



MOUNT WADDINGTON REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT

March 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, David Summers, Kathryn Wykes
Via Zoom: Kevin Cameron
Staff: Via Zoom: Nicole McDowell, Reception, Nadine Weldon, Recording Secretary
Presenters: Lesly Deuchar, Nicole Bennett-Boutilier, Max Jajszczok, Dave Boychuk
Public: Kathy O'Reilly

Resolution **CALL TO ORDER Time 3:53 PM**

No. *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**
010/2023 THAT the March 21, 2023 MWRHD Meeting Agenda be approved presented.

B. DELEGATIONS – None

C. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the MWRHD Meeting held February 21, 2023.

Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**
011/2023 THAT the February 21, 2023 Mount Waddington Regional Hospital District Meeting Minutes be adopted as circulated.

D. CORRESPONDENCE – None

E. REPORTS

1. VIHA:

- *Hiring and onboarding of new staff is ongoing, including new people to the area.*
- *The new retention incentive is in place and the first payout will be paid out in early April.*
- *Refurbishment and refurbishing of staff accommodations has begun and where able, local vendors have been used.*
- *The first phase of the local transportation route is almost complete.*
- *The portable CT scanner procurement process is almost complete, the location is still under assessment. The location will probably be moved around the island based on wait lists.*
- *Full coverage of site security will be in place April 1 at 6:30am.*
- *Sobering, assessment, and sheltering expansion with the Salvation Army in Port Hardy is projected to officially launch the first week of April.*
- *There has been a lot of public discourse lately around health care:*
 - *Looking for continued public support for our health care teams; we know they are coming to work and doing their best each day.*

- The discourse on social media is absolutely having an impact on island health's ability to recruit and retain staff; as some people are feeling unsafe on their day to day, and it is not having a positive impact despite all the work the work that is going into helping the team feel valued.
- It's important that we praise our teams for all the difficult work that they are doing; we've heard loud and clear from our teams that they need support.
- The Island Health website is posting in real time at: islandhealth.ca/nvi
- Recruitment of physicians – PRABC program has successfully matched one candidate for the fall of 2023 and another for the spring of 2024.
- Two international medical graduates are coming for their three month assessment periods; one that will be supervised in Port Alice, the other in Port Hardy.
 - Island Health has to contribute to the program, in order to continue to get the segway of physicians that also feed into the community.
- Working with UBC to acquire further residents – senior doctors that are completing their residents – good input of people to experience the area, fall in love with the area, and return to the area.
- Working on an additional physician for Port Hardy, this physician is only wanting to work primary care; Island Health is willing to think creatively, especially when losing physicians who have had longitudinal practice for many years.
- Island Health has ascertained a lot of support from doctors and asking out for help (networking), which includes garnering the attention of the urban urgent primary care centers, who have offered their support; therefore, working with group to see what can be done to bridge primary care services until successful at recruiting doctors.
- Advertising for recruitment is ongoing with professional groups, including in the US.
- Divisions of family practice are also working on recruitment.
- Even though there is a planned exodus of doctors, there is a concerted effort to continue to keep health care workers in the region; even if part-time.
- The Port McNeill Primary Health Care Centre improvements are imminent. There is no anticipated interruption to service with the improvement work.
- VIHA will ensure that additional communication regarding staffing, perhaps in the form of a fact sheet on their website. Currently 18 positions have been filled, including 5 registered nurses and 2 are registered practical nurses.
- The location of the portable CT scanner is still under assessment, including where it can be used in each location. The procurement process is 90% complete. Once the procurement process is complete, an eta can be provided of arrival of the unit. It is anticipated that this machine will travel throughout the island, moving from North Island to Victoria to assist with wait lists.
- VIHA is aware that the Port McNeill clinic needs to have renovations completed and to be purchased back from the Regional Hospital District Board. Time frames are not currently available as design work is still in the conceptual design phase, and there are also constraints around construction contractors.
- Capital requests will be forthcoming once funding requests have been finalized with the Province.
- It was suggested that public perception may be improved if communication included some basics steps around timelines required and repetition of a simple message.
- A soft launch of the transportation services, including shuttle services is in the works and details of same will be forthcoming, including who qualifies, schedules, etc.

Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**

012/2023

THAT the VIHA verbal report be received as presented.

F. BYLAWS

013/2023 Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**
THAT Bylaw No. 109, cited as "Mount Waddington Regional Hospital District Financial Plan 2023-2027, Bylaw No. 109, be read for a 1st, 2nd and 3rd time.

G. COMMITTEE REPORTS - None

H. HEALTH NETWORK BUSINESS

I. OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING – March 23, 2023 following the RDMW Board of Directors meeting.

014/2023 **J. ADJOURNMENT**

Time 4:31 PM

CHAIR

SECRETARY

