



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF MOUNT WADDINGTON

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING MINUTES

December 19, 2023 at 2:00pm

Board Room, RDMW Administrative Office, 2044 McNeill Road, Port McNeill, BC

Chair: Andrew Hory

Directors: In Person: Dennis Buchanan, Dennis Dugas, James Furney, Kathryn Wykes (arrived at 2:45pm), Janet Dorward (Alternate for Director Pat Corbett-Labatt), Brent Schmidt (alternate for Kathryn Wykes, left the meeting at 2:45pm)
Zoom: Kevin Cameron, Michelle Pottage

Staff: In person: David Kim, Administrator, Jackie Challis, Economic Development Officer
Patrick Donaghy, Operations Manager: June Kwon, Planning Assistant
Zoom: Megan Hanacek, Rural Resident Attraction Coordinator, Nadine Weldon,
Recording Secretary

Public Zoom: Kathy O'Reilly – NI Eagle, John Tidbury

Resolution No. **CALL TO ORDER**

2:14 PM

The Chair opened the meeting by acknowledging that this meeting is taking place on the traditional territory of the Kwak'waka speaking peoples.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**
241/2023 THAT the RDMW Board of Directors December 19, 2023 Meeting Agenda be approved as amended.

DELEGATIONS & RECOGNITIONS

1. Mount Cain Alpine Park Society – Dean Hunchuk

- Updates for 2023 include:
 - o Summer was very busy.
 - o It was hoped that a new building for lock up would be completed unfortunately, there wasn't funding available for a lock up building. The grant-in-aid funds were instead used to remove the old composting toilets and replace with a new flush toilet facility that was built beside the old lodge (by L1-lower lift), as well as a new entrance way to the bottom ski shop area and a new stand-alone deck out front of the old lodge.
 - o Additional grant monies were also used to put all new electrical throughout the lodge, new stove and stovepipe, redone the roof, removed and replaced all the old insulation. The new insulation is wool base, which is rodent repelling.
 - o Opening has been delayed due to weather; current expectation is to open on December 27, 2023.
 - o The third floor of the lodge, which is hostel style, will not be opening until after the new year, to not overwhelm staff currently there.
 - o For the 2023-2024 season, there are currently 50 paid employees, many of them young people from the North Island. With the funds provided, staff were provided with raises this year.

- Mount Cain is a community run organization which provides affordable and sustainable outdoor recreation (current day lift ticket is \$60.00) and additionally is the only subalpine recreation area on Northern Vancouver Island.
- The practice of opening on Mondays with partial services continues. Only the bottom lift is open on Monday's, and this allows school groups to come, and introduce school children to winter sports at little to no cost. The goal is to eventually break even on Monday's.
- The advertising sponsorship program was very successful, raising over \$14,000 for the year.
- There is still a \$100,000.00 in the contingency fund in the event the mountain is not able to open for a season.
- Seen a rise in the amount of out-of-region tourism.
- Average for the 2022-2023 was 154 people/day and the mountain was open for a total of 64 days which was the longest season to date, with a total of 2503 memberships and a total of 239 season's passes.
- At this time, the lift capacity is maxed out, and discussions are ongoing to determine additional options.
- There are over 100 dedicated volunteers who have contributed over 15,000 hours. This allows the dollar to stretch so much further.
- Thanks also go out to the Forest Resource District for helping with the road (this is one of the biggest yearly expenses). The Forest District has recently designated the road as a Forest Service road which allows Mount Cain Alpine Park Society the ability to access some additional monies which resulted in widening, and better grades. Additionally, many thanks to Western Forest Products, Abernathy Construction, Koprino Road Building and North Island Rock Pro.
- There is ongoing work with 'Namgis First Nation, including providing assistance with getting their cabin online for both members and the public to be able to book for use. The plan is to hire an accommodation manager to aid with booking and housekeeping staff to assist with this property. Their support is invaluable.
- The parking lot camping is still a work in progress, and currently is by donation only. This model may have to change due to increased maintenance costs.
- The road equipment and groomer are nearing the end of their lives, as well as the generators. The possible replacements for the generators include much more fuel-efficient generators and possible alternate forms of energy including wind and/or solar.

Chair Hory thanked Mr. Hunchuk and the Mount Cain Alpine Park Society for their ongoing commitment to the North Island and the value that this recreation venue brings to all the citizens of the Regional District.

MINUTES

Moved/Seconded/CARRIED

242/2023 THAT the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting held November 21, 2023 be adopted as amended.

Moved/Seconded/CARRIED

243/2023 That the Correspondence on the table be received and filed.

Moved/Seconded/CARRIED

244/2023 THAT the Cheque Registry for November 30, 2023 be received and filed.

