



MOUNT WADDINGTON REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT February 21, 2023 MEETING AGENDA

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

Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83150533877?pwd=b3BhQk13bXpzdjZGSDVwVVdBenZNUT09>

Page **CALL TO ORDER**

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Adoption of February 21, 2023 MWRHD Meeting Agenda as Presented (Or amended)

B. DELEGATIONS & RECOGNITIONS - None

This meeting is taking place on the traditional territory of the Kwak'wala speaking peoples

C. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the MWRHD Meeting held January 17, 2023, as Presented (Or amended)

D. CORRESPONDENCE - None

E. REPORTS

1. VIHA Verbal Report
2. Health Network Coordinator Report

F. BYLAWS - None

G. COMMITTEE REPORTS - None

H. HEALTH NETWORK BUSINESS

I. NEXT MEETING – March 21, 2023

J. ADJOURNMENT



MOUNT WADDINGTON REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT

January 17, 2023 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), James Furney, David Summers, Kathryn Wykes
Via Zoom: Dennis Buchanan, Kevin Cameron, Pat Corbett-Labatt, Dennis Dugas
Staff: Via Zoom: Nicole McDowell, Reception, Nadine Weldon, Recording Secretary
Presenters: Lesly Deuchar, Max Jajszczok

Resolution No. **CALL TO ORDER Time 4:36 PM**
The Chair opened the meeting by acknowledging that this meeting is taking place on the traditional territory of the Kwak'wala speaking peoples.

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**
001/2023 THAT the January 17, 2023 MWRHD Meeting Agenda be approved presented.

B. DELEGATIONS – None

C. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the MWRHD Meeting held December 20, 2023.

Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**
002/2023 THAT the December 20, 2022 Mount Waddington Regional Hospital District Meeting Minutes be adopted as circulated.

D. CORRESPONDENCE - None

E. REPORTS

VIHA:

- *Access to Emergency Department care is now being scheduled. Community members and Emergency Hospital Staff have been very receptive to this. This has also provided clarity for front line staff.*
- *Phase 2 of the Port McNeill Clinic renovations will start this year.*
- *The new recruitment and retention manager is working hard, networking and feeling very positive, especially around the meetings she has attended to date.*
- *Work continues around physician recruitment. There is a new physician in Port Hardy who started late in November, with an additional physician to start in Port Hardy by September 2023.*
- *New electronic medical record project that is going to start ramping up right away, which will allow physicians better access when working outside their area.*
- *The discussion around Physician Assistants is ongoing, however, one of the challenges is that currently in BC there is not a licensing body, so they are not allowed to practice in BC. This is an ongoing matter and VIHA is very invested in the progression of this form of health care, as well as continuing support of physicians in the Mount Waddington region.*
- *One of the pieces for enhancing of nursing staff is partnering with other health authorities. VIHA has partnered with Northern Health to utilize staff from their travelling nurse program.*
- *Operationally, VIHA is providing more hours than historically, looking at about 12.5% increase of the operational budget.*

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- *The biggest hurdle is finding, training, and supporting nurses specifically trained in Emergency Department care.*

**Request from the Chair that VIHA provide financial information for the Port McNeill Clinic regarding capital costs and renovations to date to determine cost share between the Regional District of Mount Waddington and Vancouver Island Health.*

003/2023 Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**
THAT the VIHA verbal report be received as presented.

F. BYLAWS - None

G. COMMITTEE REPORTS - None

H. HEALTH NETWORK BUSINESS

I. OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING – February 21, 2023 following the RDMW Board of Directors meeting.

004/2023 **J. ADJOURNMENT**

Time 4:46 PM

CHAIR

SECRETARY



Regional Hospital District Report
February 21, 2023
MWHN HEALTH REPORT

Key themes:

Looking for clarity in a changing landscape, hitting pause, and the funny things that come from good news.

OVERVIEW

There is a lot going on, as usual, in the health & wellness sector across the region.

BACKGROUND – FEBRUARY 2023 EVENTS

The MWHN is an organized network of service providers, communities, Indigenous Nations and volunteers, spending hundreds of hours monthly dedicated to grassroots work in data gathering, planning and advocating in community health and wellness areas. Our valued core funding from Island Health is critical to our collective action, and supports the exponentially larger amount of money that is dedicated to this work by community, Nations, Non Profit Organizations and volunteers.

Network partners are patting themselves on the back these weeks, as many feel to a large extent that the cohesive results of the November Health Summit and the Province’s funding announcement, (and other areas where [multiple community perspectives](#) play a role in determining needs) are a direct result of the fact that regionally we have been engaged, listening, and singing from the same song sheet, so to speak, for many years. Aligning many perspectives in heightened environments like health care is not a small job, and while we had amazing facilitators in November, harnessing community perspectives and needs in the way we did isn’t accomplished in two days. Recognizing all contributors and their work during the hard times and the good is an emerging and critical priority for our network. Their work is humbling and shore up our unique communities.

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE PROVINCE – INVESTMENT FROM THE GRASSROOTS PERSPECTIVE

We had a significant win in the region with the announcement of a [\\$30 million in one-time capital and ongoing operating funding provided by the Ministry of Health](#).

Retrieved from <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2023HLTH0007-000101>

Northern Vancouver Island health-care stabilization initiatives

The following initiatives are launching throughout Northern Vancouver Island:

- More supports for staff, including:
 - staff retention (as much as \$2,000 in quarterly incentives) and recruitment strategies (as much as \$1,500 bonus for employee referrals) for eligible staff;
 - offering eligible staff who travel to fill local shifts 1.5 times their normal wage for straight time hours worked in addition to mileage and meal expenses; and
 - renovations and improved furnishing to accommodations.
- Extension of Northern Health’s Travel Resource Program to include the Mount Waddington region, which will provide access to a pool of nurses to support the community.
- Enhanced safety with 10 additional protection service officers.
- New daily shuttle transport between communities for patients and staff.
- Deploying mobile computed tomography (CT) diagnostic services to the region and expanding core staffing at Port Hardy Hospital.
- Expanded access to sobering assessment beds, including adding more beds and providing 24/7 access to increase access to appropriate supportive care and reduce emergency-department admissions.



- Increasing long-term care capacity by four additional beds to support the Port Hardy Hospital.
- Upgrading the Port McNeill and Port Hardy hospitals by renovating existing spaces, including the maternity, emergency departments, trauma and nurses' stations.
- Increasing home-health, home-support and mental-health and substance-use services in Port Hardy and surrounding areas.
- <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2023HLTH0007-000101>

This is a huge win for our service providers, but we are seeing a curious upwelling of negative sentiment also arising from this announcement. People across community who have been plugging holes, filling gaps and personally shouldering the burden of the lack of services are responding with some dismay at the lack of recognition in media and conversation for both their work, and the minimal recognition of our successful collective grassroots community action. While granted, it's been a very short period of time since the Ministry announcement, in a crisis time moves differently. The cited lack of personal communication to these networks from health leaders has created an environment where there is little reassurance felt by those on the ground that future planning is being done with them in mind, and in alignment with the expressed wishes of the community. Direct connection and reassuring messaging is critical in maintaining healthy community sentiment. Without the positive feedback and recognition people appear to be questioning the effectiveness of participation in existing systems and how organizations like the Health Authority view these efforts. As a result, it's becoming increasingly difficult on a community level to calm the slowly growing public support for alternative action, such as a rally spurred on by specific factions.

GO-FORWARD COMMUNICATIONS

At the time this report was drafted several upcoming meetings are slated to be held with Island Health and other groups about how to discuss change and change management with community. The result of those meetings and ensuing strategies will be made available in real time and summarized in next month's report. As a network, we are appreciative of these opportunities to be bringing the concerns around change management to leadership and decision makers, representing that often-mentioned grassroots perspective.

In Other News:

STRATEGY & PLANNING

PENDING PROJECTS

- Transportation Needs Assessment is on hold pending further information.
 - o At the MWHN we work collaboratively with the RDMW and the regional public transportation service provider. We decided to put this work on hold pending a cohesive conversation at the Transportation Advisory Committee level about transportation, including information from Island Health on concepts related to patient transport, shuttle buses, and out of region transportation and how that aligns with our current assessment of transportation, patient transport, and previously identified gaps in the region.

PROJECTS UNDERWAY

- Senior's Navigator/Info Line
 - o We're super excited about this project. We are almost done project planning (budget, scope, timeline) for a senior's info line, hosted by an agency with the capacity to help senior's navigate systems. This means any senior across the region can call the number, talk immediately and directly to a person, and that person will have a referral database at their fingertips to help support the senior's needs.
- Food Security Hub
 - o This year-on-year funded project from the United way is being led by local food security champions and addressing critical issues related to food security.
- Housing Coalition

- Interim progress report due Feb 21
- Many recent meetings about the needs required to engage with the funding opportunities available; gap analysis, pragmatic action planning on key short-term areas like emergency housing, social housing, and low income seniors housing. It's important to note that critical needs are top priority to the Government BC.
- Homeless Count
 - Completed in Port Hardy, planning Alert Bay
 - We're integrating the BC Housing intake/application forms to our survey to streamline our findings and steps in acting on any potential opportunity
- External Advocacy
 - We are having an Island-Wide Day of Learning slated for May, hosted by the Coastal Health Networks, where people from across the Island will gather to discuss the grass-roots aspects of health care, data management and collective action initiatives led from community level.
- Grants & Funding
 - There is a lot of this happening work right now – and a lot of competition.
- Attraction & Retention
 - This work is taking a good move, with Island Health, North Island College, and other organizations joining VINTAS to further the discussion.
- Asset Mapping
 - We are moving forward with the Asset Mapping plan, which will evaluate which services are in which community, how to access them, and ensure their listing and information is on our Google-Based community asset map, which will be incredibly beneficial to people seeking facility information. *Because when people want to know things they Google it*
 - This is a public-facing project meant to support our larger community communication work
 - Academically, Google took community asset mapping on a few years ago and have many ways of accomplishing the sharing of up-to-date information
 - This information will potentially help with the second pillar of the Asset Mapping project, and that is service delivery and HR asset mapping.

Gilakas'la!

Questions?