



# MOUNT WADDINGTON REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT

## February 26, 2025 Minutes

Following the Regional District of Mount Waddington Board of Directors Meeting Board Room, RDMW Administrative Office, 2044 McNeill Road, Port McNeill, BC

Present: Chair: Andrew Hory  
In Person: Dennis Buchanan, Kevin Cameron, Pat Corbett-Labatt, Dennis Dugas, James Furney, David Summers, Kathryn Wykes  
Zoom: Kevin Cameron  
Staff: David Kim, Chief Administrative Officer  
Via Zoom: Nadine Weldon, Recording Secretary, Nicole McDowell, Administrative Assistant  
Public: 1

Resolution **CALL TO ORDER Time 1:08 PM**  
No. *The Chair opened the meeting by acknowledging that this meeting is taking place on the traditional territory of the Kwakwaka'wakw.*

### A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**  
006/2025 THAT the February 26, 2025 MWRHD Meeting Agenda be approved presented.

### B. DELEGATIONS & RECOGNITIONS - None

### C. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the MWRHD Meeting held January 21, 2025.

Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**  
007/2025 THAT the January 21, 2025 Mount Waddington Regional Hospital District Meeting Minutes be adopted as presented.

### D. CORRESPONDENCE – None

### E. REPORTS

#### **VIHA: Ian Wood**

- *Preparations are underway at the Port Hardy Hospital site. This will not impact the flow of traffic to the hospital or the CT scanner. There are some concerns that the construction will impact the walkthrough far to the North Island Mall.*
- *There will be a mobile building coming to Port McNeill to support Public Health Services that are currently provided out of the Primary Care Space. This will mean loss of parking and there will be some work done to prepare the site for installation of the mobile.*
- *There will be a new addictions medicine run clinic in Port Hardy as well as doing outreach in some of the indigenous communities. The clinic will be staffed by Dr. Kellerhals, Dr. Erickson and Dr. Flear. It will be operating a couple times a month. Advertising has started softly for potential clients. This was previously run out of the mental health substance use space in Port Hardy, this has been moved to Primary Care as this is a primary care service.*
- *A new educator is coming on board to work with the Emergency Department and Acute Care. She is a seasoned educator from Royal Columbian Hospital and has been an educator for over 10 years. She has experience in rural systems. Anticipate her arrival in April.*

- *New primary care RN will be arriving in Port Hardy. The current primary care RN's working in Port Hardy and Port McNeill are referred to as a "certified nurse" this position is between an RN and a nurse practitioner. This allows for greater patient scope care for patients. Working with the nurse licensing body to expand the scope for work for primary care nurses.*
- *The full time Physician count for Port McNeill is 5 and Port Hardy 3. These physicians work at both Primary Care and Hospital care. Locums are brought in occasionally. There will be a 4<sup>th</sup> physician added in late summer/early fall to Port Hardy. Port Hardy also has 3 physicians who provide primary care but do not work at the hospitals at this time.*
- *Cormorant Island has one position available. There a couple of locums who continue to provide services as well as some of the Port McNeill and Port Hardy physicians coming in to provide services at the Cormorant Island hospital. The team approach allows for familiar faces for service while recruitment is ongoing.*
- *Regional Emergency Department Training has been successful and currently there are 5 med trained nurses who are now qualified as Emergency Department Nurses. They are over the three hospitals, 2 for Port Hardy, 2 for Port McNeill and 1 for Cormorant Island. It is anticipated that there are a further 3 more nurses who will be completing the training. This has been quite successful and a provincial initiative.*
- *There is an MOU between 'Namgis First Nation and Island Health. This is the first of its kind for Island Health. Looking forward to having this completed so we can work together in a more meaningful way.*
- *Currently working on triage redirection process for emergency departments to decrease volumes of emergency department visits, i.e.: where it's appropriate to go to Primary Care and pharmacy. Pharmacies can assist with simple prescriptions and diagnosis. There is information in the waiting rooms to provide additional information to the public.*
- *Specifically, Cormorant Island and Port Hardy there are some initial trials happening, including keeping patients at the local hospitals for a short stay instead of sending down island if possible. This is a work in progress to provide a consistent return to service work.*
- *Looking at bringing echocardiograms to community as one of the goals to limit the need for travel.*
- *Currently there is not a definitive time frame of how long the BC Ambulance Helicopter will be available on the North Island.*

Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**

008/2025 THAT the VIHA verbal report be received and filed.

### **Mount Waddington Health Network Coordinator: Marjorie Greensides**

- There were 37 people registered for the Forum, with 32 participants. Lots of positive feedback on the small group exercises.
- One of the biggest items was to come up with the goals for the year. This includes
  - o SEABLAC: Upping role of advocacy
  - o Transportation: Looking at possible collaboration with the Mount Waddington Transportation Committee. Including dissemination of information, ensuring that there is not an overlap of services
  - o Communication Overall: There is currently a lack of central repository for all of the communication documentation and the ability to send out when and where needed. The hope is to work with systems that already exist to create a main site.
  - o MWHN Website will need to be rebuilt. This will be done being conscious of literacy issues, including lack of digital access. It is important that everyone has access to information.

- The importance of circle meetings for support, sharing and networking amongst health professionals.
- Housing: Discussions around continuing about the housing survey. There was a discussion about revisiting the recommendations previously presented.
- Building capacity, which would include additional speakers, new First Nations Primary Care initiatives, and short workshops.
- Importance of the Forums and teas to bring people together to have discussions, but also for celebration of work and successes.
- SEABLAC and ToP meetings will be moving to hybrid format to allow greater access.
- Have been in contact with WRA, discussions are ongoing.

Moved/Seconded/**CARRIED**

009/2025 THAT the Mount Waddington Health Network Coordinator report be received and filed.

1 **BYLAWS - None**

2 **COMMITTEE REPORTS – None**

**COMMENTS - None**

**NEXT MEETING –** March 18, 2025 following the RDMW Board of Directors meeting.

010/2025

3 **ADJOURNMENT**

**Time 1:46 PM**

  
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CHAIR

  
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CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER