



VILLAGE OF HARRISON HOT SPRINGS Environmental Advisory Committee Minutes

DATE: Wednesday, September 3, 2025
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
PLACE: Council Chambers, Village Office
495 Hot Springs Road, Harrison Hot Springs, BC

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Mark Schweinbenz (Chair)
John DeMartin
Paul Kandt
Gary Webster

MEMBERS ABSENT: Susan Galvao

STAFF PRESENT: Corporate Officer, Amanda Graham
Director of Operations, Jace Hodgson (at 11:21 a.m.)
Planning Consultant, Ken Cossey (until 11:20 a.m.)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Schweinbenz called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Chair Schweinbenz acknowledged the traditional territory of Sts'ailes.

3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

John DeMartin requested to add "Garbage Collection and Waste on Lagoon Area and Front Street" as an Item for Discussion.

Gary Webster requested to add "Wetlands Project Update" as an Item for Discussion.

Paul Kandt requested to add "Invasive Species Workshop" as an Item for Discussion.

Moved by Gary Webster

THAT Item for Discussion 6(a) – Presentation by Planning Consultant re: Official Community Plan Update be removed from the agenda.

**MOTION FAILED
LACK OF SECONDER**

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Paul Kandt
Seconded by John DeMartin

THAT the agenda be approved as amended with the addition of the late items.

CARRIED
GARY WEBSTER OPPOSED
EAC-2025-09-01

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by Chair Schweinbenz
Seconded by Gary Webster

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of July 2, 2025 be adopted.

CARRIED
EAC-2025-09-02

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- (a) Presentation by Planning Consultant
Re: Official Community Plan Bylaw Update

The Planning Consultant presented a PowerPoint regarding the current OCP and proposed updates. The Committee discussed the need for environmental protection initiatives within the OCP, and associated bylaws and practices that can facilitate the implementation of those policies.

Moved by Chair Schweinbenz
Seconded by Paul Kandt

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee provide no comment on Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 1229, 2025.

CARRIED
EAC-2025-09-03

Moved by Chair Schweinbenz
Seconded by Paul Kandt

THAT Council direct staff to review the current Official Community Plan from an environmental perspective to determine how policies regarding water conservation, energy conservation, protection of the Miami River, waste reduction and tree canopy improvement and renewal can be strengthened.

CARRIED
EAC-2025-09-04

The Committee discussed challenges surrounding the need for balancing new plantings with FireSmart principles, the Tree Management and Preservation Bylaw and Water Conservation Policy.

(b) 2025 Project: Hazardous Waste Collection Day

The Corporate Officer circulated information on a Hazardous Waste Collection Day taking place in Chilliwack on October 4, 2025 that is free for Harrison Hot Springs residents and a list of accepted products from Product Care Recycling. The Committee agreed to move forward with a Hazardous Waste Collection Day in the overflow parking lot on Thursday, October 16 from 11:00 am – 7:00 pm and on Saturday, October 18 from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. Product Care Recycling provides the tubs and transportation, but they do not staff the event. The Committee agreed to attend in shifts to assist people in dropping off their waste. The Committee requested that opportunities for public education surrounding household hazardous waste be considered when planning the event.

(c) 2025 Project: Tree Planting Project at McCombs Bridge

The Director of Operations advised that part of the restoration plan at the McCombs Bridge involves planting 20 red alder, 20 big leaf maples and 580 willow plugs. The Committee agreed to defer to the Miami River Streamkeepers regarding a suitable date for planting the trees on a weekday at the end of September and requested that the Committee be advised once the date has been selected.

(d) Garbage Collection and Waste on Lagoon Area and Front Street

John DeMartin commended Village staff for emptying the garbage cans on the beachfront, however, there is a lot of waste early in the morning that makes its way down the shoreline and eventually into the lake. The Committee discussed replacing current garbage cans with bear proof garbage receptacles, which would have to be replaced over time due to the high cost.

Moved by John DeMartin
Seconded by Gary Webster

THAT staff be directed to research an Adopt a Trail or Shoreline program to address littering along the lagoon pathway.

CARRIED
EAC-2025-09-04

(e) Wetlands Project Update

Gary Webster provided information regarding a recent project by Sts'ailes with floating islands in the Miami River. The islands are anchored and pull nutrients out of the water because there is an abundance of nutrients flowing overland into the water. In time, plant samples will be sent to a laboratory to see what type of nutrients are in the water.

(f) Invasive Species Workshop

Gary Webster advised that the Invasive Species Workshop is on September 29, 2025 from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm in Memorial Hall and requested that the Village share information regarding the event.

(g) 2026 Work Plan / Budget

Moved by Chair Schweinbenz
Seconded by John DeMartin

THAT the 2026 Work Plan / Budget be tabled for discussion at the next meeting.

(h) Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting date is scheduled for Wednesday, October 8, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Paul Kandt
Seconded by Gary Webster

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

CARRIED
EAC-2025-09-05



Councillor Mark Schweinbenz, Chair
Environmental Advisory Committee



Amanda Graham
Corporate Officer