

District of Metchosin

Minutes

**Environmental Advisory Select Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at 7:00 P.M.**

Council Chamber

Metchosin Municipal Hall

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**Present:** Councillor Steve Gray, Bill Cave, Garry Fletcher (Chair), Merrilee Hoen (recorder), Andy MacKinnon, Ric Perron, Erin Van de Water

**Regrets:** Anna Hall

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

**1. Agenda, Additions and Approval:**

- Addition to 6b. Zoom meeting with Action for Adaptation representatives for a demonstration of their mapping tool.

**Moved and Seconded** by Ric Perron and Erin Van de Water

THAT the Committee approve the agenda as amended to include the addition to item 6.b), a Zoom meeting with Action for Adaptation representatives for a demonstration of their mapping tool.

**Carried**

**2. Presentations**

- None

**3. Public Participation**

- None

**4. Adoption of Minutes**

**Moved and Seconded** by Merrilee Hoen and Andy MacKinnon

THAT the Committee approve the minutes of the Environmental Advisory Select Committee meeting held on January 27, 2026.

**Carried**

**5. Receipt of Minutes**

**Moved and Seconded** by Steve Gray and Ric Perron

THAT the Committee receive the Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee Minutes from meetings held on January 28, 2026, and February 17, 2026, for information.

**Carried**

**6. Business Arising from the Minutes**

**a) Biodiversity and Natural Assets Planning**

- Council has approved the recommendation made by the Committee of the Whole to forward the Biodiversity and Natural Assets Draft Plan to staff for review and for MEASC to hold an Open House for public education and input.

- Committee members will plan for open house event.

**b) Mapping Sensitive Ecosystems**

- Committee Members outlined their concerns regarding the Official Community Plan (OCP) Map 4 which does not include sufficient detail to identify all the sensitive ecosystems in Metchosin.
- Zoom meeting with Kelly Chapman and Dionne Bunsha, Action for Adaptation:
  - Next month they plan to launch a beta version of the Biodiversity Atlas online for the public to view and download.
  - They have mapped many layers for an area of the south coast including Metchosin.
  - These layers represent data from a number of sources gathered over the years.
  - MEASC is particularly interested in the layers which represent sensitive ecosystems in our area.

**Committee Discussion:**

- The data currently captured in the map layers is predominately terrestrial.
- Addition of marine data sources to be shared with Action for Adaption representatives.
- Data derived from aerial photographs:
  - While it is preferred that it be verified by ground truthing, the magnitude of the area means that some of the layers represent a reasonable approximation of the situation but may lack fine detail.
- Action for Adaptation is interested in working with Metchosin to help refine local data.
- Discussion to continue at next meeting.

**7. Reports**

**a) Chair's Verbal Report**

- None

**b) Council Liaison Verbal Report**

- Recent Council meeting highlights including:
  - Status of the tax exemption for non-profit organizations;
  - Upcoming Budget Open House;
  - Fire Hall project; and
  - PTASC Parks and Trails Master Plan update.

**8. Correspondence:**

The Committee received Nicole Shukin's correspondence concerning Ecosystem Services and Uplands.

**Committee Discussion:**

- Further education is needed regarding the meaning and significance of ecosystem services.
- This may be included in the information presented in the Biodiversity and Natural Assets Draft Plan Open House.

**9. Other Business**

**a) Roadside Ditching vs. Naturalized Roadside Infiltration**

- Little ditching has occurred in Metchosin over the last 3 years.
- Public Works is recommending the resumption of ditching because some roads and culverts may suffer water damage due to ditch overflow.
- Some members of the public are opposed to any ditching.
- MEASC plans to make recommendations about how to apply different treatments to ditches depending upon their location, the adjacent road conditions and the type of vegetation present.
- The ideal would be to keep the ditches narrow and retain as much vegetation as possible to minimize erosion and maximize the infiltration of water into the ground.
- Research factors to be considered in a ditching plan.

**10. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date**

**Moved and Seconded** by Ric Perron and Erin Van de Water  
THAT the Committee adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

**Carried**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.