmental harm associated with new oil pipelines and tanker traffic, sent out.

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

- Councillor Gray drafted the plan from previously reviewed materials and will finish revisions with input from MEASC members before presenting to Council.

**Moved and Seconded** by Andy MacKinnon and Erin Van de Water

THAT the committee recommend Council direct staff to review the Biodiversity and Natural Assets Draft Plan and prepare recommended next steps.

**Carried**

**c) MEASC Comments on Parks and Trails Draft Master Plan**

**Moved and Seconded** by Merrilee Hoen and Bill Cave

THAT Councillor Gray pass along MEASC's review comments (attached) to PTASC.

**Carried**

**8. Reports**

**a) Chair's Verbal Report**

- None

**b) Council Liaison Verbal Report**

- Budget deliberations are well underway.
- Finance Committee is considering grant-in-aid- applications for organizations given municipal permissive tax exemptions.
- Councillor Sharie Epp has resigned effective February 1.
- Fire Chief Stephanie Dunlop has resigned effective February 20 to take up the position of Deputy Fire Chief in Central Saanich.
- No Council decision to allow use of Council Chambers for the Metchosin Biodiversity Project "Talk and Walk" series.
- Councillor will bring a report to Committee of the Whole on mapping categories for sensitive environments and green infrastructure.

**9. Correspondence**

None

**10. Other Business**

**a) Review: Committee Terms of Reference**

- Annually we review Committee Terms of Reference. Looks good.

**b) Review: Respectful Workplace Policy**

- Annually we review the Respectful Workplace Policy. Looks good.

**c) AVICC Call for Resolutions**

- No Resolutions identified for AVICC this year.

**d) District road repaving 2026**

- Provided for information. Where there's an opportunity, please include a cycle lane in all new paving.

**e) Housing Capacity**

- Members encouraged Bill Cave to publish an article in the Muse to generate community discussion and support.

**11. Adjournment and Next Meeting**

**Moved and Seconded** by Bill Cave and Erin Van De Water  
THAT the Committee adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

**Carried**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday February 24, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.