

**STUART-NECHAKO REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2017**

PRESENT: Chairperson Jerry Petersen

Directors Chris Beach  
Eileen Benedict  
Dwayne Lindstrom  
Thomas Liversidge  
Rob MacDougall  
Bill Miller  
Mark Parker  
Gerry Thiessen

Director Absent Tom Greenaway, Electoral Area "C" (Fort St. James Rural)

Staff Melany de Weerd, Chief Administrative Officer  
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services  
John Illes, Treasurer  
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Others Alistair Schroff, Lakes Animal Friendship Society – arrived at 10:30 a.m.

Media Flavio Nienow, LD News – arrived at 10:30 a.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Petersen called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

**AGENDA**

Moved by Director Parker  
Seconded by Director Beach

SNRHD-2017-9-1

"That the Stuart-Nechako Regional Hospital District Agenda of October 12, 2017 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**MINUTES**

Stuart-Nechako Regional  
Hospital District Meeting  
Minutes – August 17, 2017

Moved by Director Miller  
Seconded by Director Beach

SNRHD-2017-9-2

"That the minutes of the Stuart-Nechako Regional Hospital District meeting of August 17, 2017 be adopted."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**REPORTS**

Memorandum of  
Understanding

Moved by Director Benedict  
Seconded by Director MacDougall

SNRHD-2017-9-3

"That the Stuart-Nechako Regional Hospital District Board of Directors receive the Chief Administrative Officer's October 2, 2017 memo titled "Memorandum of Understanding" and approve the Memorandum of Understanding for signature."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **REPORTS (CONT'D)**

Discussion took place in regard to the importance of prioritizing communication. Chair Petersen commented that during the Northern Health Board Meetings there is an opportunity for communication.

Director Benedict mentioned that the original Memorandum of Understanding was developed to provide a guideline for Northern Health due to the Stuart-Nechako Regional Hospital District wanting to be more involved in capital projects and requesting more transparency in regard to projects within the SNRHD.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

### Correspondence

Moved by Director MacDougall  
Seconded by Director Thiessen

### SNRHD-2017-9-4

“That the Stuart-Nechako Regional Hospital District Board of Directors receive the following correspondence:

- Smithers Caregivers Support Group – Assisted Living;
- Northern Health University Hospital of Northern BC Breast Imaging Clinic Officially Opens.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place in regard to the Smithers Caregivers Support Group – Assisted Living letter. The SNRHD Board of Directors identified that there is a lack of support for caregivers of seniors, Alzheimer's, Dementia and serious illnesses across the entire region including Burns Lake which was identified in the letter as having a new hospital. The Board of Directors noted that having a new hospital in Burns Lake did not mean there is adequate support and service levels for caregivers and their patients.

Director Thiessen spoke to the challenges and impacts associated with seniors care across the north. He noted the need to find solutions for seniors to be able to stay in their communities while also receiving the support to do so. Director Thiessen suggested, because the issue is regional, that it could be discussed at a RDBN Committee of the Whole Meeting and that for 30 minutes at every Committee of the Whole meeting the Regional Board could address regional discussion items.

Director Benedict mentioned that Northern Health is attending the SNRHD Board meeting in November, 2017 and it would be an opportunity to discuss care giver support. Chair Petersen suggested that the SNRHD Board of Directors can forward any further topics of discussion to staff prior to the meeting to forward to Northern Health.

## **VERBAL REPORTS**

### Full Time Doctor for Fraser Lake

Director Lindstrom reported that Fraser Lake has a full time doctor moving to the community.

### Medical Students Arriving in Vanderhoof

Director Thiessen noted that there are two locums and two resident doctors in Vanderhoof and on October 28, 2017 six more medical students will be arriving in the community. He is planning to host a dinner for the students to help encourage them to consider Vanderhoof when they complete their studies.

## **VERBAL REPORTS (CONT'D)**

<u>District of Fort St. James Locum</u>	Director MacDougall commented that the District of Fort St. James also has a locum doctor in the community. He mentioned that along with the Fort St. James Primary Care Society he attended a dinner for the locum to encourage him to remain in Fort St. James to practice medicine.
<u>Stuart Lake Hospital Replacement Committee</u>	Director MacDougall mentioned that in meeting with the Minister of Health at the 2017 UBCM Convention direction was given to form a Stuart Lake Hospital Replacement Committee to focus efforts on the project. Director MacDougall will provide information to Chair Petersen and staff moving forward.
<u>Emergency Room Concerns</u>	Director Miller brought forward concerns in regard to Emergency Room procedures at the Burns Lake Hospital. He has been made aware of an incident wherein a patient sliced open his hand and required 37 stitches but when he arrived at the hospital and rang the bell at the Emergency Department there was no response. The patient waited over an hour before staff responded. He spoke of this issue needing to be brought to Northern Health's attention.
<u>Burns Lake Ambassador Committee</u>	Director Beach commented that he is a member of the Burns Lake Ambassador Committee which was formed to provide support to new physicians moving into the community similar to initiatives in Vanderhoof and Fort St. James. He noted that they are planning an event in the future and will be inviting anyone involved in the medical field from doctors and nurses to pharmacists.
<u>Northern Health/Regional Hospital Districts Meeting -October 16, 2017 – Prince George, B.C.</u>	Chair Petersen and Melany de Weerd, CAO are attending the Northern Health and Regional Hospital Districts Meeting October 16, 2017 in Prince George, B.C.
<u>2017 UBCM Meetings with Northern Health and Minister of Health</u>	Chair Petersen mentioned that both SNRHD meetings with Northern Health and the Minister of Health were positive. He commented that they were willing to discuss issues and concerns and look toward solutions.
<u>Coordination of Emergency Services</u>	Director Thiessen spoke to the need to include BC Ambulance Paramedics, a key link in healthcare, in the coordination of emergency services discussions. Director Thiessen has been in contact with Craig Parnell, BC Ambulance Service.
<u>Receipt of Verbal Reports</u>	Moved by Director Miller Seconded by Director Thiessen
<u>SNRHD-2017-9-5</u>	"That the verbal reports of the various Stuart-Nechako Regional Hospital District Board of Directors be received."  (All/Directors/Majority) <u>CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY</u>

**NEW BUSINESS**

Burns Lake Hospital  
-Maternity Ward

Director Parker questioned if the Burns Lake Hospital is equipped with a Maternity Ward. Director Beach mentioned that the Burns Lake Hospital does have a maternity ward but does not have sufficient staff to be able to deliver babies at this time. He mentioned that he has recently become aware, and will start researching, other small communities in B.C. that have low risk model maternity wards and are able to perform low risk deliveries. Director Thiessen spoke of the need to attract and retain a high staffing level in order to provide maternity ward services. Chair Petersen noted the importance of continuing to communicate with Northern Health in regard to the maternity ward at the Burns Lake Hospital.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director MacDougall  
Seconded by Director Miller

SNRHD-2017-9-6

“That the meeting be adjourned at 10:38 a.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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Jerry Petersen, Chairperson

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Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant