



DISTRICT OF METCHOSIN

AGENDA

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING

May 26, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

Council Chambers

Metchosin Municipal Hall

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 - b) Mapping sensitive ecosystems Update
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 - d) Shoreline Planning Update
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 - Dark Sky Update
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8. **Correspondence**
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District of Metchosin

Minutes

Environmental Advisory Select Committee Meeting

Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at 7:00 P.M.

Council Chamber

Metchosin Municipal Hall

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

Regrets: Anna Hall

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Agenda, Additions and Approval

- Amend the agenda to add “Bill Cave’s article in the April 2026 Metchosin Muse.”

Moved and Seconded by Steve Gray and Merrilee Hoen

THAT the Committee approve the agenda as amended to include item 6.d “Bill Cave’s article in the April 2026 Metchosin Muse.”

Carried

2. Presentations

- None

3. Public Participation

- None

4. Adoption of Minutes

Moved and Seconded by Bill Cave and Ric Perron

THAT the Committee approve the Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Select Committee meeting held on March 24, 2026.

Carried

5. Receipt of Minutes

Moved and Seconded by Andy MacKinnon and Steve Gray

THAT the Committee receive the Minutes of the Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee meeting held on March 17, 2026.

Carried

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) **Biodiversity and Natural Assets Planning – Open House Event**

- Council 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.
- The purpose of the Open House would be to let the public know about the Plan and to solicit input from the public.
- Members sought clarification on holding an Open House before, or after, it is reviewed by staff.

Moved and Seconded by Erin Van de Water and Garry Fletcher

THAT Councillor Gray seek staff advice about whether the Open House should take place before or after staff review.

Carried

b) **Mapping sensitive ecosystems**

- Andy MacKinnon will prepare materials for Councillor Gray to bring to Council.

Moved and Seconded by Merrilee Hoen and Ric Perron

THAT MEASC request the "Action for Adaptation" team from the Coastal Douglas-Fir Conservation Partnership and UBC Botanical Garden present to Council on their mapping and biodiversity atlas designed for use by local governments in land use planning and decision-making.

Carried

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

- Advantages of ditching (protecting roads and culverts) vs. naturalized roadside infiltration (not ditching) (groundwater recharge, filters pollution, better habitat).
- Importance of aquifer recharge. Most current best practice in places like British Columbia, Washington, and Oregon is hybrid “green + engineered” (= not ditched + ditched) drainage.

Moved and Seconded by Steve Gray and Andy MacKinnon

THAT the hybrid approach makes sense to MEASC members.

Carried

d) **Bill Cave’s article in the April 2026 Muse**

- MEASC members who had read Bill’s article thought that it was well done. Bill may write a follow-up article.

7. Reports

a) Chair's Verbal Report

- None

b) Council Liaison Verbal Report

- 2026 Average Residential Tax increase 9.9%
- Invasive species - Good Neighbour Bylaw
- Application for commercial enterprise on Crown Land encircled by East Sooke Park
- AASC Terms of Reference
- Academic linkages and research on Buffer Lands
- Linking Soil Deposit and Building Permit bylaws
- Shoreline planning
- National Volunteer Week with thanks to Committee members
- Hummingbird Hill April 2026 Bioblitz. Andy played a key role in this event. It was a smashing success.
- City iNaturalist Nature Challenge ended April 27 - Garry contributed many ID's this year ranking in the top 20 of contributors

8. Correspondence

- None

9. Other Business

- None

a) Dark Skies

- MEASC invited Ted White and Bill Weir to provide information on the history of getting certified as a 'Dark Skies' community.

Moved and Seconded by Merrilee Hoen and Erin Van de Water

THAT the Committee recommend Council:

- Apply for DSI Dark Sky Community Designation;
- Direct the application to be prepared by member(s) of MEASC working with DarkSky International for submission back to Council for approval; and
- That the District pay the one-time \$250 USD application fee from the 2026 MEASC budget.

Carried

b) Shoreline Planning

Moved and Seconded by Ric Perron and Bill Cave

THAT Councillor Gray invite the former Colwood planner to present a shoreline planning presentation to MEASC;

AND THAT Garry Fletcher provide the old MEASC brochure on shoreline management.

c) MEASC 2026 Annual report submission

- MEASC's Annual Report was provided to staff.

10. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date

Moved and Seconded by Andy MacKinnon and Steve Gray
THAT the Committee adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m.

Carried

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

DISTRICT OF METCHOSIN

Minutes

Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee Meeting

Wednesday, April 29, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Council Chambers

Metchosin Municipal Hall

Present: David Shanks (Chair), Jay Shukin (Council Liaison, Recorder) Ron Aubrey, Ian Baxter, Caroline Donohue, Chris Thibodeau, Emma Horgan (Virtual)

Regrets: Kathy Atherton

The meeting was called to order at 6:03pm

1. Agenda, Additions, Approval

- Agenda approved by consensus.

2. Presentations

- No presentations

3. Public Participation

Sandi Lamb, resident, in opposition to the draft Parks and Trails Master Plan. Feels the plan doesn't represent Metchosin's environmental values; 4,200 species found here. Doesn't like the use of the term "assets" re. Metchosin's parks and trails. Concerned about references to "subdivision." She asked Google about the Master Plan; Google stated that this does not reflect the ideals of those who want to protect the environment.

Avril Yoachim, resident, commented on the Master Plan. Feels this mainly serves Langford and Colwood. Asked about Duke Road East coming under PTASC and will there be a cost. Metchosin residents are unlikely to take their bikes to Royal Bay for shopping or other needs. PTASC should start over with the Master Plan.

4. Adoption of Minutes

a) Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee, March 17, 2026

- Approved by Consensus.

5. **Receipt of Minutes**

a) **Metchosin Environmental Advisory Select Committee, March 24,2026**

- Biodiversity plan is with staff.

- Approved by consensus.

6. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

a) **Parks & Trails Master Plan Update - Draft Plan and Trails Table**

- Councillor Shukin reviewed key changes in the current draft plan:
 - Consolidated the recommendations; eliminated redundant sections;
 - Several sections to appear as appendices: OCP references, past P&T trail projects, public engagement;
 - The current draft incorporates input from MEASC, Council, and general community comments; and
 - Further input was requested within the next 7-10 days.

b) **Royal Roads University (RRU) Student Nick DeCarlo, Thesis Topic for Input, Metchosin Buffer Lands Potential Research Questions**

- Ian Baxter provided background on further discussions with RRU.
- RRU is interested in opening wide-ranging research projects for its students in the fall of 2026.
- Ian Baxter summarised Mr. DeCarlo's research proposal:
 - Project overview: How may plant composition and associated ecosystem services of habitat quality and stormwater management change with further regional development and climate change?
 - Building a better understanding of the environmental values of the Buffer Land.
 - Research would be delivered at no cost to the District.

Moved by Ron Aubrey

THAT the Committee recommend that Mr. DeCarlo's research be given approval to proceed, and Council direct staff to coordinate next steps.

Carried

7. **Reports**

a) **Parks & Trails Coordinator Verbal Report**

- Inquiry on a new memorial bench.
 - Locations, overall approval process, costs, timespan (renewals), and experience with previous benches.
- Process for when calls come in about trails issues.

b) Council Liaison Verbal Report

- The District’s 2026 budget process is nearing completion; and
- Work continues on moving the Buffer Land to park status.

c) Chair Verbal Report

- Several matters have been sent to the CAO for comment, including Beckingham Trail status; Colwood stormwater system/ Latoria Creek; potential of a OneDrive for shared documents; mapping for the Master Plan.

d) Buffer Land -Letter from Friends of the Buffer Land (Friends)

- Ian Baxter summarised the letter from Friends Chair Richard Simpson and Provided background on discussions with RRU:
 - RRU is interested in opening wide ranging research for its students.

Committee Discussion:

- At the April 13 Committee of the Whole meeting Council discussed this and resolved that the Mayor send a letter to RRU indicating its support for student research.

8. Correspondence

9. Other Business

a) New Business Item - Trail Review

- Ian Baxter proposed a monthly Trail report by PTASC members:
 - Each member walk a trail and return with a status report;
 - Goal is that PTASC systematically review all of District trails,
 - Assignments were determined: Caroline - Libra; Jay - Chapel Heights/Cliff; Chris - Blinkhorn; David - new Beckingham Trail; Emma - Eleanor Mann; Ian - Hillman; Ron - Farhill and Park Drive; everyone to walk the Buffer Land.

b) Role of PTASC/ Terms of Reference Discussion

Committee Discussion:

- Members reviewed reasons for joining including: to contribute to the community; to support and help build and maintain trails; improve safety; meet other people with similar commitments; and help protect Metchosin.
- PTASC is an advisory body to Council, not necessarily the “boots on the ground.”
- Expansion of the Trail Steward’s program.

c) Trail Steward Program on Website

- Desire to build out the program;
- Discussion about an article in the Muse, calling for new members; and
- Members sought clarification about the role description.

10. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Next meeting is May 19 at 6:00pm.

From "Doing Our Bit" to Leading the Way: A Call for Systemic Climate Action

Bill Cave

In the March Op-Ed, I argued that our municipality must take specific, immediate actions to avoid a cataclysmic future. Today, I want to clarify what those actions must be. They are not simply the personal choices of responsible citizens "doing their bit." They are the laws, bylaws, and administrative mandates written and enforced by the people we elect to lead us.

Our world functions through systems of governance. Corporate and private entities do not change their behavior out of goodwill; they act, oversee adherence, and take responsibility only when directed by a legal framework. To protect our community, we must elevate the targeting of human-created greenhouse emissions to our highest municipal priority. That means we must target near-zero carbon dioxide emissions on an extremely short timeline.

This is not a "war against nature." It is an act of human responsibility—a necessary attempt to reverse the damage we have already caused. While other greenhouse gases contribute to warming, carbon dioxide remains the most urgent and consequent target. Even if we succeed, global warming may not stabilize immediately. We have already severely weakened the Earth's natural ability to absorb carbon, but inaction guarantees failure.

