



DISTRICT OF METCHOSIN

AGENDA

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING

June 23, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

Council Chambers

Metchosin Municipal Hall

1. **Agenda, Additions, Approval**
2. **Presentations**
3. **Public Participation**
4. **Adoption of Minutes**
 - a) Metchosin Environmental Advisory Select Committee, May 26, 2026 1
5. **Receipt of Minutes**
 - a) Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee, May 19, 2026 5
6. **Business Arising from the Minutes**
 - a) Metchosin Day
 - b) Shoreline Brochure Updates
 - c) OCP Sensitive Ecosystem Mapping Requirements
 - d) MEASC Membership
7. **Reports**
 - a) Chair's Verbal Report
 - b) Council Liaison Verbal Report
8. **Correspondence**
 - a) Sloan Sink, Published Work: *Effects of Invasive English Holly on Soil*..... 9
9. **Other Business**
 - a) 2026 Climate Plan Update 11
10. **Adjournment and Next Meeting**

District of Metchosin

Minutes

Environmental Advisory Select Committee Meeting

Tuesday, May 26, 2026, at 7:00 P.M.

Council Chamber

Metchosin Municipal Hall

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

Regrets: Andy MacKinnon

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

1. Agenda, Additions and Approval

- Amend the agenda to add “Ian Bourhill - Shoreline Planning” under item 2.a

Moved and Seconded by Ric Perron and Steve Gray

THAT the Committee approve the agenda as amended to include item 2.a “Ian Bourhill - Shoreline Planning”.

Carried

2. Presentations

a) Ian Bourhill – Shoreline Planning

- Ian discussed some of the work he was involved with in contributing to the “Colwood Waterfront Plan” during his time as a Planner with the City of Colwood.
- Targeting objectives is key, which could be helpful to consider when updating DOM’s “Sharing Our Shorelines” document.
- Ian’s biggest takeaways from doing this work are:
 - 1) Long term thinking is really important;
 - 2) There is a lot of systems type thinking but lacking in Operational – need to integrate hazard, disaster, ecological, and public management; and
 - 3) Respecting the people who believe nothing should change, while also considering the imminent influx of visitors into Metchosin and surrounding shoreline areas while maintaining access and managing environmental factors.
- Worse case scenario is 5m sea level rise, seismic factors, tsunami risk and planning for post-tsunami are more impactful concerns presently.
- Colwood is the most studied shoreline in Canada with a large archaeological site.
- Colwood Waterfront Plan involved a great deal of local First Nations’ input.
- Colwood Plan was for approximately 50-60 years but could use 150-200 or more years for plan objectives.
- Most municipalities have failed in implementation with their development of hard rules against development along the shoreline.
- Green Shores Program throughout Canada used as protocol for municipalities to follow.
- Corporate data sources can be used to gain visitor information more info on visitors and the key areas of shoreline that have public access.

Committee Discussion:

- Clarification regarding potential development;
- Erosion of the cliffs between Witty and Taylor;
- Large parcels of land help with protecting shorelines; and
- Pressure for development.

3. Public Participation

None

4. Adoption of Minutes

Moved and Seconded by Anna Hall and Bill Cave

THAT the Committee approve the minutes of the Environmental Advisory Select Committee meeting held on Tuesday, April 28, 2026.

Carried

5. Receipt of Minutes

Moved and Seconded by Merrilee Hoen, and Ric Perron

THAT the Committee receive the Minutes of the Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee meeting held on Wednesday, April 29, 2026.

Carried

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

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

- The Chair sought committee input:

Committee Discussion:

- Staff suggest proceeding with a view to engage on themes and actions. The action items are worthy of consideration in the context of an OCP renewal, bylaw review and budget process.
- Not to be held in summer months.
- Cluster development, changing the OCP and/or Land Use Bylaw could support biodiversity and green infrastructure goals.
- MEASC table at Metchosin Day to focus on a biodiversity and natural assets planning theme.

b) Mapping Sensitive Ecosystems Update

- Presentation by the “Action for Adaptation” team from the Coastal Douglas-Fir Conservation Partnership and UBC Botanical Garden is planned for Council.
- It would be great to emphasize mapping on the smaller Garry Oak Ecosystems.

c) MUSE Article Submissions on Metchosin's Response to Climate Crisis

- MEASC acknowledged Bill Cave for his work.
- Article has been submitted for publication.
- Discussion around efforts of individuals vs large corporations and government.

Moved and Seconded by Steve Gray and Ric Perron

THAT MEASC send Bill's articles to Council and Staff for their interest.

Carried

d) Shoreline Planning Update

- Update needed for 2013 Shoreline Report.
- Use of development permits, bylaws, coastal covenants, buffer zones to protect shoreline.
- Education preferred to regulation.
- Diverting runoff from farms.
- Evaluating threats to shoreline.
- Updating the 2013 report to include Elephant Seals at Race Rocks.
- There is a 4H educational event called 'From Abalone to Agriculture' planned for June 21st at Pearson College from 2-4:30 p.m.

Action Item: Councillor Steve Gray to send digital copy of the 2013 Shoreline Brochure to MEASC members for review.

Action Item: Anna Hall to send poster of 4H event 'From Abalone to Agriculture' to MEASC members for circulating and posting on District website.

7. New Business

- None

8. Reports

a) Chair's Verbal Report

- None

b) Council Liaison Verbal Report

- Dark Sky Update:
 - Opposition to Dark Skies Certification was mainly due to the way the document is written – some confusion with the wording divided into unincorporated and incorporated districts; and
 - Committee recommends that certification should be a voluntary process with no change to Metchosin bylaws.
- Roadside Ditching vs. Naturalized Roadside
 - Hybrid approach recommended to staff via COW Councillor's Update.
- Green Crab Survey at Witty's Beach lagoon underway led by Bilston Watershed Habitat Protection Association.
- Buffer Land Update
 - Park Designation Bylaw pending;
 - Financial Reserve established (\$15,000 per annum) from taxation collection from Langford to Metchosin.
- Invasives management update:
- Neil West, MISC has inquired about volunteer invasive removal in Metchosin Parks.
- This is included in MEASC draft Biodiversity and Natural Assets proposal.

Moved and seconded by Steve Gray and Garry Fletcher
THAT MEASC recommend Council direct staff to facilitate volunteer invasive species control and habitat restoration efforts on District parks and properties.

Carried

- MEASC Succession planning

Action item: For discussion at our next meeting

9. Correspondence

a) Wildlife Conservation Society Canada, Invitation to Review Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) – East Sooke Coastline and Matheson Lake East

Action Item: Garry will respond to the KBA survey.

Moved and Seconded by Garry Fletcher and Anna Hall
THAT Metchosin take steps to include the archipelago of Race Rocks Reserve as an additional KBA

Carried

10. Other Business

a) Invasive Species

- Firesmart funding is limited, so alternative for invasive species removal and disposal needs to be explored.

Action Item: Councillor Steve Gray to inquire about options for disposing invasive species

11. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date

Moved and Seconded by Bill Cave and Erin Van de Water
THAT the Committee adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Carried

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 23, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.



DISTRICT OF METCHOSIN

MINUTES

PARKS & TRAILS ADVISORY SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.
Council Chambers
Metchosin Municipal Hall

Present: David Shanks (Chair), Jay Shukin (Council Liaison, Recorder), Ian Baxter, Emma Horgan, Chris Thibodeau.

Regrets: Kathy Atherton, Ron Aubrey, Caroline Donohue.

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm

1. Agenda, Additions, Approval

The May 19, 2026, Parks and Trails Advisory Select Committee Meeting agenda was approved by consensus.

2. Presentations

- No presentations

3. Public Participation

- No public participation

4. Adoption of Minutes

a. Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee, April 29, 2026

The April 29, 2026, Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee minutes were approved by consensus.

5. Receipt of Minutes

a. Metchosin Environmental Advisory Select Committee, April 28, 2026

The April 28, 2026, Metchosin Environmental Advisory Select Committee Minutes were received for information.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

a. Trail Signage Status

- The Committee discussed trail sign examples and noted the following trails without signage:
 - Annie Jackson;
 - Chapel Heights;
 - Duke Roadside.
- Signage at Taylor and Weir Beaches on the removal of garbage should be explored.
- Standards for future signs and replacement:
 - Sign damage;
 - Information/graphics faded;
 - Graffiti;
 - Missing key information (e.g. No ATVs);
 - Post or standard damaged;
 - Poor placement or visibility.
- Action: Councillor Shukin to contact former Trails Coordinator regarding graphic standards and potential to replicate.

b. April-May PTASC Trail Visits:

- **Beckingham Trail**
 - Entrance is a bit steep;
 - Some debris on the trail and overgrowth;
 - Observe low area during the rainy season;
 - Next steps:
 - connect this trail to the Galloping Goose Regional Trail (GGRT).
- **Cliff Trail**
 - No concerns.
- **Blinkhorn Nature Park**
 - Poor visibility with the sign at the Lindholm exit (northwest entry);
 - Graffiti on several signs;
 - Additional signage may add clarity for walkers at trail fork.
- **Hillman Trail**
 - Faded signs, particularly the “No Motorcycles” icon;
 - First 100 meters overgrown with blackberries;
 - New bench has been installed;
 - Near Pears Rd, sections of the trail get narrow and muddy;
 - Drainage problem;
 - Could accessibility be improved by gravel.
- **Eleanor Mann**
 - No concerns.

Requests – April - May Trail Visits

- Seek process clarification from CAO about how to advance the following:
 - Beckingham:
 - Extending trail to the GGRT;
 - Additional trail cleaning/clearing; and
 - Install signs.
 - Hillman:
 - Remove overgrowth;
 - Drainage/erosion issues;
 - Gravelling section of the trail;
 - Replace faded sign.
 - Blinkhorn:
 - Graffiti (parking lot);
 - Signage at both ends (Kangaroo and Lindholm).
 - Weir and Taylor Beach
 - Signage to pack out waste.
 - Dangerous trees on trails.

May - June. Trail Assignments:

- David - Horse Trail & Deer Park Connector Trail;
- Ian - Madill, Sea Bluff, Village;
- Chris - Buckbrush, Lusse Way & Lissandra;
- Emma – Montruel; and
- Jay - Chappel Heights; Wayne Rock; Bob Mountain.

7. Parks & Trails Master Plan Update

- Additional comments received;
- Access to mapping files.

8. Reports

a. Parks & Trails Coordinator Verbal Report

- No report.

b. Council Liaison Verbal Report

- No further update.

c. Chair Verbal Report

- Request stormwater management plan for Colwood and Latoria Creek from CAO.
- Sharepoint site request.
- Digital trail maps need to be sorted out and resources confirmed.
- Interest by Metchosin Invasive Species Collective to work in Blinkhorn Nature Park.

d. Buffer Land Report

- Royal Roads University student Nic DeCarlo will pursue his research;
- Upcoming Friends of Buffer Land Meeting;

9. Correspondence

- None.

10. Other Business

a. Invasives Check Requested for Blinkhorn Park from Metchosin Invasive Species Collective (MISC)

- MISC request for a walk about to look at status of European Ash in Blinkhorn.
- Return to working in Metchosin parks.

11. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date

- Next meeting will take place June 16, 2026, 6:00pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

From: Sloan Sink [REDACTED]
Sent: May 31, 2026 10:58 AM
To: Tina Hansen <thansen@metchosin.ca>; Bob Payette <bpayette@metchosin.ca>
Subject: English Holly Published Work

Dear Tina and Bob,

I am emailing you together to provide you a link to my [published paper](#). I attempted to get my work published in a peer-reviewed journal, but since the extent of the research does not meet the academic requirement for such publication, I opted to have it posted with the University of Hawai'i.

Thank you both for your support in my journey in completing this research. It has been such an amazing experience not only for my education but for my confidence in ecological and restoration passions. I will be pursuing a master's degree come this fall studying soil science with the future goal of aiming it towards ecological restoration and sustainable agriculture pathways.

Let me know if you have any questions and I am,

Very truly yours,

Sloan Staggs Sink

“...living is merely the chaos of existence...”
— Yukio Mishima, *The Sailor Who Fell from Grace with the Sea*

Undergraduate of Earth Sciences 2021; University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Certificate in Restoration of Natural Systems 2025; University of Victoria, BC, Canada

I am graciously living on the traditional lands of the Kānaka Maoli and recognize the illegal seizure of the Kingdom of Hawai'i.

ACTION PLAN PAGE 1 of 4

Priority	Climate Action Plan 2026	STATUS as of June 2026 - DRAFT
Action Items		
All	CRD GHG Inventory by Sector data (all the available reports from 2020 to 2028)	See CRD 2022 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Report
1.0	Land Use, Agriculture and Waste	
1.1 a)	Investigate and report to Council on development of land-use conservation and enhancement targets.	Council's Strategic Plan targets agricultural land, forest canopy, riparian and shoreline areas for conservation. Contribute to 30 by 30 targets when making land use decisions. New tax exemption policy approved in 2025 wrt targetted incentives for tree canopy conservation was not implemented. Buffer Land reserve fund was established. Buffer land Park Dedication Bylaw and Section 219 covenant pending. Investigating a new zoning designation: Conservation Zone P4 for the buffer lands and other parcels as identified. 2025 CRD Biodiversity Bylaw; MEASC consultation on draft Biodiversity and Natural Assets Plan outline underway.
1.1 b)	Engage with partners to solicit external funding for new habitat protection and restoration projects	District supported Sc'ianew Nation on Mary Hill Tribal Park initiative with partners including HAT and Pearson College. Engaging with Metchosin Foundation, BC Parks Foundation and HAT. Invasive management priorities include American Bullfrog, feral rabbits and Canada Goose. Habitat stewardship with CRISP and CRD, BWHPA, MISC and Moralea's Meadow volunteers.
1.1 c)	Leverage land acquisition funding to buy and convert additional District lands into designated protected areas.	Consider a regional or municipal land conservation funding levy? Alternatively, support land acquisition by conservation non-profits through Permissive Tax Exemption policy, Sec. 219 covenants and re-zoning, where applicable.
1.2 a)	Develop Agricultural Plan - climate resilience, enhanced biodiversity and low carbon agriculture	Agricultural Plan adopted. Implementation underway.
	Additional opportunities:	
1.0	<i>Lobby senior and regional governments for improved land protection and ecological preservation.</i>	2023 UBCM Resolutions - anchorages, biodiversity and old growth forests; 2024 UBCM Meetings with Provincial Ministers - old growth forests, groundwater protection and monitoring and, reducing seabed damage from anchorages 2024 Endorsed Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty 2024 Letter to Premier Eby re: local area protection fund and biodiversity law; Letter to Premier Eby to establish and support local conservation funds 2025 AVICC Canada Goose cull and BC Coastal Marine Strategy legislation. 2026 Letter to Federal government to maintain northern coast oil tanker ban. 2026 Letter to Province to maintain LGCAP funding.
1.0	<i>Investigate opportunities to encourage wetland and riparian restoration.</i>	Provided financial support to BWHPA for water quality monitoring, clean-up and signage. Support Canada Goose management efforts. Staff report pending on a riparian area protection bylaw.
1.0	<i>Support partner efforts to enhance agricultural land preservation.</i>	Agricultural Plan implementation underway. Pending staff report on ALC compliant siting for buildings and size restrictions
1.0	<i>Continue support for invasive species management.</i>	Endorsed work of MISC. Supported Moralea's Meadow volunteer group in grant application for native plantings. Collaboration with CRD ongoing on invasives removal. Bullfrog and rabbit management continues. Successful AVICC resolution on improving management of resident Canada Geese

ACTION PLAN PAGE 2 of 4

Priority	Climate Action Plan 2026	STATUS as of June 2026 - DRAFT
Action Items		
1.0	<i>Investigate the development of a municipal compost yard.</i>	
1.0	<i>Investigate the development of a waste gasification facility for the District.</i>	Participating in CRD Board decision-making on regional facility
1.0	<i>Investigate the development of recycling services.</i>	Community House (MCA) metal bin, MCA Mighty Metchosin Garage Sale , ReImagine Westshore promotional efforts e.g. Repair Cafes
1.0	<i>Push for recognition of carbon sequestration in CRD emissions inventory assessments.</i>	Requested in 2023 through CRD Climate Action Inter-Municipal Task Force
2.0	Risk Reduction from the Impacts of Climate Change	
2.1 a)	Complete extreme heat assessment and mapping	Completed by Fire Department
2.1 b)	Develop a shoreline protection plan to address sea level rise.	1. MEASC to review previous plan 2) Promoted Greenshores training 3) Worked with Sc'ianew and WCMRC to identify spill response GRS's 4) Responded to TMX EAO consultation requests 5) Correspondence with Province on tanker traffic regulation in hostile env. conditions. Endorsed a successful AVICC resolution calling for the BC Coastal Marine Strategy to be legislated.
2.1 c)	Investigate and apply for funding to conduct a localized climate hazard and vulnerability assessment.	Fire Department - Climate Hazard study
2.2 a)	Integrate climate change into District asset management planning and policy development.	Asset management plan included in 2024 budget. "Natural" asset management plan under discussion
2.3 a)	Investigate and report to Council on opportunities to enhance groundwater protection and conservation (e.g., via increase rainwater harvesting, efficient irrigation, xeriscaping).	1) Staff are reviewing regulatory avenues re: well proofing 2) Three community water workshops completed by April 2024 3) 2024 AVICC Resolution on aquifer monitoring 4) Released covenants pertaining to Buffer Land detention pond 5) Council petitioned the Province to add observation wells to Aquifer 606 6) 2025 Partner with CRD for local bulk water fill station.
2.0	Additional opportunities:	
2.0	<i>Investigate opportunities to use natural asset management tools and approaches to manage climate impacts.</i>	2024 budget incl. asset management planning; 2025 MEASC consultation on draft Biodiversity and Natural Asset Plan is underway
2.0	<i>Investigate building, plumbing code changes to permit outdoor greywater reuse.</i>	Provincial code
2.0	<i>Adoption of ZCSC Level 4 for all new builds</i>	Building bylaw amendments adopted

ACTION PLAN PAGE 3 of 4

Priority	Climate Action Plan 2026	STATUS as of June 2026 - DRAFT
Action Items		
3.0	Buildings	
3.1a)	Continue to share information and promote participation in the CRD's regional home retrofit and fuel switching program.	District website news item; CRD circular included in mailout with tax notice, etc.
3.2 a)	Encourage residents to undertake home energy audits	Ditto
3.2 b)	Encourage residents to undertake <i>Firesmart</i> Home Ignition Zone assessments.	Fire Dept Firesmart Program underway
3.2 c)	Develop a 'sustainability checklist' to for retrofits and re-developments	Are these available on the web? BC Hydro?
3.2 d)	Investigate cost/benefit of solar panels on proposed new firehall.	Was to be Included in Feasibility Study
3.0	<u>Additional opportunities:</u>	
3.0	<i>Advocate at CRD for enhanced recognition of carbon sequestration in greenhouse gas inventory.</i>	Requested in 2023 through CRD Climate Action Inter-Municipal Task Force
3.0	<i>Consider accelerated STEP code adoption at District level.</i>	Building bylaw amendments
3.0	<i>Promote voluntary adoption of Steps 4 and 5 of the BC Energy step code for private development.</i>	Check with staff?
3.0	<i>Investigate local implementation of property assessed clean energy (PACE) program.</i>	
4.0	Transportation	
4.1 a)	Investigate and report to Council on options to develop an active transportation plan for the District.	Active Transportation Network Plan adopted. PTASC working on Parks and Trails Master Plan.
4.2 a)	Establish partnerships to repair and maintain existing public EV charging stations.	Two existing EV chargers in the Village Core were replaced under a federal climate action program. Partnerships established.
4.0	<u>Additional opportunities:</u>	
4.0	<i>Continue to lobby BC transit to further improve transit scheduling and bike-to-transit connectivity and advocate for BC Transit to accelerate implementation of on-demand transit service for Metchosin.</i>	Representation at Victoria Regional Transit Commission. Supported no fee and lower fee transit for youth. Westshore rapid bus is becoming a reality.
4.0	<i>Identify and apply for external funds to purchase and install additional public EV charging stations.</i>	Two existing EV chargers in the Village Core were replaced using a federal climate action grant.
4.0	<i>Explore opportunities to support local businesses to install electric charging infrastructure.</i>	
4.0	<i>Require 220v EV charge connections - new builds + retrofits.</i>	Building bylaw amendments adopted
5.0	Community Engagement	
5.1	Encourage a community-led climate change and sustainability lecture series.	Supporting ReImagine Westshore and promoting ReGeneration community events.
5.0	<u>Additional opportunities:</u>	
5.0	<i>Engage with partners to identify and solicit external funding for new habitat protection and restoration projects</i>	District supported Sc'ianew Nation on Mary Hill Tribal Park consideration with partners including HAT and Pearson College. District engaged with Metchosin Foundation and BC Parks Foundation on conservation corridor initiatives.