

**Board of Directors  
January 23, 2023  
Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:**

**OFFICERS PRESENT**

President: Jeff Fay

Vice President: Mark Reaves

Secretary: Jim Hill (Not Present)

Treasurer: Patty Companik

**DIRECTORS PRESENT**

Addison: Lewis Barnes

Bennington: Carol DeJohn

Caledonia: Bruce Carlson

Chittenden: Pat Poulin

Essex: John Hull (Not Present)

Franklin: Mike Burns

Grand Isle: Jeff Porter

Lamoille: Carmin Lemery

Orange: Juliann Sherman

Orleans: Roger Gosselin (Not Present)

Rutland: Mike Stewart

Washington: Jeff Halpin

Windham: Michael Garber (Not present)

Windsor: Doug Jacobs

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Executive Director, Cindy Locke

LVRT/Trails Manager, Ken Brown

Trails Administrator: Matthew Tetreault

Office & Programs Manager, Mandy Dwinell

Media and Technology Manager, Beth Flint

**GUESTS:**

Dustin Turner, Lamoille County Alt. Director; Mike Koehler, Orleans County Alt. Director; Amber Stevens, Guest; Mike Minor, Lunenburg Polar Bears; Doug Todd, Rutland County Alt. Director; Re'al Cyr, Franklin County Trails Coordinator; Stan Choiniere, Windsor County Alt. Director; Richard Spitzer, Chittenden County Alt. Director; Mike Mustachio, Lunenburg Polar Bears President. Ed Hebebrand, Caledonia County Alt. Director.

Jeff Fay called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

**Approval of Agenda**

**Addison County: Motion to approve, Chittenden County seconded to approve. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Approval of the Secretary's Report**

**Grand Isle County: Motion to approve, Franklin County seconded to approve Secretary's Report as presented. MOTION CARRIED.**

## Approval of Treasurer's Report

	Dec-20	Dec-21	Dec-22
<b>membership \$\$</b>			
Budget	\$2,481,915	\$2,478,385	\$2,767,295
MONTH activity	\$1,365,653	\$1,475,067	\$1,507,752
Season So far	\$1,862,131	\$2,103,007	\$1,951,027
	-\$619,784	-\$375,378	-\$816,268
percentage	75.03%	85%	71%
<b>Income \$\$</b>			
Budget	\$3,255,180	3,310,443	\$3,436,342
MONTH activity	\$1,453,782	1620059	\$1,616,543
Season so far	\$2,004,183	2316922	\$2,121,442
	-\$1,250,997	-\$993,521	-\$1,314,900
percentage	61.57%	70%	62%
<b>Expense</b>			
Budget	\$2,816,998	\$2,752,476	\$2,983,607
MONTH activity	\$354,420	\$363,418	\$886,175
Season so far	\$562,688	\$558,434	\$1,095,439
	\$2,254,310	-\$2,194,042	-\$1,888,168
percentage	19.97%	20%	37%

### Data is thru December 2022 - We are at 25% of the budget season (3 months)

**Membership** - We are at 71% of the membership budget expectation - which is more closely aligned to 2020 which was 75% at this time

**Income** - We are at 62% of the expected budget Income - again - more closely aligned 2020 which was just shy of 62%. The majority of the Income this month is from Membership Income

**Expense** - We are at 37% of budget expenses. The past two years we were at 20% - so we are 17% above our "normal" average. Of the 886k in expenses - 729k was in Trails Expenses; specifically, 690k was in Grooming Payments

## **Approval of Treasurer's Report**

**Windsor County: Motion to approve, Bennington County seconded to approve as presented. MOTION CARRIED.**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

TMA Report – Cindy

To date; 18,525 TMAs for 2023 vs 21,573 for 2022, currently 27 Ride for \$25 TMAs sold.

TMAs as of midnight on 12/16:

2019: 17,374

2020: 17,451

2021: 15,435

2022: 18,341

2023: 16,149

Early Bird TMA trend is due to weather, as well as related to COVID in prior years. With the delay in snow for the 2023 season some people have postponed making their TMA purchase

Beginning in March, Cindy shared she will be including a EOY projection with the BOD to help forecast for budgeting. The FY23 budget is based on 2022 TMA membership, with the largest expense being grooming. Reminder, there was no grooming the prior month.

