



MOUNT WADDINGTON REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT

February 21, 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), Dennis Buchanan, Pat Corbett-Labatt, Dennis Dugas, James Furney, Michelle Pottage, Kathryn Wykes
Via Zoom: Kevin Cameron, David Summers
Staff: Via Zoom: Nicole McDowell, Reception, Nadine Weldon, Recording Secretary
Presenters: Lesly Deuchar, Angela Smith, Max Jajszczok, David Boychuk* *joined the meeting at 3:39pm*
Public: John Tidbury, Derek Koel, Kathy O'Reilly

Resolution No. **CALL TO ORDER Time 3:11 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**
005/2023 THAT the February 21, 2023 MWRHD Meeting Agenda be approved presented.

B. DELEGATIONS – None

C. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the MWRHD Meeting held January 17, 2023.

Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**
006/2023 THAT the January 17, 2023 Mount Waddington Regional Hospital District Meeting Minutes be adopted as circulated.

D. CORRESPONDENCE – None

E. REPORTS

1. VIHA:

- *The province has announced a \$30,000,000 investment that is focused on system sustainability. To confirm, this does not replace the allocation of the annual capital investment.*
- *Island Health has come up with over 20 project streams initiated out of that. Examples of these are:*
 - *Additional emphasis on staff recruitment, covering physicians, nurses, lab techs, admin and other positions that are required. Partnering with Allied Health for additional assistance.*
 - *Interfacility transport route is being created, including postings for drivers.*
 - *Recruitment and retention benefits specific to the North Island include the most competitive advantage for rural and remote employees in the province. Dependent on the success of this program, it may spread to other areas across the province.*
 - *Support service positions, including drivers, security are also being posted.*
 - *New external website (<https://www.islandhealth.ca/about-us/accountability/strategic-direction/building-health/north-vancouver-island->*

healthcare-sustainability-and-improvements) started week of February 13, 2023.

- Island Health media groups were in the area last week and thank you for those who were able to assist with the asset creation aspect of this.
- 2 new beds installed for long term care, with an additional 2 more installations planned.
- Looking to increase security services are being increased for both the Port Hardy and Port McNeill Hospitals.
- Looking at Emergency Department redesign that will include maternity, lab and trauma spaces. This will also allow for optimization of staffing.
- Recruitment and retention benefits specific to the North Island include the most competitive advantage for rural and remote employees in the province. Dependent on the success of this program, it may spread to other areas across the province. The rural retention coordinator will be monitoring employee satisfaction both within VIHA and within the community, working to ensure that staff are aware of recreation activities that are available, as well as providing community information for the North Island. A large amount of the suggestions that are being implemented are based around conversations with staff who have decided to stay and make the North Island their home.
- Maternity Services will be receiving additional nursing resources to support local midwives.
- Steps being taken to attract and retain staff are:
 - Customization of job structure is currently being explored within the Health Authority to ensure staff can work hours/days that they are asking for.
 - Retention bonuses that are accessible to both new and current staff on the North Island.
 - There is a local rural/retention coordinator, who's position includes retention satisfaction amongst staff. This involves discussions with current staff about what they enjoy about the North Island, what activities are available outside of work, where improvements can be made, ensuring that there is information available. This will also allow Island Health to provide assistance with temporary housing for staff, and care/welcome packages.
- Another program that will be receiving review is the Alternative Payment Program that provides a salaried Doctor position in the Community of Sointula. The current contract is up March 31. It has provided a level of physician attendance that was not previously available and the community has been very happy with this model.
- At this time, there is not enough clarity on process and parameters on what role the Regional District will play in additional capital investments on the North Island. This information needs to be given high priority as Regional Districts require extensive lead time to determine funding sources for additional costs over and above what is initially provided for the service year.
- With the creation of transport services, it has yet to be determined if or how the Wheels for Wellness program will be impacted.
- Specialized physician care for the North Island (ie: geriatric) has not been discussed at this time but will be brought forth and follow up provided. Island Health is working to fill gaps and has hired for Community Health additional case managers, administrative staff, community nurses and mental health workers for the North Island.
- It is understood that the need for 24/7 Emergency Department services for all hospitals needs to be a priority item for the project list and monies that were provided from the Province.
- VIHA is happy to receive any suggestions around how to improve community dialogue around care.

- *There is no lack of understanding around the arguments for a centralized hospital, however, these requests go into the same funding pool as seismic upgrades for schools, highways that have washed out and other items.*
- *Thank you to Kelly Speck, representing the 'Namgis First Nation and the Village of Alert Bay for her ongoing work.*
- *Thank you to Island Health for continuing to come to the table and providing information to the directors and the public.*

Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**

007/2023 THAT the VIHA verbal report be received as presented.

2. Health Network Coordinator

- *Although the \$30,000,000 influx from the Province is much appreciated, it does seem to be focused strictly on Island Health and may be seen to leave out other programs (housing, seniors, transportation, etc.) which are equally important.*
- *Communication is key, especially to ensure people that feel included, and that their concerns are being heard and provide them the opportunity to participate.*
- *Entering year 2 of the strategic plan, pause has been hit on the starting new projects, while everyone waits to see where funding is going to be allocated to.*
- *There is still discussion around a senior's navigator, including how people would access this program and getting the information out to the seniors.*
- *Food Security Hub has received a \$100,000.00 grant and Leslie Dyck will be heading this up.*
- *The Health Network is getting a one-time input of \$50,000 from Island Health (Community Health Services) based on an assessment that was completed. There are some conditions for the spending of this money, so project funding will be determined based on those parameters.*

Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**

008/2023 THAT the Health Network Coordinator report be received and filed.

F. BYLAWS - None

G. COMMITTEE REPORTS - None

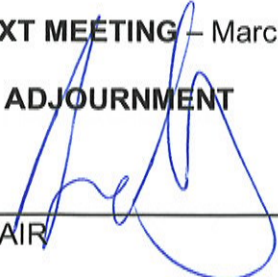
H. HEALTH NETWORK BUSINESS

I. OTHER BUSINESS

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

009/2023 **J. ADJOURNMENT**

Time 4:06 PM



 CHAIR



 SECRETARY