



# REGIONAL DISTRICT OF MOUNT WADDINGTON

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### MEETING MINUTES

October 15, 2024 at 2:00pm

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

- Chair: Andrew Hory
- Directors: In Person: Dennis Dugas, James Furney, Michelle Pottage, Dave Summers, Brent Schmidt (Alternate for Kathryn Wykes), John Tidbury (Alternate for Pat Corbett-Labatt)  
Zoom: Dennis Buchanan (left meeting at 3:16pm), Kevin Cameron
- Staff: In person: David Kim, Administrator, Emmanuel Okorji, Development Technician, Pat English, Economic Development Consultant  
Zoom: Megan Hanacek, RRAP, Natalie Stewart, Tourism Coordinator, Nadine Weldon, Recording Secretary, Nicole McDowell, Administration
- Public Zoom: Kathy O'Reilly – NI Eagle, Lyndsay MacKenzie, Marjorie Greensides

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

170/2024 Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**  
THAT the RDMW Board of Directors October 15, 2024 Meeting Agenda be approved as presented.

#### DELEGATIONS & RECOGNITIONS

1. Seaweed Industry Development Plan – Chris Neufeld, LGL Limited, Amy McConnell, Canadian Kelp Research
  - The Seaweed Sector has been identified as a promising opportunity for economic growth.
  - The Seaweed Development Plan was put together and noted the following three key takeaways:
    - o There is a huge diversity between the First Nations about which aspects of the seaweed cultivation they may be interested in. Some Nations were concerned about environmental stewardship and risks associated with aquaculture farming, while others were focused on leading cultivation activities.
    - o The RDMW environment, workforce and infrastructure are well suited to the seaweed industry.
    - o The RDMW economy relies heavily on the natural resource sector, which unfortunately has led to loss of employment in the last few years.
  - Seaweed is made up of brown, green and red seaweed, with the most prevalent on the west coast being bull kelp. Bull kelp can grow up to 30cm per day, making it very sustainable.
  - Industry analysis shows the seaweed industry growing globally, with the largest consumers being China and Indonesia. North America only counts for about 1.4% of the current global markets at this time.

- Site selections for Kelp farms include
  - o 10-60m deep with a sandy bottom
  - o High water flow or water turn over
  - o Target species that grow near by (confirms that the species will flourish in your farm area)
  - o Accessible in most weather
  - o Requires First Nation consent
  - o Not a navigation hazard
  - o Not to be located in an environmentally sensitive area
- As with all farming, there is the need to be aware of environmental considerations
  - o Disease, parasites
  - o Interference with marine mammals
  - o Need to monitor for debris and abandoned infrastructure
- The next steps suggested would be:
  - o Regional Task Force including the RDMW, Province of BC, local First Nations, as well as members of the seaweed industry and training institutions.
  - o Site Specific business plan development including developing/finding a market appropriate to the cost of production.

**MINUTES**

- 171/2024 Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**  
 THAT the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting held September 3, 2024 be adopted as amended.
- 172/2024 Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**  
 That the Correspondence on the table be received and filed.
- 173/2024 Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**  
 THAT the Cheque Registry for September 30,2024 be received and filed.

**STAFF REPORTS**

1. Administrator Report: Verbal Report Presented by David Kim
  - Total transit cumulative revenue from Jan – September was almost \$50,500. This is an increase of 2.4% and ridership rose by 1.2% (Approximately 22,710 riders over six months). Transit use has risen steadily over the years.
  - Campsite update:
    - o Quatse Campsite revenue for the season was \$84,400, which is a 209% increase from 2023 which was \$40,400. The was with a usage utilization of 30%. This was the first year that the Regional District staffed the campground. Would like to congratulate the Parks and Admin staff for all their hard work with this.
    - o Bere Point revenue for the season was \$96,000.
  - Hiring Status:
    - o The finalist for Economic Development Officer has declined the offer. This position has been re-posted.
    - o We have received applications for both the Parks & Recreation manager as well as Manager of Finance
    - o We have received 3 candidates for the Emergency Coordinator position.

174/2024 Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**  
 THAT the Regional District of Mount Waddington supports and will provide grant management for the Sointula, Hyde Creek, Woss, and Coal Harbour Volunteer Fire Departments' applications to the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund's Volunteer & Composite Fire Departments Equipment and Training intake for a combined grant of up to \$160,000 for the purchase of equipment and training.

175/2024 Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**  
 THAT the verbal October 15, 2024 Administrator's Report be received.  
 Travel Report

176/2024 Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**  
 THAT the October 15, 2024 Travel Report be approved as presented.

2. Economic Development – Presented by Pat English, Economic Development Consultant (October 15, 2024)

177/2024 Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**  
 THAT the October 15, 2024, Economic Development report be received and filed.

- b) Rural Resident Attraction Coordinator Report (October 15, 2024) *Also noted:*

178/2024 Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**  
 THAT the October 15, 2024 Rural Resident Attraction Coordinator Verbal Report be received and filed.

- c) Tourism Coordinator Report – (October 15, 2024) Presented by Natalie Stewart

179/2024 Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**  
 THAT VINT allocates \$50,000 from MRDT reserves to create an Event and Festivals Fund.

180/2024 Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**  
 THAT VINT allocates up to \$40,000 from MRDT reserves for VINT to attend outdoor shows in Toronto, Calgary and Vancouver for VINT to sponsor stakeholder booths for a strong North Island presence.

181/2024 Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**  
 THAT the October 15, 2024 Tourism Coordinator report be received and filed.

3. Operations Supervisor – No Report
4. Development Technician Report – Emmanuel Okorji (October 15, 2024)

182/2024 Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**  
 THAT the Regional District enter into an agreement with the Port Hardy Fish & Wildlife Association for use of the RDMW Tenure property license #105617 for the term of October 16, 2024 to August 8, 2030 at the cost of \$1.00 per annum.

183/2024 Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**  
 THAT the October 15, 2024 Development Technician report be received and filed.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS**

1. Finance Report – David Kim, CFO verbal report (October 15, 2024):
  - *The Finance Department is currently in the process of migrating the finance system to a cloud based system, which will heighten security and ensure minimal losses due to server malfunction.*

- The Auditors have completed the 2023 Financial Audit.

184/2024 Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**  
THAT the October 15, 2024 Verbal Finance Report be received and filed.

2. Single Source Report by Finance Supervisor, Lisa Nicholson

185/2024 Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**  
THAT the September 30, 2024 Single Source reports be received and filed.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

EA & MRDT Committee:

1. RTAG 2024-06 SISU Theatre

186/2024 Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**  
THAT RTAG 2024-06 SISU Theatre Society of Sointula request in the amount of \$5,000 be approved.

### **BYLAWS**

1. Bylaw No.1045, Regional District of Mount Waddington Zoning Bylaw No. 21, Amendment Bylaw No. 1045, 2024

187/2024 Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**  
THAT Bylaw No.1045, Regional District of Mount Waddington Zoning Bylaw No. 21, Amendment Bylaw No. 1045, be adopted.

2. Bylaw No.1047, Regional District of Mount Waddington Bylaw No. 916, Amendment Bylaw No. 1047, 2024" for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> readings

188/2027 Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**  
THAT Bylaw No.1047, Regional District of Mount Waddington Bylaw No. 916, Amendment Bylaw No. 1047, 2024" be read a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> time.

### **CORRESPONDENCE - NONE**

### **OTHER BUSINESS/ DIRECTORS REPORTS / NEXT MEETING**

- a) Emergency Coordinator Report (October 15, 2024)
- b) Emergency Coordinator – Grant Opportunity Partnership (October 15, 2024)

189/2024 Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**  
THAT as part of the Regional District of Mount Waddington's ongoing work in relation to emergency preparedness, that an application for financial assistance under the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund October 2024 Disaster Risk Reduction/Climate Adaption grant be authorized for submission to UBCM in collaboration with 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 Mount Waddington if the grant application is successful.

190/2024 Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**  
THAT the Emergency Coordinator report be received and filed.

### Electoral Area Updates:

#### Area "A" - Broughton / Malcolm Island / Mainland

- *BC Ferries brough back the smaller ferry (Quadra Queen), it does not meet the community needs and is negatively affecting people's ability to get on and off the island. This will directly impact both business and tourism on the island. Discussions have been initiated with the Village of Alert Bay (Mayor Buchanan) and the Marine Superintendent. Will also be going to the media to garner attention and hopefully additional information.*
- *The community water system backup generator needs a new part, so residents are now on water conservation when the power is out.*
- *Sointula Seniors have started their Tuesday coffee meetings. The Seniors Bazaar will be happening on November 30. Better at Home has been coming over and hosting a monthly lunch for the last 3 months. Good feedback from attendees at the lunches.*
- *Dr. Armogam has sponsored community dinners for the month of October every Friday. The first dinner hosted over 80 people. Everybody is welcome. Great way to bring community together.*
- *Winterfest will be happening November 23.*
- *Attended UBCM in September, great networking opportunities. Met with the Library Executive Director who advised that the Vancouver Island Regional Library is planning to leave the community library in the current location.*
- *While at UBCM, with assistance from the District of Port Hardy, the air helicopter for the Ambulance contract for the North Island has been renewed for an additional six months, which is imperative for remote communities.*

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

- *RCMP were very proactive in engaging with the community over concerns around speeding, this engagement included both the outgoing and incoming staff sergeant who reached out to the community re: a citizens group.*
- *Thank you Director John Tidbury, very substantive contributions over the years.*

#### Area "C" - Hyde Creek / Rupert

- *Siding is going on the gazebo*

#### Area "D" – Nimpkish Valley/Woss

- *The Volunteer Fire Department asked Director Summers to proctor their exams. Director Summers has completed his training for this and is happy to assist with this.*
- *The flooring contractor started work at the Community Hall today, replacing the flooring.*
- *The roofing contractor came out to tighten the screws on the metal roof only to advise that he is not qualified to do this and will organize a sheet metal professional to come and complete the work.*

## 2. Municipal Updates:

### Village of Port Alice:

- *Getting set up for the Halloween Howl, with the costs of the bouncy castle and kids activities covered by 100% donations.*
- *Councilors Sean Watson and Holly Aldis attended UBCM for the first time and enjoyed it.*
- *Congratulations to Director Tidbury on his long-term service award.*
- *The Quatsino Chalet was sold in a tax sale, and Village is hopeful that the hotel will be revitalized.*

District of Port Hardy:

- *Hardy Bay Seniors is currently at just over 300 members*
  - o *Activities daily*
  - o *Meal program is running every Thursday*
  - o *Annual trip to Chemainus to attend the theatre is upcoming*
- *Concrete was being poured for a portion of the skate park this morning.*
- *Thank you for the acknowledgment of the long service award.*
- *UBCM meetings were mostly positive.*
- *Very happy about the news of the extended air ambulance service.*
- *The Fire Department will be hosting a haunted house, with assistance from the Port Hardy Recreation Department and the Lions Club.*
- *Saturday October 19, please remember to vote, the system is so simple.*
- *The joint meeting of the RDMW and the District of Port Hardy with BC Hydro was effective.*
- *Sad news, the consultant who did the North Island Power Sustainable study, was killed in a car accident last month in Alberta.*
- *The pool attendance since the opening has been through the roof. Thank you to the Town of Port McNeill for assisting with getting Port Hardy lifeguards certified.*
- *Minor Hockey in full tilt, all the arenas are involved.*
- *November 2 will be the annual pumpkin walk in Port Hardy. 2023 saw almost 500 pumpkins. Great family event.*
- *Director Dugas attended the C2C forum, it was an excellent discussion. Director Dugas asked the lead speaker if they would be interested in coming up to the North Island to give a discussion.*

Town of Port McNeill:

- *Fireworks planned for Halloween night*
- *UBCM was well attended and informative*
- *Get out and vote*

Questions/Comments – None

Next Meetings of the Board of Directors: November 19, 2024

191/2024

**ADJOURNMENT**

**TIME 4:17 PM**

CHAIR

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER