



MOUNT WADDINGTON REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT

January 18, 2022 Minutes

Following the Regional District of Mount Waddington Board of Directors Meeting
Board Room, RDMW Administrative Office, 2044 McNeill Road, Port McNeill, BC

Present: In person: Andrew Hory (Chair), Sandra Daniels, Rod Sherrell
Via Zoom: Directors Dennis Buchanan, Kevin Cameron, Janet Dorward, Dennis Dugas,
James Furney, Gaby Wickstrom

Staff: In person: Greg Fletcher, Administrator

Via Zoom: Nadine Weldon, Recording Secretary; Nicole McDowell, Receptionist; Max Jajszczok, VIHA Executive Director, Dr. Nicole Bennett-Boutilier, Mount Waddington Medical Director, Lesly Deuchar, Director of Clinical Services, Dean Wilson, Indigenous Health Northern Region Manager

Resolution No. **CALL TO ORDER Time 3:44 PM**
The Chair opened the meeting by acknowledging that this meeting is taking place on the traditional territory of the Kwak'waka speaking peoples.

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**
001/2022 THAT the January 18, 2022 MWRHD Meeting Agenda be approved as presented.

B. DELEGATIONS – NONE

C. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the MWRHD Meeting held December 21, 2021.

Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**
002/2022 THAT the December 21, 2021 Mount Waddington Regional Hospital District Meeting Minutes be approved as circulated.

D. CORRESPONDENCE - None

E. REPORTS

Report from Max Jajszczok:

- *Introduction of the new triad leadership team for Mount Waddington Area Health Service Delivery for VIHA. Dr. Nicole Bennett-Boutilier, Medical Director, Lesly Deuchar, Director for Clinical Service Delivery, Dean Wilson Indigenous Health Northern Region Manager.*
- *At the last meeting, there was concern about keeping the hospitals open during the holiday season due to staffing issues, which is exacerbated due to both nursing and lab technician shortages.*
 - o *Projections for COVID appear to be leveling out currently, but full impact is not yet known.*

- Contingency plans for Hospital delivery are in place and developing as situations arise.
 - If Hospital closure must happen, information will be disseminated as quickly as possible. Staffing levels will determine which hospital would be affected.
 - The Port McNeill Primary Clinic will be going to phone appointments for a minimum of five days, as some staff have tested positive for COVID. Concerns raised that messaging should go out as quickly as possible. Lesly has agreed to review this.
 - Additional staffing has been put in place to include a new manager position for acute and primary care systems, as well as a clinical care coordinator in Port McNeill and Port Hardy. These roles have been filled by Lori Vesper, and Jodie Wright respectively.
- Mayor Wickstrom would like to ensure that the new triad team is aware that the Town of Port McNeill would like to be involved, to aid and facilitate partnerships.
- The Triad team is definitely open to this, and although they are new in these positions, this is definitely high on the priority list, along with primary care governance and ensuring that small rural communities feel included.
 - Primary goal is to ensure that all the people on the North Island receive the care they require in a timely manner.
 - There are long term physicians in the Primary Clinic and VIHA will continue to support Dr. Armogam in his private clinic.
 - In 2020 Dr. Armogam had indicated that he would transition to partial retirement, but agreed to continue to serve smaller, remote communities, including Sointula, Woss and Zeballos. If Dr. Armogam decided that he was no longer available to attend one or all of these communities, a tender would go out for a physician to attend these communities, and this would be a joint decision between VIHA and the community in question.
 - Dr. Bennett-Boutilier reiterated that recruitment and retention of staff in all disciplines for the North Island is a top priority.
 - The change of staffing does not affect the MOU between Island Health and the Regional District.
 - There is a schedule set for renovations at the Port McNeill Clinic, hoping to start early spring, but a timeline is not available currently, due to the age of the building.
 - Thank you to the Regional Hospital District for assisting the purchase of the clinic building.
 - VIHA is aware of the housing shortage and have planned for a variety of different temporary housing for new staff, as an inducement for recruitment. VIHA is struggling to bring capital to a project but can bring operational funding to a project. If the Regional District is looking at housing projects, please bring VIHA in on the discussion to see if assistance with funding can be provided.

Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**

003/2022 THAT the VIHA Executive Director verbal report be received and filed.

Health Network Report: Presented by Andrew Hory

- Per Chair Hory: Reminder that the Strategic Planning Meeting will be held tomorrow morning. If anyone is interested in the meeting, but not able to attend, a report will be made available.

F. BYLAWS - None

G. COMMITTEE REPORTS - None

H. HEALTH NETWORK BUSINESS - None

I. OTHER BUSINESS

Proposed Meeting in Alert Bay re: Cormorant Health Centre staffing issues.

- *The meeting will include member of affected First Nations, as well as interested parties of the Regional District to discuss next steps regarding issues of staffing at this facility.*

NEXT MEETING – February 15, 2022 following the RDMW Board of Directors meeting.

004/2022

J. ADJOURNMENT

Time 4:30 PM

CHAIR

SECRETARY