



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF MOUNT WADDINGTON
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES

January 21, 2025 at 2:00pm

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

- Chair: Andrew Hory
- Directors: In Person: Dennis Buchanan, Kevin Cameron, Pat Corbett-Labatt, Dennis Dugas, James Furney, Michelle Pottage, David Summers,
- Zoom: Kathryn Wykes
- Staff: In person: David Kim, Administrator, Emmanuel Okorji, Development Technician, Matt Dyck, Operations Supervisor, Pat English, Economic Development Consultant
- Zoom: Natalie Stewart, Tourism Coordinator, Nadine Weldon, Recording Secretary, Nicole McDowell, Administration
- Public Zoom: Kathy O'Reilly – NI Eagle, John Tidbury, Leslie Dyck, Shelley Downey, Ron Sadesky, Marjorie Greensides – MWHN

Resolution No. **CALL TO ORDER** **2:11 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**
001/2025 THAT the RDMW Board of Directors January 21, 2025 Meeting Agenda be approved as amended.

DELEGATIONS & RECOGNITIONS

1. Akva Future Salmon BC – Bernie Taekema
 - Akva Future Salmon BC is a Norwegian company that has been running closed containment sites in Norway for the past 10 years.
 - They are exploring options in BC as they are a small company and bid for sites is very competitive.
 - The closed containment sites are constructed out of a concrete apron with a rubberized base.
 - Water is filtered from the bottom, with the solids removed and deposited on a barge in the area for this purpose.
 - The water intake comes in at 30m deep, which science has determined is too deep for sea lice.
 - This system also means no escapes, no bi-catch and no sea mammal interaction.
 - There is the ability to do multi-tropic growth. Currently in Norway, they are growing both mussels and kelp in conjunction with the salmon farm.
 - This proposal location is in Neroutsos Inlet and in a phase process. Stage 1 would start with 8 120m pods and 2 barges.
 - There is a current agreement with BC Hydro to access power to run this operation.
 - The site has had a review for environmental considerations inclusive of wind &

wave conditions, no significant salmon bearing streams within 1km of the farm, no First Nation commercial fishery with the general area of the farm and extensive surveys were completed to ensure that there would be no disruption to the marine habitat. In the event of a power outage, there will be a backup power system using generators.

- *As the proposed site is within the traditional territory of the Quatsino First Nation, research was presented, and the Quatsino First Nation has provided a letter of support for this work.*
- *This fish farm will provide some employment for members of the North Island, which may be helpful with the closure of current farms ongoing.*
- *Akva Future intends to work closely with the Quatsino First Nations to ensure that all environmental areas of concern are met and provide possible employment for members.*
- *At this time, there is no current harvest site determined.*
- *Once all requirements have been met, DFO has a year to confirm approvals.*
- *The current plan is to build the structures on Vancouver Island.*

MINUTES

Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**

002/2025 THAT the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting held December 18, 2024 be adopted as presented.

Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**

003/2025 That the Correspondence on the table be received and filed.

Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**

004/2025 THAT the Cheque Registry for December 31, 2024 be received and filed.

STAFF REPORTS

1. Administrator Report: Verbal Report

- Total transit cumulative revenue from Jan – December was \$65,800.00. This is an decrease of 1.4% compared to same period for 2023 and ridership decreased by 1.8% for the same time last year. (Approximately 29,430 riders over twelve months). This decline is a very marginal error and no cause for concern at this time.
- Hiring Status:
 - o We have hired for the position of Operations Technician, the successful candidate has education and experience in environmental engineering which we feel is a great asset for the Regional District, especially for matters at the 7 Mile Landfill and water/wastewater operations. He is scheduled to begin February 3, 2025.
 - o We currently have 2 finalists for Economic Development Officer, both of whom are very qualified. Currently we are reviewing references.
 - o Multiple applications have been selected for the positions of Manager of Operations, and Manager of Parks & Recreation. Pre-screening meetings will be set up in the next month.

Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**

005/2025 THAT the verbal January 21, 2025 Administrator's Report be received.

2. Travel Report

006/2025 Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**
THAT the travel report be approved as presented.

