



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF MOUNT WADDINGTON
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES**

December 17, 2024 at 2:00pm
Board Room, RDMW Administrative Office, 2044 McNeill Road, Port McNeill, BC

Chair: Andrew Hory
Directors: In Person: Pat Corbett-Labatt, Dennis Dugas, James Furney, David Summers,
Kathryn Wykes
Zoom: Dennis Buchanan, Kevin Cameron, Michelle Pottage

Staff: In person: David Kim, Administrator, Emmanuel Okorji, Development Technician, Matt Dyck,
Operations Supervisor, 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, Leslie Dyck, VIHA

Resolution No. **CALL TO ORDER** **2:01 PM**

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**
212/2024 THAT the RDMW Board of Directors December 17, 2024 Meeting Agenda be approved as presented.

DELEGATIONS & RECOGNITIONS

1. 7 Hills Golf & Country Club – Scott Mitchell & Dale Dorward
 - Thank you for the 2024 Grant-In-Aid, gratefully received
 - 2024 was a good year for participation at the club, with a slight increase of members, including golf programs started by SD85 (NISS). The NISS team went to BC Provincials.
 - Plans to start a junior member school
 - Restaurant Facility hosted both the grad dinners, and the PHSS 2025 Grad class has been booked.
 - A returning summer student came back with great success
 - An application has been sent in for a federal summer student grant
 - Lots of carpentry projects, including a 14-cart shed, generously sponsored by James Walkus. The crew that built the shed also put a new roof on the driving range.
 - Additional work projects included the repairs of roofs on outbuildings, rain shelters and cedar boxes for trash and recycling containers.
 - The fairway remediation project has received confirmation from Orca Sand and Gravel for sand donation.
 - Thank you to the District of Port Hardy for the continued use of their top dresser
 - Thanks to the 2024 Grant-In-Aid, the club was able to purchase a refurbished mini excavator.
 - The annual Loggers Tournament saw over 175 participants.

- There were additional tournaments and several meetings at the facility, which also marked the first year for Peggy & Tim operating the kitchen. Great people to work with. They are trying new events including hosting paint nights and a pig roast.
- The manager will not be returning, so recruitment will be taking place for this position.
- The TEE-ON system for accounting is still a work in progress, but progressing.
- Recording of memberships will be revised, as there are some holes in the records, especially around family memberships, winter memberships, etc., not broken down specifically enough.
- The Grant-In-Aid ensures that the 7 Hills Golf & Country Club can continue to provide this North Island recreation opportunity.

MINUTES

- 213/2024 **Moved/Seconded/CARRIED**
 THAT the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting held November 19, 2024 be adopted as amended.
- 214/2024 **Moved/Seconded/CARRIED**
 That the Correspondence on the table be received and filed.
- 215/2024 **Moved/Seconded/CARRIED**
 THAT the Cheque Registry for November 30, 2024 be received and filed.

STAFF REPORTS

1. Administrator Report: Verbal Report
 - Total transit cumulative revenue from Jan – November was \$60,400.00. This is an decrease of .08% and ridership decreased by 1.4% for the same time last year. (Approximately 27,430 riders over eleven months).
 - Hiring Status:
 - o Received a large number of applications for the Manager of Parks & Recreation, Manger of Finance and the Emergency Coordinator. Encouraging to see the caliber and high number of applicants.
 - o Interviews have been completed for the Economic Development Officer, reference checks are ongoing.

216/2024 **Moved/Seconded/CARRIED**
 THAT the verbal December 17, 2024 Administrator’s Report be received.

2. Economic Development – Presented by Pat English, Economic Development Consultant (December 17, 2024)

217/2024 **Moved/Seconded/CARRIED**
 THAT the December 17, 2024, Economic Development report be received and filed.

- b) Rural Resident Attraction Coordinator Report (December 17, 2024) *Also noted:*

218/2024 **Moved/Seconded/CARRIED**
 THAT the December 17, 2024 Rural Resident Attraction Coordinator Report be received and filed.

- c) Tourism Coordinator Report – (December 17, 2024) Presented by Natalie Stewart

219/2024 Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**
THAT the December 17, 2024 Tourism Coordinator report be received and filed.

3. Operations Supervisor – Matt Dyck (December 17, 2024)

220/2024 Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**
THAT Murray Estlin be appointed as Fire Chief of the Hyde Creek Volunteer Fire Department for 2025.

4. Development Technician Report – Emmanuel Okorji (December 17, 2024)

221/2024 Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**
THAT the December 17, 2024 Development Technician report be received and filed.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

1. Finance Report – David Kim, CFO verbal report (December 17, 2024):
 - The Finance Department will be very busy in the upcoming months for preparations of the fiscal year end.
 - The Financial Statements and SOFI have been completed, reported to the province and posted to the RDMW Website.
 - Training is planned for staff with the new budget software that will be integrated later this year.
 - The Finance department is looking forward to making incremental progress on procedures and processes and task flows. The staff have been diligently working towards these goals.

222/2024 Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**
THAT the December 17, 2024 Verbal Finance Report be received and filed.

2. Single Source Report – November 30, 2024

223/2024 Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**
THAT the November 30, 2024 Single Source reports be received and filed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

BYLAWS

1. Bylaw No.1048, Regional District of Mount Waddington Amendment Bylaw No. 648, 2002 to Rezoning Bylaw No. 1048, 2024 Green Property, Hyde Creek for 1st and 2nd reading.

225/2027 Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED:**
THAT Bylaw No.1048, Regional District of Mount Waddington Amendment Bylaw No. 648, 2002 to Rezoning Bylaw No. 1048, 2024 Green Property, Hyde Creek be read a 1st and 2nd time.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter of Request for Grant-In-Aid from 7 Hills Golf & Country Club

226/2024 Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**
THAT a letter of request for Grant-In-Aid from 7 Hills Golf and Country Club be received and filed.

OTHER BUSINESS/ DIRECTORS REPORTS / NEXT MEETING

1. Emergency Coordinator Report (December 17, 2024)

Moved/Seconded/CARRIED

- 227/2024 THAT as part of the Regional District of Mount Waddington's ongoing work in relation to emergency preparedness that a Board Resolution be passed in support of the Strathcona Regional District's January 2025 Emergency Support Services grant and THAT the Strathcona Regional District is authorized to receive and manage the grant funding on behalf of the Regional District of Mount Waddington if the grant application is successful.

Electoral Area Updates:**Area "A" - Broughton / Malcolm Island / Mainland**

- *BC Ferries may have a new schedule coming out for January, this is very disappointing after the earlier meeting between local mayors and directors and Ferry officials who had agreed more collaboration, and discussion before big decisions were made. There was no discussion or public consultation surrounding the change to the schedule.*
- *The ongoing blasting coming from behind Port McNeill being heard in Sointula is incredibly disturbing to the local residents.*
- *Lovely holiday season in Community.*
- *Thank you to all the Board and Staff for making this a productive year and for all the hard work.*

Moved/Seconded/Carried

- 228/2024 THAT Guy Carlson be appointed to the Malcom Island Advisory Commission.

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

- *At the last NI 911 meeting it was confirmed that the Tsolum First Nation (adjacent to Qathet), are purchasing shares in the corporation.*
- *The single employee at NI 911 has moved on and his successor has stepped into the role, which is great as this agreement covers a large territory.*
- *The costs for the NI 911 service will be going up, although the Regional District does pay a smaller percentage than some other areas.*
- *The MaPP meeting was very informative.*
- *Really enjoyed the Regional District Christmas party, the energy in the room was very positive. Thank you to staff for the great work.*
- *Attended the Natural Resource Meeting with Director Pottage late last month. There is quite an active interest in increasing the number of meetings for 2025.*

Area "C"- Hyde Creek / Rupert

- *Working on the land use agreement for the Hyde Creek Park.*
- *2nd Annual Christmas market was held in the hall and was very successful.*
- *Thank you to staff and the Board for all the hard work and assistance in the past year.*

Area "D" – Nimpkish Valley / Woss

- *Woss Medical Clinic is now fully stocked with supplies, thank you to VIHA for handling this so quickly and efficiently.*
- *The Community Hall floor was completed and looks great. Volunteers have been putting down the court marking tape, and castors on the tables so that the floors don't get marked.*
- *Thanks to Matt for assistance with the roofing company to tighten up the loose screws.*
- *David and staff are working to provide the WRA with financial statements.*
- *Awaiting bids to finish the Heritage trails, using money left over from previous*

grants.

- Dave Rushton's memorial bench has been installed. River Inc has completed the plaque.
- The WRA office windows need to be replaced as they are single panes, quotes will be requested.
- Emergency Plan upgrades for Woss are in discussion.
- Attended the Nimpkish Valley Advisory Committee meeting. There was an update provided on the Gwa'ni Project. The results are beyond what was expected. Very happy with what has been provided to date with the follow-up recommendations including logging, employment, environmental protection. There were a couple of items that came to light surrounding safety and the community emergency response plan, which is the area of the airport runway, which is sufficient in size to allow for landing of large helicopters. This area is vital in the event of an emergency but somehow fell off the emergency response plan. In addition to this there is the need to ensure protection for public utility land, encompassing critical infrastructure such as water. The Hamlet has 2 water systems, one of which is specific for emergency uses and the hatchery (using water from Rice Creek).
- The original community plan had a large area of land which has been removed. Would like confirmation that this in fact is returned to the Community Plan and reason(s) why it would have been removed.
- There are concerns within the community that the trail systems will not be maintained. Would like clarification around having volunteers maintain the trail. Would this be acceptable provided there are no issues with the volunteers or the work they do?

2. Municipal Updates:

Village of Alert Bay:

- On October 27, Mayor Furney, Mayor Corbett-Labatt, Director Pottage, Chief Isaac and myself met with the Superintendent of Ferries, Tamara Olsen and her team via zoom to discuss issues with Quadra Queen 2 on the route. These issues include:
 - o No accessibility to the lounge upstairs for anyone having mobility issues. If anyone walking on has mobility issues, they are left out in the weather or they have to congregate in the bathroom, which will only hold 2 people comfortably.
 - o There was supposed to be a follow up meeting the next week. This did not happen.
 - o On November 25, I sat in on a BC Ferries Advisory Committee where it was announced the BC Ferries was going to do away with Ferry Advisory Committees to ensure that there would more inclusion with local communities, including First Nations.
 - o On November 27, Mayor Buchanan was contacted by CBC re: a telephone interview, where Mayor Buchanan was asked about his thoughts on the abolishment of the BC Ferries Advisory Committees. Mayor Buchanan feels that this only works if BC Ferries complies with their mandates of full and open communication with communities. With the news that a new ferry schedule was being launched without any discussion, it would seem that BC Ferries has missed the point of what they said they were going to do.
- Community bazaar held on Saturday, well attended.
- Christmas parade and light upheld on Monday night.
- The blasting is concerning about potential damage to the island's aquifer.
- A very Merry Christmas to the Board and Staff of the Regional District.

Port Alice:

- Winding down with tree removal after the storm, as well as highlighting and removing any danger trees for potential future storms
- Met with Mr. Forest in Port Hardy to discuss problematic issues on the North Island
- Everyone have a great Christmas

District of Port Hardy:

- *Stories Beach was particularly hard hit by the cyclone bomb storm.*
- *Port Hardy Chamber Business Excellence Awards went well and was attended by the new MLA Anna Kindy.*
- *Nice Festival of Lights light up, and the rec department has created a twinkle tour for residents.*
- *The business Christmas decorations in Port McNeill's look great.*
- *Port Hardy has lit up Carrot Park with Christmas decorations and they are a great walk for people.*
- *The RDMW Christmas Party was a lot of fun.*
- *The Kyle Scow Memorial Skateboard park has had its soft opening. It's incredible the number of kids using it.*
- *Tis the season for Holiday Christmas markets, and they have been very well attended.*
- *As a community, it would be very helpful to share the Rural Travel information from the Cancer Society.*
- *The municipalities within the Regional District (would need to confirm for Village of Alert Bay), qualify for the BC Housing Secondary Units up to \$40,000.00.*
- *The log that was used at the bridge for Tex Lyon trail was taken out during the storm. CAO David Kim has connected with the Ministry of Tourism who advised that they would follow up with contact with the Ministry of Forests to discuss how to move forward with the issue.*
- *A call was received from the new Minister of Health re: ongoing health concerns in the North Island. It was a good discussion.*
- *Have been meeting with Federal Government Salmon Aquaculture Transition Task Force, to discuss transition plans. The policy that was sent down from the Prime Minister states that open net farms must be out of the water by 2029. At this particular time, they have no information and are asking for information and directions from the municipalities.*
- *The fish farms in the Discovery Islands and Broughton Archipelago have reduced employees and production which directly translates to the fish processing plant production is down by 50%. Port Hardy alone has 200 direct jobs that are provided by the fish farms. The promise of re-training has not yet been forthcoming. Help moving forward is necessary. Thank you to Chair Hory and MLA Kindy for attending the meeting and sharing your thoughts and concerns.*
- *North Island Seniors Foundation is working continually with BC Housing.*
- *Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Great New Year.*
- *Thank you to the staff for all your hard work.*

Town of Port McNeill:

- *Enjoyed the meeting with the Minister for Forests at Kwa'ilil'as Hotel. It was a testament to him as a new minister for the quick response the need to meet with and discuss issues within rural BC. His ministerial aid was a councilor in the town of Smithers for 8 years. He was able to understand small town's perspective.*
- *Met Josie Osborne, the Minister of Health the following day who is also able to bring her own experience with small town issues.*
- *Attended John Horgan's memorial service, which was very well put together and attended by Premier Eby and Prime Minister Trudeau.*
- *Will be watching and learning from Port Hardy's senior housing project.*
- *The federal wharf has now been closed for the last 2.5 years. There may be an opportunity for Port McNeill to take over management and ownership, or perhaps the RDMW could look at this.*
- *Merry Christmas and best of the season to all.*

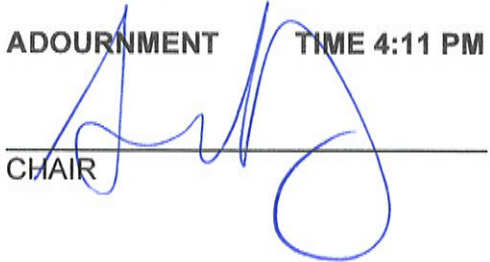
Questions/Comments – None

Next Meetings of the Board of Directors: January 21, 2025

229/2024

ADOURNMENT **TIME 4:11 PM**

CHAIR



CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

