



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF MOUNT WADDINGTON
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES

February 20, 2024 at 2:00pm

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

Chair: Andrew Hory
Directors: In Person: Dennis Buchanan, Pat Corbett-Labatt, Dennis Dugas, James Furney,
Michelle Pottage, David Summers, Kathryn Wykes
Zoom: None

Staff: In person: David Kim, Administrator, Jackie Challis, Economic Development Officer
Patrick Donaghy, Operations Manager, Emmanuel Okorji, Development
Technician
Zoom: Megan Hanacek, Rural Resident Attraction Coordinator, Natalie Stewart, Tourism
Coordinator, Nadine Weldon, Recording Secretary, Shayla Burnham, Executive
Assistant

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

Resolution No. **CALL TO ORDER** **2:05 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**
018/2024 THAT the RDMW Board of Directors February 20, 2024 Meeting Agenda be approved as presented.

DELEGATIONS & RECOGNITIONS

1. IN Film (North Vancouver Island Film Commission) – Brandon Lepine, Regional Production Services Manager
 - *In Film is the regional representative for attraction of the motion picture industry.*
 - *In Film's work supports economic diversification with the Regional District as a whole as well as mid island and coastal communities.*
 - *To date, In Film has facilitated over 590 productions in the region with a direct influx of \$2,000,000.*
 - *In Film provides accredited training for work within the motion picture industry, assists with connecting production teams up with crew, provides location information both in person and via digital format and acts as a general liaison for production companies who are looking to come to Vancouver Island.*
 - *Local businesses are hired whenever possible (including photographers to provide updated location shots for current and new clients).*
 - *Vancouver Island is sought after by production crews mainly for 2nd unit production work, which requires smaller crews. This is a benefit as the crews bring in economic revenue, but don't create disruptions to towns and roads with months of filming that in larger centers will shut down whole blocks of a city or area.*

- The RDMW has very desirable nature locations for film crews, notably there is current interest from European producers looking to create "Alone" style shows. Chair Hory thanked Mr. Lepine and advised that a discussion around funding for In Film will be brought forth to the Finance Committee meeting for consideration.

2. Gary Coons – BC Ferry Authority Nomination

- Resident of Prince Rupert for the last 45 years, currently retired.
- Have been involved in the Ferries Authority Portfolio for the last three (3) years.
- In 2003 the Coastal Ferry Act was implemented. The Authority Board & Services Board (were the same people on both boards), and eventually the Auditor General determined that this was a conflict of interest, including compensation that had been provided to the directors.
- In 2019 the BC Ferries Authority legislation came into effect and the new mandate was implemented. This mandate provided a division between the Authority Board and Services Board including no crossover of Directors from either board, a new CEO and a review of the compensation packages.
- With the new mandate the Authority Board and Services Board are speaking and collaborating to work for the betterment of the residents of BC.
- The goal is to ensure that the individual directors work as representatives for their areas, as well as creating both long term and short-term visions for BC Ferries.
- Would like to continue the necessary work.

Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**

019/2024 THAT the Regional District of Mount Waddington recommend Gary Coon to the Northern Coastal and North Island area for appointment to the BC Ferry Authority Board of Directors.

Chair Hory thanked Mr. Coons and advised that the Board is appreciative as his attendance at the meeting as this is the first time that a representative from the BC Ferry Authority has appeared at the Board of Directors and provide insight into what the BC Ferry Authority does and how it affects the services provided to the residents of the Regional District.

MINUTES

Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**

020/2024 THAT the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting held January 16, 2024 be adopted as presented.

Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**

021/2024 That the Correspondence on the table be received and filed.

Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**

022/2024 THAT the Cheque Registry for January 31, 2024 be received and filed.

STAFF REPORTS

1. Administrator Report: *also noted:*

- *Transit Update: Revenue for the month of January was \$5,300, up 15% from January 2023, and total ridership was up by 18%.*
- *Multiplex Selection: Currently preparing the contract tender for site selection and architect drawing selection. This will be needed for outside funding applications.*
- *Hiring Status:*
 - o *2 candidates have been selected for additional interviews for the Manager of Finance position and will be followed up in March.*
 - o *Further to engagement with staff and the Union regarding the organizational*

structure change, the Manager of Parks and Recreation position will be posted shortly.

- *Matt Dyck has been hired for the Engineer in Training position, to start March 18, 2024. He is currently a mechanical engineer in training.*

Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**

023/2024 THAT the verbal February 20, 2024 Administrator's Report be received.

Travel Report:

Moved/Seconded/**Carried**

024/2024 THAT the Travel Report be approved as presented.

2. Economic Development Officer – Jackie Challis (February 20, 2024) *also noted:*

- *Hoping that the Labour Market Report information can be shared soon.*
- *Received a significant number of submissions for the seaweed program.*
- *The Fundamentals of Forestry program for April is full, and the September session is half full.*
- *The Wildfire Training was cancelled as they weren't able to get the numbers. There was a lot of interest, and this course may be looked at again if the want is there. May have to look at the delivery, as the training required 5 weeks of full-time training out of town.*
- *Have made some changes to the North Island Economic Forum including extending it to three days, this came about as there were requests for more time for networking and breakout sessions from the last session. This forum is going to include evening events, meeting with youth delegates from the Hight School and a field trip to Alert Bay.*

Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**

025/2024 THAT the February 20, 2024, Economic Development report be received and filed.

b) Rural Resident Attraction Coordinator Report (February 20, 2024) Presented by Megan Hanacek. *also noted:*

- *The Housing Portal is now up and running on the myvancouverislandnorth.ca website and has received positive impact and feedback to date.*

Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**

026/2024 THAT the February 20, 2024 Rural Resident Attraction Coordinator Report be received and filed.

c) Tourism Coordinator Report – (February 20, 2024) Presented by Natalie Stewart

Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**

027/2024 That John Tidbury be approved as Chair and Riley Zimmerman be approved as Vice-Chair for the Vancouver Island North Tourism Committee.

Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**

028/2024 THAT John Tidbury, Donna Gault, Riley Zimmerman, and Geoff Heith be approved for four Strategic Stakeholder positions for the 2024-2025 term for the Vancouver Island North Tourism Committee.

Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**

029/2024 THAT the February 20, 2024 Tourism Coordinator report be received and filed.

3. Manager of Operations – Patrick Donaghy (February 20, 2024) *also noted:*

- *There were 2 submissions for the Wood Grinding Quotation, Integrum was determined to be the best contract for the tender based on pricing and experience.*

Moved/Seconded/CARRIED

030/2024 THAT Integrum Recovery and Salvage be awarded the contract to grind the accumulated wood at 7 Mile Landfill as per the terms set out in the Regional District's Request for Quotation for Wood Grinding Project 2024 for a cost of \$61,712, excluding GST.

Moved/Seconded/CARRIED

031/2024 THAT the Board directs staff to update the Regional District of Mount Waddington Solid Waste Management Plan Tenure

Moved/Seconded/CARRIED

032/2024 THAT the February 20, 2024 Manager of Operations report be received and filed.

4. Development Technician Report – Emmanuel Okorji (February 20, 2024) *also noted:***Moved/Seconded/CARRIED**

033/2024 THAT the February 20, 2024 Development Technician report be received and filed.

FINANCIAL REPORTS1. Finance Report – CAO verbal report, *Also noted:*

- *Gearing up for 2023 Audit Process*
- *Questica training is ongoing.*
- *Public Sector Asset Reporting as mandated by the Province is in the works.*

Moved/Seconded/CARRIED

034/2024 THAT the February 20, 2024 Verbal Finance Report be received and filed.

2. Single Source Report by Finance Clerk Shelley MacEachern

Moved/Seconded/CARRIED

035/2024 THAT the January 31, 2023 Single Source be received and filed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS –**EA.MRDT:****Moved/Seconded/CARRIED**

036/2024 THAT RTAG 2024-01 Port McNeill Tourism Application in the amount of \$2,000 be approved.

Moved/Seconded/CARRIED

037/2024 THAT RTAG 2024-02 Malcolm Island Community Event Society Application in the amount of \$5,000.00 be approved. *Opposed: Director Furney, Director Summers*

BYLAWS AND PERMITS**Moved/Seconded/CARRIED**

038/2024 THAT Bylaw No. 1035, cited as the "Regional District of Mount Waddington Malcolm Island Solid Waste Service Rates Amendment Bylaw No. 1035, 2024 be read a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd time.
Moved/Seconded/CARRIED

039/2024 THAT Bylaw No. 1036 cited as the "Regional District of Mount Waddington Woss Sewer System Regulations and Rates Amendment Bylaw No. 1036, 2024" to be read a 1st, 2nd and 3rd time.

Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**

040/2024 THAT Bylaw No. 1037 cited as the "Regional District of Mount Waddington Woss Solid Waste Regulations and Rates Amendment Bylaw No. 1037, 2024" to be read a 1st, 2nd and 3rd time.

Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**

041/2024 THAT Bylaw No. 1038 cited as the "Regional District of Mount Waddington Coal Harbour specified Area Water Regulations and Rates Amendment Bylaw No. 1038, 2024" to be read a 1st, 2nd and 3rd time.

Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**

042/2024 THAT Bylaw No. 1039 cited as the "Regional District of Mount Waddington 7-Mile Solid Waste Disposal Amendment Bylaw No. 1039, 2024" to be read a 1st, 2nd and 3rd time.

CORRESPONDENCE

- *The Connected Coast group from the Strathcona Regional District has advised that they will be happy to attend and present to the Board of Directors and answer questions.*
- *The letter of Support for the Connecting Communities BC Application from the RDMW Board of Directors will be tabled until additional information is provided.*
- *There are concerns that TELUS is not confirming the accuracy of their services in rural and remote communities, and this is creating roadblocks for the completion of the Connected Coast work.*

Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**

043/2024 THAT the Regional District of Mount Waddington will table the provision of a letter of Support for Connecting Communities BC Application until further information is provided.

OTHER BUSINESS / DIRECTORS REPORTS / NEXT MEETING

Emergency Coordinator Report – Presented by David Kim, CAO

Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**

044/2024 THAT as part of the Regional District of Mt. Waddington's ongoing work in relation to emergency preparedness that an application for financial assistance under the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund 2024 Emergency Operation Centre grant be authorized for submission to the UBCM in collaboration with the Strathcona Regional District; and

THAT the Strathcona Regional District be authorized to apply for, receive, and manage the grant funding on behalf of the Regional District of Mt. Waddington if the application is successful.

Electoral Area Updates:

Area "A" - Broughton / Malcolm Island / Mainland

- *Loss in the community on Friday due to car accident on Highway 19.*
- *Sointula Resource Centre was notified that their lease is not going to be renewed and will need to find a new location by April 30, 2024. There is a community meeting tomorrow night looking for possible solutions.*
- *Rogers Tower has put forward a new proposed location. A Digital Community Session will be held on April 29, 2024.*

- MIAC have started working on a Community Questionnaire to be put out into the community later this year. This will provide the MIAC with direction from the community.
- Ferry Etiquette info sheet is being developed for visitors, including information about where to line up, etc..
- Ragged Edge has received funding for another year to stay open.
- Director Pottage attended the LGLA EA Director Forum and Leadership Forum which was very informative and provided great value. Attended with Directors Wykes and Director Summers. Had a discussion with West Kelowna Mayor and Fire Chief who were attending the Leadership Forum, who both expressed gratitude for all the communities that provided assistance with the fires last year.

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

- Introduced Emmanuel to the Coal Harbour LCC at the last meeting and along with David had a very fulsome meeting.
- Hosted a four-day Aikido tournament at the Rain Coast Martial Arts Dojo. The feedback was that most people were pleased about how welcome they were made to feel while staying in Port Hardy for the tournament.
- The reason that the Fire Safety Act has not been mandated to date is that one of the bigger issues is the willingness of Regional Districts to take on Fire Inspections and the Provincial assumption that Regional Districts would be happy to do so, this is not a realistic ask.

