

Governor's Snowmobile Council
March 1, 2023

Present:

Pat Poulin, Chairman
Star Poulin, Governor Appointee
Gary Nolan, VAST LE Committee Chair
Jeff Haplin, Governor Appointee
Michael Smith, Vermont DMV Coordinator
Claire Polfus, Forest Parks & Recreation
Stan Choiniere, Governor Appointee

VAST Staff Present:

Cindy Locke, Executive Director
Ken Brown, Trails Manager/LVRT
Mandy Dwinell, Office & Programs Manager
Matt Tetreault, VAST Trails Administrator

The meeting was convened at 3:07PM via Zoom by Pat Poulin.

Approval of Minutes

Not included with the March agenda

January SSTP Financial Report, Matt Tetreault

The report included in the email to the Governor's Council.

Approval of SSTP Report

Stan Choiniere moved to approve the January SSTP Report as presented; Jeff Haplin seconded. MOTION CARRIED

Agency Reports

Vermont State Police, Jacob Metayer

Snowmobile Safety Courses Total: 967

891 online students and 76 classroom students. Information from one classroom course to be reported.

Fish & Wildlife, Jenna Reed

Sheriff's Association, Mark Anderson – President of VT Sheriff Association & Windham County Sheriff

Nothing New to Report.

Police Chiefs & Southern VT Wilderness Search & Rescue, Paul Doucette

Nothing New to Report.

Department of Motor Vehicles, Mike Smith

DMV report: 19,693 registered sleds as of 3/1/2023.

2022: 21,343

2021: 20,452

Jane was able to have the DMV insurance verbiage added to the senate transportation bill to the House and it is in transit.

Forest, Parks & Recreation, Claire Polfus
Grant funds should be arriving at VAST soon.

VAST

State Funded Equipment Grant Program, Cindy Locke

Was supposed to have a meeting in mid-February and the person was called to testify on Senate transportation and waiting for a scheduled meeting date.

VAST TMA Sales, Cindy Locke

21,216 TMAs sold to date, including 800-1k Volunteer TMAs.

Law Enforcement Committee, Gary Nolan

Receiving mixed reviews of feedback from Hardwick area with the increase of Law Enforcement presence in the area. Hardwick PD reported 3 violations and a few warnings. Overall feedback from Hardwick community has been well received.

\$692 ticket was issued a couple of weeks ago to someone who was issued a warning for defective equipment for an illegal exhaust as proof that it was fixed within 5-10 days.

Discussion on tickets issued and potential penalties if they aren't paid.

Discussion on snowmobile fine amounts and ideas for a potential letter to the Judiciary board.

VAST Safety Committee, Stan

Majority of focus this season was on the Safety week event that was canceled due to snow. Most efforts this season were focused on the January Military & First Responders event during safety week which was canceled due to weather.

The upcoming Snowmobile Vermont magazine article urges people to contact the safety committee with ideas and suggestions. Jenna Reed has reached out and shared some ideas. No March meeting.

SSTP Trail Report, Matt Tetreault

There has been some reports of off-trail riding, and questions from members on the groomer schedule. All and all season is going well.

Legislative Report

House Report, Brian Smith

Nothing New to Report.

Senate Report, Jane

Nothing New to Report.

Appointee Reports

Northwest, Star

Scattered throughout some trails are open, been in flux due to changing weather conditions.

Northeast, Cindy

Lots of riding and grooming with lots of traffic. Law Enforcement has been out, mostly received well by the community.

Central, Jeff

1 groomer down in Calais, but other than that going well. Expecting more snow this weekend. Reminder Washington County hosting Annual Meeting and would like Law Enforcement and F&W to attend with a booth.

South, Stan

Depending on evaluation 3-5" of new snow recently, with possibly 8-10" this weekend. Questions from members on grooming and delay GPS tracking on the map

Next meeting is Wednesday, April 5, 2023 at 3pm via Zoom.

Motion to Adjourn:

Michael Smith moved to close the meeting at 3:49pm; Jeff Haplin seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mandy Dwinell

VAST Office & Programs Manager