



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

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Chair Schweinbenz acknowledged the traditional territory of Sts'ailes.

3. 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).

4. 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

5. 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

6. 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.

7. 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