



NOTICE OF MEETING AND AGENDA ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Monday, September 28, 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 August 24, 2026 be adopted. **Page 1**

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- (a) Report from September 8, 2026 regular Council meeting **Page 5**
(b) BC Chapter of The Wildlife Society 2026 Conference
(c) Next Meeting Date: TBD

7. ADJOURNMENT

Amanda Graham
Corporate Officer

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

DATE: Monday, August 24, 2026
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Council Chambers, Village Office
495 Hot Springs Road, Harrison Hot Springs, BC

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Mark Schweinbenz (Chair)
John DeMartin
Susan Galvao
Paul Kandt

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Corporate Officer, Amanda Graham
Community Services Manager, Christy Ovens
Director of Operations, Jace Hodgson

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

None.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Paul Kandt

Seconded by Susan Galvao

THAT the agenda be approved.

CARRIED
EAC-2026-08-01

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by Paul Kandt

Seconded by Susan Galvao

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of June 23, 2026 be adopted.

CARRIED
EAC-2026-08-02

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

(a) Canada Goose Management

The Committee discussed the findings of the 2026 Canada Goose Nesting Survey and alternatives to egg addling including non-lethal hazing methods such as air horns, sirens, strobe lights/lasers, flagging tape, balloons, decoys, sprinklers and trained dogs. It was noted that other communities throughout the province have dealt with similar challenges and that the concerns range from water quality and health issues to inconvenience and maintenance costs. Concerns regarding egg addling and whether it is a humane process were raised. Staff advised that the Ministry of Environment had responded to the Village indicating that this is a federal government matter. The Committee discussed data limitations, including information and statistics on the number and types of Canada Geese in the Village and particular locations of concern.

Moved by Chair Schweinbenz
Seconded by John DeMartin

THAT Council direct staff to consider both passive and active non-lethal hazing methods as an alternative to egg addling for Canada Goose management.

CARRIED
EAC-2026-08-03

(b) Pesticide Use Regulation Bylaw No. 1245, 2026

Staff advised that a draft Pesticide Use Regulation bylaw which would prohibit the use of certain pesticides for cosmetic purposes had been given two readings and that the Village would be working on public engagement and education prior to moving forward with the bylaw. The Committee discussed observations by the Miami River Streamkeepers about areas where pesticides have been used taking several decades to come back. The Committee noted that a shift in public perception of cosmetic pesticide use appears to be taking place and indicated support for future engagement opportunities in the spring and potentially engaging the Communities in Bloom Committee on this topic.

(c) Miami River Health

Paul reported that an ongoing and longstanding issue regarding the Miami River is a washout occurring near the Miami River bridge. There have been discussions in the past between the Village and the Miami River Streamkeepers about funding to repair the washout using willow whips. The Streamkeepers are looking at funding for this project but it appears that it would only cover 50% of the project cost.

The Director of Operations advised that as part of the Ministry of Transportation and Transit project currently taking place on Hot Springs Road, the Ministry is required to undertake environmental offsite work for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. They were initially looking at doing this work by the bridge on Hot Springs Road but it may not be feasible in this area so they approached the Village for other options or projects that

might meet their requirements. He mentioned the washout project to the Ministry as a possible alternative and discussions are ongoing.

If the Streamkeepers apply for the grant in September, the timing may work for the Village to incorporate project costs into the 2027 Financial Plan.

Discussion ensued regarding the work taking place along Hot Springs Road, including the placement of logs, stumps and silt fences to prevent erosion and provide habitat. The Committee further noted that the health of the Miami River depends largely on what takes place upstream, outside of the Village's jurisdiction.

Moved by Chair Schweinbenz
Seconded by Paul Kandt

THAT Council engage with the District of Kent regarding riparian and water health concerns about the upper reaches of the Miami River.

CARRIED

EAC-2026-08-04

The Director of Operations provided further information regarding restoration, riparian area, habitat and spawning upgrades in the area where the Miami River drains into Harrison Lake as part of the dike upgrade project. There will be armouring of the dike along the access road to the Wastewater Treatment Plant and the environmental consultants are working with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans regarding remediation work and upgrades that could take place as part of the project.

(d) Fireworks Alternatives

The Committee discussed drone and music shows as an alternative to fireworks for special events and the varying costs associated with them, including potentially purchasing them instead of hiring a company for every event. The Community Services Manager advised that Tourism Harrison is responsible for managing events through a service agreement and that pricing for a drone show from early 2025 ranged from \$8,500 for 75 drones to \$35,000 for 200 drones. The Committee discussed the draw of the fireworks especially as other neighbouring communities shift to alternatives and the impact to local businesses. Purchasing the drones might be challenging as an operator would still be required to put on the show. They also require a lot of space on the event day which would require an area like the boat launch parking lot to be blocked off, which would be a challenge during the summer.

Moved by Chair Schweinbenz
Seconded by John DeMartin

THAT Council write to Tourism Harrison requesting that they continue to explore alternatives to fireworks for events such as Canada Day and Lights by the Lake.

CARRIED

OPPOSED BY SUSAN GALVAO

EAC-2026-08-05

(e) Committee Terms and 2026 General Local Election

The Corporate Officer advised that an email had been sent out to all Committee and Commission members regarding the Committee terms of office and to determine interest in continuing past that time if the Committee is re-structured. Committee terms follow the terms of office for Council. The incoming Council will take office on November 2, 2026 at which time, they will consider which Committees to strike.

(f) Next Meeting Date: September 28, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

John DeMartin recently went on a tour of the Water and Waste Water Treatment Plants with the Village's Utilities Supervisor. He thanked the Village for the tour, noting that it was very informative and interesting. The Committee discussed incorporating tours into Earth Day in May in the future.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Paul Kandt
Seconded by Susan Galvao

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

CARRIED
EAC-2026-08-05

Councillor Mark Schweinbenz, Chair
Environmental Advisory Committee

Amanda Graham
Corporate Officer

Regular Council

File No: 0360-20-07
Date: September 8, 2026

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

RECOMMENDATION

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

1. THAT Council direct staff to consider both passive and active non-lethal hazing methods as an alternative to egg addling for Canada Goose management.
2. THAT Council engage with the District of Kent regarding riparian and water health concerns about the upper reaches of the Miami River.
3. THAT Council write to Tourism Harrison requesting that they continue to explore alternatives to fireworks for events such as Canada Day and Lights by the Lake.

SUMMARY

To present resolutions and information on behalf of the Environmental Advisory Committee from its August 24, 2026 meeting for Council's consideration.

BACKGROUND

1. Canada Goose Management

At the August 10, 2026 regular Council meeting, Council passed the following resolution:

THAT staff coordinate with the Environmental Advisory Committee and local environmental organizations to recruit volunteers to learn about the permit application and egg addling process in a facilitated workshop provided by EBB Environmental Consulting.

The Committee reviewed the report and raised concerns as to whether egg addling is humane. It was noted that section 7.1.3.1 of the Handbook for Managing Canada Geese and Cackling Geese in Southern Canada¹ published by the federal Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Canada lists several scaring or hazing techniques that do not require a permit including:

¹ <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-bird-conservation/publications/handbook-managing-cackling-geese-southern.html>

- **“Propane cannons.** Portable, propane-fired exploders can effectively displace geese. Equipment must be moved regularly, as geese will become habituated to these devices. Two exploders set at different intervals (for example, one at 10 minutes and the other at 7 minutes) are more effective, because the length of time between explosions is constantly changing, extending the time taken by geese to habituate. This equipment is available from wildlife control companies.
- **Air horns or sirens.** These noise-making devices can be mounted on vehicles, hand-held, or used remotely. They exhibit variable effectiveness, but proximity to human activity or housing may make their use unacceptable.
- **Strobe lights/lasers.** Bright flashing strobes can disturb geese after dark or just before dawn. Although the technique is quiet, the light may disturb people. Also available is a long-wavelength "laser pistol," which can be used in low light conditions to scare geese and can be effective at a distance of several hundred metres.
- **Distress tapes.** Recorded distress calls of Canada Geese or other bird species, played loudly in the direction of a goose flock, may displace birds that believe they are also in jeopardy. Calls of eagles or falcons, in combination with models or kites displaying eagle or falcon graphics (see "Scarecrows" below), may also scare geese away.
- **Flagging tape and streamers.** Lengths of shiny or bright materials strung between stakes or poles or attached to trees and allowed to move in the wind create a visual distraction that geese may avoid.
- **Balloons and kites.** Helium balloons with graphics of large eyes and kites shaped like eagles or other large birds of prey are perceived by geese to pose a threat and may help scare them away. Check their availability from wildlife control companies.
- **Scarecrows.** Human, eagle, alligator, swan or coyote effigies may be perceived by geese to pose a threat. Human scarecrows that appear to be carrying a shotgun may increase their effectiveness. Eagle decoys that are larger than life size and coyote decoys have shown some success.
- **Flags.** A fluttering flag constructed from a black plastic garbage bag and mounted on a tall pole has also been found to discourage goose use. Geese do not like to feed in areas where they sense a threat from overhead, which the fluttering flag represents to them. The dimensions of the flag should be about 0.6 metre by 1 metre. Two or three slits about one-third the length of the flag should be cut in the end of the flag, to make three or four flaps. The flag should be mounted at least 2.5 metres above the ground.
- **Motion-activated sprinklers.** Geese may be disturbed by water sprays designed to activate when movement is detected by infrared sensors. The advantage of these devices is that they can operate unattended 24 hours a day and energy-efficient circuits allow several months of operation on a single battery. However, their effectiveness is limited to quite small areas.
- **Dogs** trained to chase and retrieve a dummy decoy or ball projected toward or over a problem flock or herding dogs (such as border collies) can successfully scare geese away in some areas. Dogs must be kept under control at all times and no geese may be injured or killed.”

During discussion, the Committee made the distinction between passive hazing as including all the methods above except for using trained dogs, which would be considered active hazing.

2. Miami River Health

The Committee routinely discusses the health of the Miami River as part of the 2026 work plan. It was noted that the health of the Miami River depends largely on what takes place upstream, outside of the Village's jurisdiction and that coordination with the District of Kent in the future would be beneficial.

3. Fireworks Alternative

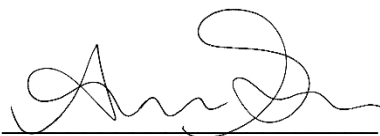
The Committee first discussed alternatives to fireworks during special events at its June 23, 2026 meeting and agreed to research additional options. Drone shows have been identified as a possible alternative being used by other event organizers. The Committee recognizes that fireworks for special events in the Village are organized by Tourism Harrison and is requesting that Council bring this matter to their attention and request that they consider seeking alternative displays or shows.

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