

**Governor's Snowmobile Council
May 3, 2023**

Present:

Pat Poulin, Chairman
Star Poulin, Governor Appointee
Jacob Metayer, VT State Police
Jenna Reed, Fish & Wildlife
Gary Nolan, VAST LE Committee Chair
Jeff Halpin, Governor Appointee
Michael Smith, Vermont DMV Coordinator
Shannon Fassett, Vermont DMV
Claire Polfus, Fish & Wildlife
Stan Choiniere, Governor Appointee
Mark Anderson, Vermont Sheriff's Association

VAST Staff Present:

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

Guests Present:

Mike Mutascio, Lunenburg Polar Bears
Dave Rouleau, Barre Town Thunder Chickens

The meeting was convened at 3:05PM via Zoom by Pat Poulin.

Approval of Minutes

Stan Choiniere moved to approve the April minutes as presented; Star Poulin seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

Mark Anderson abstained from voting as he wasn't in attendance for the April meeting.

SSTP Financial Report, Matt Tetreault

March SSTP Financial Reports were included in the email to the Governor's Council.

Approval of SSTP Report

Star Poulin moved to approve the FY23 March SSTP Report as presented; Mark Anderson seconded. MOTION CARRIED

FY24SSTP Budget Proposal, Matt

A draft copy was emailed to the Governor's Council on May 2, 2023.

Matt noted there should be a correction for Law Enforcement in the budget as it should be represented as a balance budget. Expenses should match the invoice to balance the budget. It is off by \$500 currently.

Registration numbers are a little down this year, represented in the FY23 actual. Trimmed down expenses where they could be for FY24 budget. The FY24 is similar to FY23 budget.

Awaiting final information from Law Enforcement (LE) for fines and penalties, this amount will be updated for next month's meeting.

Discussion regarding possible changes with LE with expanding patrol to other agencies. A suggestion of having \$30k-\$50k in the budget for LE is to be pulled from the LE carry-forward funds in the budget.

Discussion on clarification on LE carry-forward funds and DMV transportation funds.

Agency Reports

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

Not much to mention on trails.

8 new Sheriffs, and open to utilizing Sheriffs for additional patrol.

Asked for LE Committee to join upcoming Sheriff's Association meeting via Zoom to discuss LE Committee and equipment program.

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

Not Present.

Department of Motor Vehicles, Mike Smith

DMV report:

2023: 20,142

2022: 21,576

2021: 21,516

2020: 20,456

2019: 20,735

VCI no longer will be printing Vermont snowmobile decals, out for bid.

Discussion if there's a preference on decal colors, the suggestion of using yellow and black. More details to come.

Forest, Parks & Recreation, Claire Polfus

RTP is delayed. Grant announcements haven't gone out yet.

RTP program is being reviewed this summer for assessment and changes, Matt to partner with FRP on the RTP review.

VAST

State Funded Equipment Grant Program, Cindy Locke

Another email was sent to Joel today and haven't received an update yet.

As soon as an update is available will reconnect with Governor's Council.

Law Enforcement (LE) Committee, Gary Nolan

Recently had an in-person extended LE Committee meeting with Fish & Wildlife, VT State Police, Southern VT Search & Rescue and VAST in attendance. Would like to continue in-person meetings on a monthly basis.

During the meeting there was a discussion on a standard process for accident reporting.

Pat reached out to UCIS for more information, more details to come.

Discussion on how other states handle accident training and reporting.

- Snowmobile Wavier: Fees Petition Judicial Bureau
LE have been arriving to Cindy for processing for the 2023 season. Once completed, she will reach out to the extended LE Committee for future patrol planning.

VAST Safety Committee, Stan

Met in April, next meeting May 15th

Working on a series of short videos on topics such as: hands-on for safety, respecting landowner property, riding safe, littering etc. More information to come.

SSTP Trail Report (Season Wrap Up), Matt Tetreault

Most clubs have removed trail signs.

Attended the Northeast Kingdom Heritage Meeting this morning, went well.

Clubs are working on equipment assessments and grant applications.

Heading into construction season.

Legislative Report

House Report, Matt Walker

Not Present.

Senate Report, Jane Kitchel

Not Present.

Annual Funding for Southern Vermont Wilderness Search and Rescue

Not Present.

Insurance Card Requirement/DMV Bill Status

More information to come.

Appointee Reports

Northwest, Star

The majority of trail signs have been taken down.

Working on Chittenden County Landowner Dinner at Eagle Club

Northeast, Mike

Lots of beaver challenges

Discussion of Fish & Wildlife Beaver program along with requirements and restrictions.

Central, Jeff

Clubs working on collecting signs.

Clubs are working on groomer and equipment assessments.

South, Stan

Clubs are working on picking up signs, slight delay with the recent rain with respect to landowner property.

Working on organizing a landowner appreciation dinner.

Few new landowners which may result in some trail reroutes, more information to come.

Planning for fundraising projects.

Vermont State Police, Jacob Metayer

All snowmobiles have been put up for the season.

Working on end-of-year paperwork to VAST.

Fish & Wildlife, Jenna Reed

Have made contact with Maine regarding the accident course for LE, awaiting more information.

Working on end-of-season paperwork and inspection logs.

Next meeting is Wednesday, June 7, 2023 at 3pm via Zoom.

Motion to Adjourn:

Star Poulin moved to close the meeting at 3:52pm; Mike Mutascio seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mandy Dwinell

VAST Office & Programs Manager