STAFF REPORTS

1. Administrator Report: *Noted:*

- Transit Update: Cumulative Revenue from January to November was \$61,000, which is a 4.9% increase. The ridership rose by 4.7%, for the same period, resulting in 28,000 trips which is very significant for the size of our transit system.
- Hiring Status Update:
 - o Emmanuel Okorji will be joining the organization as the Development Technician as of January 2. Thank you to June Kwon for his work in this department.
 - o There are 2 candidates for the Manager of Finance have ben pre-screened and the interviews will be processed soon.
 - o Two new clerks have joined the Finance Department, Francine Robinson and Angela Dewberry, on a limited term basis.
 - o Actively recruiting a manager of Parks & Recreation who will lead the current portfolio of the Parks and Arena operations. They will use the synergy of the skill sets of both teams to develop a strategic vision for the North Island parks and recreation.
- The Regional District would like to apply to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for a feasibility study grant for a new multi-plex building. The grant would provide funding for the entire cost of the feasibility study. The feasibility study would determine the size, location, site services and amenities would be best for the Regional District as a whole. If successful, a tender would then be sent out for step 1, which would be an architectural design.

Moved/Seconded/CARRIED

245/2023 THAT the Regional District of Mount Waddington supports the submission of an application to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for a grant to fund a feasibility study of a proposed new building to include offices for the Regional District staff, several temporary housing units and space for a public agency.

Moved/Seconded/CARRIED

246/2023 THAT the verbal December 19, 2023 Administrator's Report be received.

2. Economic Development Officer – Jackie Challis (December 19, 2023)

- One of the strong successes of November was the North Island Economic Forum, which was a two-day event and there was a high level of engagement. The next forum is planned for April 2024.

Moved/Seconded/CARRIED

247/2023 THAT the December 19, 2023, Economic Development report be received and filed.

Director Dugas advised the Board of Jackie Challis as a recent recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Northwest Territories Tourism in recognition of all her hard work for Inuvik and surrounding areas.

- b) Rural Resident Attraction Coordinator Report (December 19, 2023) Presented by Megan Hanacek.

Moved/Seconded/CARRIED

248/2023 THAT the December 19, 2023 Rural Resident Attraction Coordinator Report be received and filed.

- c) Tourism Coordinator Report (December 19, 2023)

Moved/Seconded/CARRIED

249/2023 THAT the December 19, 2023 Tourism Coordinator Report be received and filed.

3. Manager of Operations (December 19, 2023) *also noted:*

Moved/Seconded/CARRIED:

250/2023 THAT the 2024 Fire Chief Appointments be approved as follows:

- Andrew Hory: Coal Harbour Volunteer Fire Department
- Murray Estlin: Hyde Creek Volunteer Fire Department
- Glen Watson: Sointula Volunteer Fire Department
- Brock Soderman: Woss Volunteer Fire Department

Moved/Seconded/CARRIED

251/2023 THAT the December 19, 2023 Manager of Operations Solid Waste report be received and filed.

4. Development Technician Report (December 19, 2023):

Moved/Seconded/CARRIED

252/2023 THAT the Building Inspection Service Agreement with the District of Port Hardy be renewed for the period of January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024.

Moved/Seconded/CARRIED

253/2023 THAT the December 19, 2023 Development Technician report be received and filed.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

1. Finance Report – CAO verbal report, *Also noted:*

- *The new officer bylaw that is proposed to be consistent with the local government act of BC.*

Moved/Seconded/CARRIED

254/2023 THAT the December 19, 2023 Verbal Finance Report be received and filed.

2. Single Source Report by Senior Finance Clerk Lisa Nicholson

Moved/Seconded/CARRIED

255/2023 THAT the November 30, 2023 Single Source be received and filed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS - None

BYLAWS AND PERMITS

1. Bylaw No. 1033, cited as “Regional District of Mount Waddington Officer Bylaw No. 1033, 2023” for 1st, 2nd and 3rd reading.

Moved/Seconded/CARRIED

256/2023 THAT Bylaw No. 1033, cited as “Regional District of Mount Waddington Officer Bylaw No. 1033, 2023” receive 1st, 2nd and 3rd reading.

1. Bylaw No. 1033, cited as “Regional District of Mount Waddington Officer Bylaw No. 1033, 2023” for adoption.

Moved/Seconded/CARRIED

257/2023 THAT Bylaw No. 1033, cited as “Regional District of Mount Waddington Officer Bylaw No. 1033, 2023” be adopted.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Mount Cain Alpine Park Society request for Grant-In-Aid

Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**

258/2023 THAT the Mount Cain Alpine Park Society request for Grant-In-Aid be forwarded to the Budget Committee for review.

2. Letter of Support for the Nanwakolas Council and Western Forest Products TFL Agreement.

Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**

259/2023 THAT the Letter of Support for the Nanwakolas Council and Western Forest Products TFL Agreement be signed and sent to Brad McRae of Western Forest Products.

3. District of Port Hardy request for Grant-In-Aid

Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**

260/2023 THAT the District of Port Hardy request for Grant-In-Aid be forwarded to the Budget Committee for review.

OTHER BUSINESS / DIRECTORS REPORTS / NEXT MEETING

Electoral Area Updates:

Area "A" - Broughton / Malcolm Island / Mainland

- It has been announced that the ambulance service is being switched to the mix shift model.
- The ferry was able to run during the power outage back and forth from Alert Bay, but unable were to connect to Sointula due to mechanical issues. This causes issues for residents, including someone who needed to leave the island due to medical reasons and there was a resident who was trying to get back after being discharged from the Port McNeill hospital. The resident who was trying to return was able to go back to the hospital and spend the night, so they weren't left completely stranded.
- Sointula Seniors held an "everyone welcome" Christmas potluck. 90 people were served in person, with additional 14 deliveries made to those who are home bound.
- Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to everyone, see you in the New Year.

Area "B" – Coal Harbour / Quatsino / Winter Harbour

- Attended the Regional District Christmas party last Saturday, was a great example of David's first year and how things are going, the improvement of communication and collaboration. I am optimistic for the new year.

Area "C"- Hyde Creek / Rupert

- Horse and buggy light up parade was held on December 9, 2023
- The Hyde Creek Christmas Craft fair was held on December 16, and well attended
- Thank you to the volunteer fire departments for their quick response to the house fire in Hyde Creek. Good reminder to check chimney's, get your WET inspection and your insurance coverage
- Hyde Creek Advisory Planning Committee has started work on the OCP review
- Wishing everyone a happy and healthy festive fun holiday season

2. Municipal Updates:

Village of Alert Bay:

- On December 4, 'Namgis First Nation hosted a Christmas Dinner for the entirety of Cormorant Island
- December 9 was the 2nd annual Christmas Bazaar at the Lawrence Amber Recreation Centre, and was also the 2nd year in a row that there was a power outage during this event.
- December 16 was the downtown light up ceremony
- Tuff Marine inspected the pilings under the government dock trestle as well as the library museum. It is hoped that work will begin before the winter storms kick in.
- Merry Christmas, Seasons Greetings to all

Village of Port Alice:

- The Health Team at the Port Alice Health Clinic were involved in a video for health care staff retention. In discussion with the participants, it was noted that the most significant barrier is employment for partners.
- Merry Christmas to all

District of Port Hardy:

- Large number of Christmas activities including the first Festival of Lights at Carrot Park.
- The Rotary held the annual caroling tour through town and it was well attended.
- Grand Opening for the CT Scanner on January 9 in Port Hardy
- It is anticipated that the swimming pool will open at the end of January
- There was a VINTAS AGM, a lot of discussion around training/learning aspects, including information from Donna Merry of North Island Collage and from Megan Hanacek on the attraction and retention marketing aspect. There was also additional discussion regarding the prospective seaweed industry, including review of expectations and practical applications.
- Number of finance meetings at the District of Port Hardy, which are ongoing.
- Attended the North Island Regional Emergency Planning Committee, which was very interesting and important.
- The Port Hardy recreation department is very busy, including a New Years Eve family event. Early registration is encouraged as there are limited spaces for the venue.
- Would like to send a letter to BC Hydro regarding the continuous issue with power outages, especially as these power outages are preventable due to lack of vegetation management. There was a large financial impact to the North Island and a hardship to residents and business alike, including people who had come down on the ferry to do their Christmas Shopping.
- Thank you to the Board for a great year.

Town of Port McNeill:

- First Responders Parade was a great success, including a lot of people dressing up to provide support
- Attendees at the parade were able to stand on nice clean sidewalks, as the two youth who inadvertently caught the burl on fire are doing their community service hours for the town. They have been set to trim and cut back all the sidewalks. They have been doing such a good job and are well thought of by the crew.

Questions/Comments:

Director Hory: *There have been six power outages to date. Director Hory had just received correspondence from Minister Josie Osborne. BC Hydro did present that they were coming up with a plan for their transmission lines, but it is imperative that we keep pushing for vegetation management.*

Next Meetings of the Board of Directors: Regular Meeting: January 16, 2024 at 2:00 pm

261/2023

ADOURNMENT **TIME 3:55 PM**

CHAIR

SECRETARY