### **Trail Administrator's/ED Report/LVRT Repot – Cindy, Matt and Ken**

Cindy is listening intently to the legislature daily to help keep current with committees, zoning laws, energy environment, house transportation, and Senate.

VT Trails & Greenways Council recently hired a full-time Lobbyist, Jill.

Discussion regarding ramifications from law enforcement for riders on VAST trails without a TMA.

Discussion regarding the penalties and fines associated with riding without a TMA and VT required documentation. Pat is adding this topic to the February Governor's Council meeting agenda.

### **Committee and Other Meeting Reports**

#### American Outdoor Risk Retention Group (AORRG) Insurance – President, Mark Reaves

The schedule for the first quarterly meeting was February 8th, Mark proposed a rescheduled date of February 15<sup>th</sup> due to the Northeast Chapter ride.

#### Northeast Chapter and USA – Pat Poulin, Jeff Fay as VT Representative

USA: Roger Wright resigned due to personal reasons. In the interim, the Vice Chair has stepped into the position. Elections are usually in June at Congress.

Northeast Chapter: Meeting in Maine during the first week of February.

#### VT Snow Trails Conservancy (VSTC) – Jim Hill, VSTC President

Ken shared working on an easement in Proctor. Cindy shared that she has spoken to Yvonne Rice who is working with a landowner in Hartland. More information to come on both.

#### Law Enforcement (LE) Committee – Cindy

Cindy and Pat are adding the topic of penalties for riders without TMAs on the VAST trails to the February Governor's Council meeting agenda.

#### Awards & Nominating – Patty Companik, Chair

- Scholarship applications due March 1
- Award nominations due May 1, reminder these can be submitted year-round.

#### By-Laws & Policy – Mark Reaves, Chair

Haven't met since the rewrite of the policy. May be closer to spring before the next meeting.

#### Annual Meeting – Jeff Haplin and Mark Reaves

Meeting plans are in continuation. Reminder Annual Meeting on September 9<sup>th</sup> 2023 at Kenyon's Field in Waitsfield.

#### Financial – Patty Companik, Chair

N/A

Personnel – Juliann Sherman, Chair

Next meeting February 21<sup>st</sup>.

Trails – Matt

Recent Trails Committee meeting. Discussed parking areas and plowing with the increase in fuel expenses. Discussed the 12/23 storm with damage from trees and various trail damage.

LVRT: The majority of trees are cleared from the trail. Mention of some trees sticking out south of Hardwick. VTrans will expect us to have these trees cut back by the ditches.

Safety – Stan Choiniere, Chair

Military and First Responders event cancelled due to weather. Attended the Yankee Sportsman Classic trade show at The Champlain Valley Expo over the weekend. A VAST sled was at the booth and was very well received. The Veteran's Place from Northfield was in attendance at the VAST booth. There was a raffle with the proceeds donated to Veteran's Place.

Discussion about including a sled to the SAM show for 2023.

Governor's Council – Pat Poulin, Chair

Safety Courses as of January meeting, 50 students completed in-person & 406 online, with 100% passed. At the time of the meeting there was information pending for a recent course.

Update from DMV as of 1/1/23 of 18,310 registrations. Also had a discussion on track and electric-powered bikes.

Discussion on the Northeast Chapter International snowmobile council and annual ride.

Discussion and reminder for clubs to submit their events via the VAST website.

Discussion on an update for the Wardsboro club. The club has elected some new officers. VAST has encouraged the club to communicate with members at least weekly. It is expected for the 710 trail to remain closed for the 2023 season. Amber shared that Ivor recently met with the new club officers regarding keeping the 710 trail closed for 2023 to allow for landowner respect & increased communication. The club is working on collecting current landowner agreements, majority have been collected.

**Motion to adjourn by Windsor County: Motion to approve, Addison County seconded to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED.** The meeting was adjourned at 7:05p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Hill, Secretary