



# MOUNT WADDINGTON REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT

## December 19, 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, Dennis Dugas, Kathryn Wykes, Janet Dorward (Alternate for Pat Corbett-Labatt)  
Via Zoom: Kevin Cameron, Michelle Pottage  
Staff: Via Zoom: Nadine Weldon, Recording Secretary  
Public: John Tidbury

Resolution No. **CALL TO ORDER Time 4:01 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**  
047/2023 THAT the December 19, 2023 MWRHD Meeting Agenda be approved presented.

### B. DELEGATIONS & RECOGNITIONS

1. Housing Coalition Project – Angela Smith & Kyla Lee
  - The goal of the Housing Coalition Project was to create a regional government tool kit, which previously was not available.
  - There were three main components were data management, facilitating “Get ready, set, build” training workshops (training now available online) and to provide a conduit to share information through communities and ensure access for community members.
  - The project focused on the following:
    - o Core housing needs
      - Adequacy
      - Suitability
      - Affordability
    - o Anticipated Needs through Community Profiles
      - Summarizing information
      - Reviewing trends
      - Ensuring communities are aware of how they are constituted and anticipated future changes and needs.
    - o Affordability and Repair
      - Aids to affordability including broader Provincial support and resources.
      - Engaged extensively with BC Housing and CMHC
      - Examined existing relationships and barriers to affordability.
      - Reviewed work completed by the Health Network re: homelessness, including the methodology of counting homeless and those at risk of homelessness.
  - Some of the recommendations from the Housing Coalition Report are:
    - o Create a 10 – 20-year Regional Growth Strategy for the Mount Waddington/Kwakwaka'wakw territories.
    - o Ensure local government representatives and staff engage in Kwakwaka'wakw learnings on decolonization and reconciliation to promote indigenous inclusion in the planning processes.
    - o Keeping current with the housing needs assessment using the most current census data, including ensuring that this work is budgeted for annually.

- Promote “Ready, Set, Build Program” which facilitates organizations in their efforts to build affordable housing.
- Assess barriers, ie: seniors housing, non-profit housing and community housing developments. Additionally, knowing the scope of both soft cost and startup expenses.
- Project and Financial Readiness
- Providing support, innovation and private investment in seniors housing
- Education, including debt awareness, credit.
- Explore energy efficiencies for both current and future housing within the region
- Homelessness Summary, to lead to streamlining data collection, management and outputs. Look for additional funding/administrative support systems. Increase engagement within local First Nations communities to understand issues and the need for off-reserve services.

**Comments:**

Director Cameron: *One thing I didn't see was any discussion around infrastructure for additional housing. This is an expensive and necessary part of increasing housing on the North Island and I would like to see a section added that would address how municipalities would tackle the additional and/or upgrade to infrastructure that more housing units would require.*

Director Hory: *Thank you for the report, I did find it a bit overwhelming, but appreciate that this is a multi-issue project and this is a definite starting place.*

Health Network Coordinator Greensides: *The homelessness count is crucial to ensure that this project goes forward, as it provides consistent and trending information over time.*

**Moved/Seconded/CARRIED**

048/2023 THAT the Housing Coalition Report be received and filed.

**C. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

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

**Moved/Seconded/CARRIED**

049/2023 THAT the November 21, 2023 Mount Waddington Regional Hospital District Meeting Minutes be adopted as presented.

**D. CORRESPONDENCE – None****E. REPORTS –**

- VIHA (Lesly Deuchar, Ian Wood, Dr. Nicole Bennet-Boutillier)
  - CT Open House in Port Hardy will happen on January 9, 2024
    - Scans began on December 6 for a total of 45 to date
    - Still working on limited scope, but anticipate offering contrast scanning in the new year, staff are currently completing training for same.
    - The CT scanner will be in Port Hardy until January 19 and then returning mid to late March.
  - January will see the start of the inaugural In House Training program for emergency nurses. This program focuses on specialty training and will take approximately six months. Once certified this will allow the nurse to work in any emergency department across Canada.
  - There is another Community Engagement scheduled for the end of January to go over some of the current and foreseeable projects. This will be similar to the

- last engagement including stations set up for specific projects. The Capital Team will also be on hand to answer questions.
- Staffing Change: Primary Care Manager Lori Vesper has accepted a new position in Duncan, so recruitment is ongoing for this position.
  - There has been some ongoing critical incident debriefing with teams in Port McNeill and Port Hardy due to high acuity and trauma. Critical Incident experts have been brought in to work with the teams.
  - Two new RN's are starting in January, one in Port Hardy and one in Port McNeill. There are two more potentials who are just awaiting their provincial accreditation.
  - Would like to express gratitude for all the collaborative work over the past year.
  - Would like to share the success of returning locum physicians for the North Island, as well as extension of physicians going from community to community.
  - To clarify about the "Return of Service" programs. There are two programs, the first being the "Practice Readiness Assessment BC" program where physicians come back on a 3-year contract. These physicians are internationally trained and this is the bulk of physicians currently in Port Hardy. The second program is the UBC "Return of Service" program which are Canadian residents who have trained internationally and returned to BC to complete their residency. This is a two year return of service.
  - There are two full time nurse practitioners in Port Hardy and optimization is continuing with the rural and remote nurses.
  - Have been working with Real Time Virtual Services (RUDI), this is where experienced rural physicians are available to instant video consultation for both rural nurses and physicians (provides additional support for staff).
  - The tender has gone out for Wheels for Wellness have bids are being reviewed currently. There is also an opportunity to have a discussion with Mary Mavis who manages the Volunteer Transportation network to see how collaborations can be accommodated to ensure the largest range of services possible for the public.
  - Wishing all a bright and happy holiday season

**Moved/Seconded/CARRIED**

050/2023 THAT the Island Health Report be received and filed.

- Health Network (Marjorie Greensides)
  - Table of Partners will now be every Wednesday at 10:00am, with the first meeting happening on January 10, 2024.
  - Was asked to participate in the interview process for the new Community Developer Position by Island Health. North Island is the first community to interview for this position. There are a couple of requirements for this position including that you must be from the area (this is crucial for knowledge of community). Found the interview parameters were a little rigid, but very thorough.
  - The position is intended to provide support and collaboration between Island Health and the Health Networks.
  - Held the Inclusivity and Safe Spaces Workshop for 2SLGBTQIA+ with the CRN Network. There were 26 attendants over 2 workshops. The workshops were centered around addressing systemic political/agencies issues and ensure that moving forward there are safe and inclusive spaces. The workshops provided a lot of really practical tools and there will be a spring follow up with the participants to determine what worked, what didn't and changes they've seen or participated in.
  - SEABLAC tea was held on December 16 with participation from Port Hardy, Port McNeill, Port Alice and Malcolm Island. It was a great day, including live

entertainment (music and a play), and lunch. The plan is to have the next one in Alert Bay.

- o Have started budget discussions with David for 2024
- o Will be attending an in person executive meeting to discuss strategic goals and budget for next year.
- o In the early stages of the "Caring for the care-giver" event in spring
- o Working on social media engagement and it's still continuing to climb, up another 17%. 55% of the demographic are female between age 35 and 54. This is important as an indicator for of who is being reached and who may be missed.
- o Happy Winter Festivities everyone

Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**

051/2023 THAT the Health Network Coordinator Report be received and filed.

**F. BYLAWS – None**

**G. COMMITTEE REPORTS - None**

**NEXT MEETING** – January 16, 2024 following the RDMW Board of Directors meeting.

052/2023 **H. ADJOURNMENT**

**Time 4:54 PM**

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CHAIR

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SECRETARY