The scale of the challenge is often hidden by its complexity. Human-related emissions are not the result of a single "bad" product or activity we can easily replace; they are embedded into every link of our global supply chains. Consider the electric vehicle: while a meaningful improvement over internal combustion, its production releases carbon dioxide at every stage—from mining and refining raw materials to final assembly. This is true of nearly every manufactured object on Earth. Multiply that by eight billion people and the task becomes daunting, but the science is unambiguous.

For thirty years, we have talked about reversing climate change while atmospheric carbon dioxide levels have continued to rise. While I am focusing on what Metchosin can, and must do, the global objective is clear: reduce global emissions to near zero and we'll know we have succeeded when the atmospheric carbon dioxide stops increasing. Its continued rise is destabilizing the global weather patterns and ocean currents we rely on. We are already seeing unseasonable extremes that threaten agriculture and ultimately, global food security.

In Metchosin, we have taken steps, including adopting the [Climate Action Plan 2023-2028](#), but a plan is only useful if it addresses the immediate need to bring down carbon dioxide emissions in a meaningful time frame and is only as strong as the leaders who enforce it. We must pay close attention to whom we elect because they become the administrators responsible for turning commitments into action. They must be intelligent, informed and determined to write and enforce the laws required to bring emissions to an end.

As we look toward the next [local election](#), we must elect leaders who understand that local laws are the foundation of global change. We need representatives who will prioritize our survival over political convenience. The time for talk has passed; the time for enforceable, systemic action is now. In Metchosin we can begin by fully protecting our biodiversity, including ending further development outside of the town core.

You may wonder why I believe writing this piece could contribute to the movement that is required to bring global warming to end. It may seem unlikely. But I know that staying silent would be a failure on my part – a refusal to speak up about the only path I believe has a chance of working. At 83 this may be my last opportunity to say it plainly and I hope others will read this and take up the work that must be done.

Please share this with your friends in East Sooke and Highlands, where similar opportunities exist to protect the biodiversity in their districts.

We can no longer afford the excuse that "it doesn't make sense for us to act if others aren't making it their priority." Our opportunity begins here, with us.

From: Bob Payette <bpayette@metchosin.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2026 1:39 PM
To: Steve Gray <sgray@metchosin.ca>
Cc: Marie-Térèse Little <mtlittle@metchosin.ca>; Jay Shukin <jshukin@metchosin.ca>; Shelly Donaldson <sdonaldson@metchosin.ca>
Subject: Fw: Invitation to Review - East Sooke Coastline and Matheson Lake East KBAs

Hi Steve, Would MEASC be interested to respond to this survey, and/or perhaps other groups related to MEASC.

Bob

From: Leung, Angela <aleung@wcs.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2026 1:31 PM **To:**
Bob Payette <bpayette@metchosin.ca>
Subject: Invitation to Review - East Sooke Coastline and Matheson Lake East KBAs Dear

Bob,

The [Key Biodiversity Areas \(KBA\) Canada](#) Coalition is undertaking a collaborative process to identify KBAs across Canada and we are looking for your input. My name is Angela Leung and I coordinate the review of KBAs at the national scale and I would be happy to answer any questions you might have about KBAs and who is involved in the work.

East Sooke Coastline and **Matheson Lake East** have been identified by regional and local experts in your region as globally and/or nationally significant KBA and we would like to invite you to provide any feedback if interested. I've attached a detailed summary of the KBA proposal.

KBAs are sites that are identified as being important to the persistence of specific species and ecosystems, using existing data and input from scientists and knowledge holders. They highlight a unique or vulnerable place, recognizes ongoing stewardship, and provides clear information about the value of the site. KBAs constitute a layer of information that can feed into management decisions of any kind, such as land use planning, protected area planning, land stewardship and land use policies. A KBA does not presume, determine any management response, and does not affect any existing rights or responsibilities pertaining to the area. More information on KBAs and KBA criteria can be found in the 1-pager attached and [here](#).

KBAs do not require formal approval by governments, Indigenous rights holders, or landowners. However, the process is designed to consider knowledge and perspectives of all interested parties. If we have missed any important information pertaining to this site, we'd welcome your input.

If you would like to share information about biodiversity, other values, conservation actions or threats, or suggest other stakeholders and rights holders that should be notified, please leave your comments in [our online platform here](#) by **June 9th**. To submit comments:

1. Select the site you're interested in by: a) selecting it from the list on the left side of the dashboard, b) navigating to the location on the map, or c) using the magnifying glass icon in the top right corner to search by site name

2. Once you've selected a site, a button with "Review this KBA" will appear in the top left corner. Click the button to be taken to an online form. After you submit your contact information, all questions are optional.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or if you need more time to review. If there are other sites you see on the online platform that you are interested in reviewing, please reach out and I can send you the summary for those sites.

Thank you in advance,
Angela Leung for the KBA Canada Coalition



Angela Leung
Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) Project Manager
Wildlife Conservation Society Canada
wcscanada.org | kbacanada.org