

District of Metchosin

Minutes

Environmental Advisory Select Committee Meeting

March 26, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Council Chambers

Metchosin Municipal Hall

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

The meeting was called to order.

1. Agenda, Additions and Approval

Moved and Seconded by Councillor Gray and Ric that the Committee approve the agenda with these changes: add 9d) Biosolids, 9e) Bullfrogs, and 9f) Climate Action Plan.

Carried

2. Public Participation

Joe Percival, resident, was a Metchosin resident for a long while, just recently returned. Concerns about environmental issues in Metchosin. Concerned about spreading biosolids on land. Also concerned about widespread use of glyphosate.

Brent Donaldson, resident, thirty sheep have been killed by cougars so far this year. And we are not yet to summer, when most killings occur. So, the farmers need to act quickly. There are too many sheep to keep them all inside each night. (John Buchanan alone has 700 sheep.) AASC is taking the lead on generating ideas on how best to approach the issue of human/wildlife conflict over the long term, and MEASC (Anna) will participate.

4. Adoption of Minutes

a) Environmental Advisory Select Committee, February 27, 2024

Two edits (from Andy):

- 6a. "... the Environment Committee agreed **with** the MEASC recommendation ...".
- 6c. "agreed **with** the MEASC recommendationioned that Council endorse the treaty. It will go to eCouncil next."

Moved and Seconded by Andy and Bill that the Committee approve the minutes of the Environmental Advisory Select Committee meeting held on February 27, 2024 as amended.

Carried

5. Receipt of Minutes

a) Environment and Natural Areas Committee, February 12, 2024

b) DRAFT Environment and Natural Areas Committee (not adopted), March 11, 2024

c) Special Community Planning Committee Joint Meeting with the Parks and Trails Advisory Committee Meeting, February 20, 2024

5c. “Suggestion that committee chairs meet annually to discuss common issues and that the minutes between committees continue to be received in agenda packages”. Including the MEASC Chair; excellent.

5c. “Suggestion that roadside trail opportunities should be taken into consideration in conjunction with ongoing road resurfacing”. Again, excellent. MEASC recommends that “roadside trail opportunities” also include “roadside cycle lane opportunities”.

Moved and Seconded by Merrilee and Anna the Committee receive these Committee Minutes for information.

Carried

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) Mapping of Potential Sensitive Areas in Metchosin

Conservation Data Centre (CDC) is the appropriate place for these data to go – where they’ll be available (as Element Occurrence Records) for anybody contemplating development in sensitive areas. (This was the idea behind the maps in the first place.) However, not only does the CDC not accept non-digital information, they don’t generally accept anybody’s data submissions, digital or not. Instead they mine other databases. What we have to do is access our digital spreadsheet (including at least species, lats & longs, observation date, observer), and then submit this to the Wildlife Species Inventory office. WSI have forms that we can use. A couple of additional notes:

- CDC doesn’t have EORs for marine species
- We could potentially send the Excel spreadsheet to the CDC and ask their taxonomic experts which species were of interest (i.e., we might not have to deal with them all)
- There might be value in bulk-uploading them to INaturalist, if we already have them in a spreadsheet.

Action Item: The CDC’s ‘Data Submission Guidance’ document will be added to the next agenda.

Garry will locate a digital version of our spreadsheet, and Garry and Andy will determine next steps with the Wildlife Species Inventory office and the CDC.

b) Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty

Approved at Council; thanks Steve.

c) Provincial Biodiversity Letter

Approved at Council; thanks Steve.

d) BC Hydro Re-Greening Program Grant Application

Approved at Council; thanks Steve.

e) Lombardy Poplar Trees, Lombard Drive – Heritage Site • Arborist Report

Received; thanks.

7. Reports

a) Chair's Verbal Report

None.

b) Council Liaison Verbal Report

Herbicide Policy. Municipality will minimize herbicide use on municipal property. Steve Gray brought very interesting maps from the water and wells workshop held March 23, 2024. Council wants to put a priority on protecting riparian zones. Metchosin will be required to complete a Housing Needs Assessment by December 2024, and to incorporate this into a revised OCP by next June. This may also present an opportunity to make other changes to the OCP.

8. Correspondence:

None.

9. Other Business

a) Lantzville Mulls Future Old-Growth Zones

Received.

b) Invasive Species – Parrot's Feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*) • Best Management Practices for Parrot's Feather, Metro Vancouver

In Weir's Beach Pond. Jenny Eastman has suggested that there's a new herbicide that may be useful. Shouldn't be a threat in this location.

c) Elements of a Shoreline Protection Plan

MEASC produced one in 2013. Bill will pass it along to Steve.

STAFF: Please put this on our next Agenda.

d) Biosolids

Andy feels that the CRD documents are inadequate. There is 'BENEFITS' column; where is the 'PROBLEMS' column?

Moved and Seconded by Ric and Erin that MEASC recommends to Council that they let the CRD know that these biosolids are not welcome on Metchosin's agricultural fields and forests.

Carried

e) Bullfrogs

For information.

f) Climate Action Plan

Merrilee reviewed where we are on this issue. The Climate Action Plan was adopted by Council last year. It's currently being evaluated by Metchosin's Planner.

We should be monitoring. Two well-received citizens' groups are doing good work: ReImagine Westshore and Regenerate BC. ReImagine Westshore made a presentation to Environment and Natural Areas Committee. Merrilee asks: what role should MEASC play (if any) in citizen support of the Climate Action Plan? Steve suggests that MEASC or APRM could work with one or both of these groups to host a lecture series.

Merrilee will speak with representatives of ReImagine Westshore and Regenerate BC to determine how we can best support them.

10. Adjournment and next meeting

Moved and Seconded by Bill and Erin that the Committee adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Carried

The next MEASC meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.