Area "C"- Hyde Creek / Rupert

- Attended the EA Forum, and took away a lot of new learnings, including the differences between municipalities and regional districts as well as the differences between the various regional districts, and the emergency management act.
- Hyde Creek APC held their Annual Fire Commission meeting last month. Thanks to all the volunteer fire fighters for their ongoing commitment.
- Work has started on the OCP for Hyde Creek.

Area "D" – Nimpkish Valley/Woss

- WRA meeting, and received the results of the survey, which asked residents to list their priority of services that the WRA looks after. There was the biggest turnout ever noted. The two biggest issues were the new roof on the community hall and restarting the pool. There were also people who volunteered to look after the ballfield and the tennis court.
- Thank you to CAO David Kim and Development Technician Emmanuel Okorji for inviting Director Summers and Director Wykes to the meeting at Mount Cain which provided clarification and steps for moving forward.
- The EA Forum provided information that Director Summers was able to bring back to the Hamlet of Woss regarding high-speed internet and the empty lots that could potentially be sold for new residents.

2. Municipal Updates:

Village of Alert Bay:

- Attended the open house with Island Health
- February 1, 2024, the Public Works foreman passed away suddenly. The Village Office has been trying to provide as much support for staff as available.
- Attended a local leader's meeting with Mayor Corbett-Labatt.
- Spoke at and took part in a Missing and Murdered Indigenous Woman's meet up and walk.
- Met with Cormorant Island Community Health Centre Staff, Doctors and VIHA Team Leaders, this culminated in a community lunch and open house to the public, to

provide residents with an opportunity to ask questions and have meaningful discussions.

Village of Port Alice: Not Available

District of Port Hardy:

- *Large number of deaths within the community, it's hitting everyone hard. There are ripple effects that all the communities will feel.*
- *Water going into the pool today, should be about 4 days to fill, then testing will follow.*
- *Involved with the Sanala Culturally Supportive housing. Funding applications will be going in for a EA, ED and the balance of staff that will be require for a project of this size. Will know within the next few days if funding has been approved.*
- *Attended a meeting with the leadership of Island Health, to review a drug testing Facility (this allows people to have their drugs tested to ensure that they will be safe to use.) it's hoped that this will ensure less overdoses for those hat use this service.*
- *The Port Hardy Heritage Society will be operating the Port Hardy Visitor Centre. This will be a two-year process, where they will be working between the Port Hardy Museum and the Port Hardy Visitor Centre.*
- *Interviews ongoing for Manager of Recreation as well as a Project Manager*
- *Had the opportunity for Mayor and Council to meet with the council of Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw, it was a very productive meeting, including discussions around working collaboratively to the betterment of all residents.*
- *Mayor and Council also attended appreciation day for the RCMP on February 1, this was a great way to express thanks for their hard work.*
- *Director Dugas attended a meeting at Quatsino First Nation to discuss Scott Island, including the issue of the lack of native birds due to the predators that were introduced almost 90 years ago. It is hoped that once the introduced predators are removed, that the bird populations will rebound.*
- *Meeting held with Minister Farnsworth; this was his first visit to Port Hardy. Had a thorough discussion around issues of concern in Port Hardy, including items that he will be taken back to other relevant ministers.*

Town of Port McNeill:

- *Productive meeting with Minister Farnsworth and his assistant. Discussion around the highway, lack of cell service and internet for the communities.*
- *Reviewing recreation report for Port Hardy, noted that the recreation department opens the ice rink for pro-d days. Would like to discuss the possibly of this for the Regional Arena in Port McNeill.*
- *Would be open to have a discussion around regional water conservation during the summer, as this is going to be an ongoing issue.*

Questions/Comments:

Next Meetings of the Board of Directors: Regular Meeting: March 19, 2024 at 2:00 pm

045/2024

ADOURNMENT

TIME 4:33 PM

CHAIR

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER