



NOTICE OF MEETING AND AGENDA ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 11, 2026, 9:00 AM
Village Office, 495 Hot Springs Road,
Harrison Hot Springs, BC V0M 1K0

THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED IN-PERSON AND VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE

1. CALL TO ORDER
Meeting called to order by Councillor Schweinbenz, Chair.
2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT
Acknowledgement of Sts'ailes traditional territory.
3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES
(a) THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting minutes of December 3 2025 be adopted. Page 1
6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION
(a) Report from December 15, 2025 regular Council meeting Page 5
(b) Earth Day in May <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date, time, location • Participants • FireSmart and tree planting initiative • Educational workshops • Food • Prizes • Battery recycling
(c) 2026 Work Plan/Budget Page 7
(d) Next Meeting Date: TBD
7. ADJOURNMENT

Amanda Graham
Corporate Officer

**VILLAGE OF HARRISON HOT SPRINGS
Environmental Advisory Committee
Minutes**

DATE: Wednesday, December 3, 2025
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Council Chambers, Village Office
495 Hot Springs Road, Harrison Hot Springs, BC

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Mark Schweinbenz (Chair)
Mayor Fred Talen (ex-officio)
John DeMartin
Susan Galvao
Paul Kandt (via Zoom)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Chief Administrative Officer, Tyson Koch
Corporate Officer, Amanda Graham

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Schweinbenz called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

1. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Chair Schweinbenz acknowledged the traditional territory of Sts'ailes.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

Susan Galvao requested to add "Miami River Water Quality" to the agenda as Item for Discussion 6(c).

Paul Kandt requested to add "Official Community Plan" to the agenda as Item for Discussion 6(d).

John DeMartin requested to add "Landscaping in the Lagoon" to the agenda as Item for Discussion 6(e).

Next Meeting Date was moved to Item for Discussion 6(f).

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Susan Galvao
Seconded by Paul Kandt

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

CARRIED
EAC-2025-12-01

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by Susan Galvo
Seconded by John DeMartin

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of October 8, 2025 be adopted.

CARRIED
EAC-2025-12-02

5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

(a) Hazardous Waste Collection Day Debrief

The Committee discussed the Hazardous Waste Collection Day in October. 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. would be a better time, as after 2:00 p.m. there were only a few people who attended. It would be helpful if the Committee could accept motorcycle batteries, household batteries and motor oil. The signage was great. The day saw just over 100 people total participate. The Committee discussed challenges with combining the event with the Earth Day in May event, but potentially having battery recycling at the Earth Day in May.

(b) 2026 Work Plan / Budget

The Committee discussed the following amendments to the 2026 Work Plan and Budget:

- Amending the Bear Smart Committee to a more high-level plan to examine ways that the Village can reduce human-bear conflicts without necessarily pursuing a Bear Smart Community designation
- Amending the Cosmetic Pesticide item to also include herbicides

Moved by Susan Galvao
Seconded by John DeMartin

THAT the 2026 Work Plan and Budget be approved and forwarded to Council with the changes to the Bear Smart Committee item and the Cosmetic Pesticide item.

CARRIED
EAC-2025-12-03

(c) Miami River Water Quality

Susan Galvao attended the chum spawner release. The Miami River Streamkeepers have data from 2010 to the most recent read on November 6, 2025. They monitor data such as the time, weather, depth, air temperature, water temperature, turbidity, oxygen levels, pH levels. Data over the last two years suggests that the acidity is lower than optimal levels.

(d) Official Community Plan

Paul Kandt researched the OCP and the Tree Management Bylaw and it doesn't appear that the Village has any requirements to protect trees in relation to large developments. Staff advised that the Village has a limited ability to restrict people from removing trees that would prevent the legal development of the land, however, as part of the Development Approval Information bylaw staff can request several types of reports related to the environment.

The OCP contains information about connecting the Miami River Greenway to the beach. Staff advised that there are suggestions about this in the Parks and Trails Master Plan and a forthcoming signage project as part of the Resort Development Strategy. Discussion surrounding costs and environmental permitting ensued.

(e) Lagoon Landscaping and Wiring

A month ago, a duck was stuck in fine green landscape mesh from turf inside the lagoon. Some of it was laid and a spool of excess mesh was left out. There are some areas along the beach where the landscape mesh is exposed.

Moved by John De Martin
Seconded by Susan Galvao

THAT staff be directed to explore other alternatives to using landscaping materials with mesh to avoid negative interactions with waterfowl, especially along the beach front and riparian habitat areas.

CARRIED
EAC-2025-12-04

(f) Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting date is to be determined in February 2026.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by John DeMartin
Seconded by Susan Galvao

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

CARRIED
EAC-2025-12-05

Councillor Mark Schweinbenz, Chair
Environmental Advisory Committee

Amanda Graham
Corporate Officer

File No: 0360-20-07
Date: December 15, 2025

To: Mayor and Council
From: Amanda Graham, Corporate Officer
Subject: Environmental Advisory Committee Report

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve the following recommendation from the Environmental Advisory Committee:

THAT staff be directed to explore other alternatives to using landscaping materials with mesh to avoid negative interactions with waterfowl, especially along the beach front and riparian habitat areas.

SUMMARY

To present a resolution and information on behalf of the Environmental Advisory Committee from its December 3, 2025 meeting for Council's consideration.

BACKGROUND

Approximately one month ago, two ducks in the lagoon were stuck in fine green landscape mesh, resulting in a community rescue effort. There are areas along the beachfront where the mesh is currently exposed, causing risk to waterfowl.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

2025 Strategic Plan Priorities

Environmental Protection – To restore and protect the environment for future generations.

Respectfully submitted:



Amanda Graham
Corporate Officer



Councillor Mark Schweinbenz, Chair
Environmental Advisory Committee

2026 Environmental Advisory Work Plan & Budget					
Project	Description	Timeframe	Est. Staff Time	Budget	Funding Source
Earth Day in May	Environmental awareness/ educational day in the Plaza	Spring 2026	15 hours day of exempt	Food, prizes, advertising	Municipal Taxation
			10 hours prep	Educational workshop	
				Total: \$1,500	
Project	Description	Timeframe	Est. Staff Time	Budget	Funding Source
Firesmart & Tree Planting Initiative	Partner with nursery to provide vouchers to first 25 people who sign up for a FireSmart assessment at Earth Day in May for a FireSmart tree at a discount	Spring 2026	5 hours	\$1,000	Municipal Taxation subsidized by in-kind donation
				Total: \$1,000	
Project	Description	Timeframe	Est. Staff Time	Budget	Funding Source
Miami River Health	Explore partnerships with Sts'ailes, Miami River Streamkeepers and DOK	Summer 2026	Unknown	N/A	
	Invite for attendance at future Committeemeeting			Total: \$0	
Project	Description	Timeframe	Est. Staff Time	Budget	Funding Source
Public Area Tree Planting	Identify public areas feasible for tree plantings while considering irrigation and maintenance	Spring 2026	20 hours	N/A - TBD based on locations and types of trees	Continue to seek grant funding for green spaces
				Total: \$0	
Project	Description	Timeframe	Est. Staff Time	Budget	Funding Source
Lillooet Ave West Streetscape Plan	Review landscaping plans/detailed design	Winter 2026	2 hours	N/A	

	Volunteer planting	Spring 2026	3 hours	Incorporated into Resort Development Strategy	Resort Municipality Initiative
				Total: \$0	
Project	Description	Timeframe	Est. Staff Time	Budget	Funding Source
Wildlife protection research	Explore ways the Village can mitigate and reduce human-wildlife conflicts	2026 Ongoing	20 hours	N/A	
				Total: \$0	
Project	Description	Timeframe	Est. Staff Time	Budget	Funding Source
Adopt-a-Shoreline or Trail	Review existing Adopt a Road Program Policy and make recommendations to Council for amendments	Spring 2026	5 hours	N/A	
				Total: \$0	
Project	Description	Timeframe	Est. Staff Time	Budget	Funding Source
Cosmetic Pesticides and Herbicides	Review cosmetic pesticide and herbicide use and make recommendations to Council	2026	5-10 hours	N/A	
				Total: \$0	
Total Municipal Funds Requested: \$2,500					