3. Economic Development – Presented by Pat English, Economic Development Consultant (January 21, 2025)

007/2025 Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**
THAT the January 21, 2025, Economic Development report be received and filed.

- b) Rural Resident Attraction Coordinator Report (January 21, 2025) *Also noted:*

008/2025 Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**
THAT the January 21, 2025 Rural Resident Attraction Coordinator Report be received and filed.

- c) Tourism Coordinator Report – (January 21, 2025) Presented by Natalie Stewart

009/2025 Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**
THAT the January 21, 2025 Tourism Coordinator report be received and filed.

4. Operations Supervisor – Matt Dyck (January 21, 2025)

010/2025 Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**
THAT the January 21, 2025 Operations Supervisor report be received and filed.

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

011/2025 Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**
THAT the January 21, 2025 Development Technician report be received and filed.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

1. Finance Report – David Kim, CFO verbal report (January 21, 2025):
 - *Work on the Cloud migration for VADIM is ongoing. We are currently awaiting a follow-up from VADIM, which will allow for the integration of the Questica program.*
 - *The 2025 Budget and Business Plan work is ongoing, with the Finance Department working towards completion of the actuals.*

012/2025 Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**
THAT the January 21, 2025 Verbal Finance Report be received and filed.

2. Single Source Report – December 31, 2024

013/2025 Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**
THAT the December 31, 2024 Single Source reports be received and filed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

BYLAWS

1. Bylaw No.1042, Quatsino Zoning Bylaw No. 670, Amendment Bylaw No. 1042, 2024 for 2nd reading.

014/2025 Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**:
THAT Bylaw No.1042, Quatsino Zoning Bylaw No. 670, Amendment Bylaw No. 1042, 2024 to be read a 2nd time.

2. Bylaw No. 1048, Regional District of Mount Waddington Amendment Bylaw No. 648, 2002 to Rezoning Bylaw No. 1048, 2024 Green Property, Hyde Creek for 3rd reading and adoption.

015/2025 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 3rd time and adopted.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter of Request for Grant-In-Aid from District of Port Hardy

016/2025 Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**
THAT a letter of request for Grant-In-Aid from the District of Port Hardy be received and filed.

OTHER BUSINESS/ DIRECTORS REPORTS / NEXT MEETING - None

Electoral Area Updates:

Area "A" - Broughton / Malcolm Island / Mainland

- *Lovely holiday season enjoyed the break.*
- *Various community groups are holding their AGMs, which is also a great time to consider joining a community group.*
- *MIAPC are currently working on the OCP review.*
- *There will be a budget meeting this week.*
- *The Salish Seagull research project will be coming to Malcolm Island, the program is almost complete. The concept is to get both health and population information and have it available to revisit in the future with data gathered now to be the baseline going forward.*
- *BC Ferries has revoked their new schedule for the tri-island area to date, but the communities are still waiting for meetings with BC Ferries to discuss and provide feedback. BC Ferries does not provide consistent communication with any interested parties. Replacing the Ferry Advisory Committee program is not working. It is understood that there is no perfect solution, but there does need to be input from affected communities. There has also been no reply to written communication from the Electoral Area A director.*
- *Is it possible to have the Regional District send out a letter or message to the Ministry of Transportation, the local MLA, and possibly others to get a response and follow up.*

017/2025 Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**
THAT the Regional District of Mount will send a letter to the Ministry of Transportation re: lack of communication and understanding of how the ferry schedule directly affects the island communities of the Regional District.

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

- *Will be going through budget deliberations with the LCC.*

Area "C"- Hyde Creek / Rupert

- *Happy New Year everyone.*
- *No report this month.*

Area "D" – Nimpkish Valley / Woss

- *No response to the letter to the Ministry regarding the town boundary.*
- *The airport disappeared from the Emergency Response Plan, not sure when or how this happened, still investigating. The community has taken it upon themselves to clean up the airport strip. A small plane (Cessna) landed on it and confirmed that it was easy and safe to use.*
- *Island Health will be in contact with Marjorie to discuss the inclusion of Woss, Sointula and Sayward in the medical assistance planning.*
- *Wi-Fi issues are ongoing. Speed surveys are being done throughout the Hamlet, with assistance from Strathcona Regional District. Woss is below what is provincially required. The test results may assist with getting a grant to upgrade the current system to high speed.*

2. Municipal Updates:

Village of Alert Bay:

- *December 14 saw the community light up and Santa Clause parade, this was a couple of weeks later than normal. This was due to the passing of both the Village of Alert Bay and the 'Namgis First Nation public works foremen, which left both communities reeling.*
- *There were 2 days of training for the Cormorant Island Emergency Management, which covered a large variety of potential emergency situations.*
- *There is an upcoming C2C meeting with 'Namgis First Nation, which will include discussions around emergency management and potential liabilities of same.*
- *There was a meeting between BC Ferries and Mayor Buchanan, Chief Isaac, Mayor Corbett-Labatt and Mayor Furney on October 27. Attendees of the meeting were told that there would be a follow-up meeting within a week. That meeting has not yet happened. The current ferry is not sufficient for vehicle traffic or for anyone who has mobility issues.*
- *A meeting has been scheduled with BC Hydro re: the old BC Hydro building. BC Hydro would like to demolish the building and just leave the cement slab, but many of the residents would like the building to stay as part of the community.*
- *Kudo's to the Alert Bay Fire Department in acting under the mutual aid agreement for providing fire fighting support via boat at the Telegraph Cove Resort.*
- *Work to repair the Town Square has been awarded.*

Port Alice:

- *Working on the budgets.*
- *Teams in Lions Park are taking down the danger trees. This will completely transform the park. There is the potential to install a pavilion once the clearing is complete.*
- *There are ongoing issues with power outages, still under investigation*

District of Port Hardy:

- *The skateboard park had its soft opening, and the Grand Opening will be in April 2025. The park is had been well received.*
- *Spoke with Minister Osborne, Ministry of Health and provided feedback on the challenges the District of Port Hardy faces as a rural community and health system. A follow up letter was sent regarding Port Hardy's offer to be a pilot project for physician assistant program. No response to the letter has been received yet.*

- *There is a lot of concern over the overtime ban for paramedics and how this will affect everyone in the area. There is a definite possibility that ambulances could be left empty due to lack of staff.*
- *Another aspect of cancer travel available is Hope Air. They are also assisting people in the North Island.*
- *Had the opportunity to sit in on a couple of meetings with the North and Central Coast Ferry group discussing the ferry that leaves from Port Hardy to Prince Rupert, the dissolution of the Ferry Advisory Committee and the lack of communication from BC Ferries. This group will be send out a letter to BC Ferries expressing the concerns.*
- *Finance meetings are ongoing.*
- *The Port Hardy pool has seen a steady increase of usage, especially around "free swims".*
- *There are ongoing meetings with the DFO and the Federal Taskforce group, who have been very open to discussion. It has been brought to their attention that sustainable power is extremely important for the economic future of the region. The current lines are not able to keep up with demand.*
- *Aquaculture economics are being felt hard, there are 50% less fish, which in turn means that the processing plant will be closed for the first 3 months of this year. This trickles down to service providers, including the transportation companies.*
- *Had a wonderful Christmas light up was phenomenal this year. This was done by both private and business volunteers to get this work completed.*
- *North Island Senior Housing foundation is still working diligently with BC Housing. This is especially important due to the aging population.*

Moved/Seconded/CARRIED

018/2025 THAT the Regional District sends a letter to the Ministry of Health regarding concerns about the overtime ban for paramedics that took place January 2025 and how it will affect residents on the North Island.

Town of Port McNeill:

- *Attended the Truck Loggers Association, which was well attended. Potential for a tough outlook for the logging industry in 2025.*
- *The multi fire department's attendance at the Telegraph Cove fire was impressive and great to see everyone coming together.*

Questions/Comments – None

Next Meetings of the Board of Directors: February 26, 2025

019/2025 **ADOURNMENT** **TIME 3:43 PM**

CHAIR

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER