

District of Metchosin

Minutes

**Environmental Advisory Select Committee Meeting**

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

Council Chamber

Metchosin Municipal Hall

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**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.