

Board of Directors
July 26, 2021
Meeting Minutes – FINAL

Members Present:

OFFICERS PRESENT

President, Tim Mills
Vice President, Jeff Fay
Secretary, Jim Hill
Patty Companik, Treasurer

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Addison: Lewis Barnes
Caledonia: Bruce Carlson
Chittenden: Pat Poulin
Essex: Mike Daley
Franklin: Mike Burns
Grand Isle: Absent
Lamoille: Carmin Lemery
Orleans: Roger Gosselin
Rutland: Curt Marecheaux
Washington: Mark Reaves
Windham: Ivor Stevens, Alternate
Windsor: Doug Jacobs

STAFF PRESENT:

Executive Director: Cindy Locke
Trails Administrator: Absent
LVRT/Trails Manager: Ken Brown
Beth Flint, Technology & Media Manager
Cyndy Carrier Brown, Recording Sec'y.

GUESTS:

Stan Choiniere, Alternate, Windsor County
Ed Hebebrand, St. Johnsbury Sno-Blazers
Christina Kindstedt, Advantage Insurance

President Tim Mills called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

Approval of Agenda

Curt Marecheaux moved to approve; Pat Poulin seconded, to approve the Agenda as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Approval of Secretary's Report

Lewis Barnes moved to approve; Doug Jacobs seconded, to approve the corrected Secretary's report. **MOTION CARRIED.**

For the Governor's Council report on page 4, it should be Registration money, not Equipment money.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

Patty Companik gave a report of the financials as of June 30, 2021.

June 2021 – 9 months into the budget for 75% of the budget season.

Income through June 2021

Budget: \$3,255,180

Monthly Activity: \$11,023 – majority from contracted services / SSTP income

Actual: \$3,132,358

\$122,822 short of budget or at 96% of expected income

Expenses through June 2021

Budget: \$2,816,998

Monthly Activity: \$60,597 – some of the activity is reflecting Annual Meeting expenses, dues for Antique/Military TMAs, tradeshow, lobbyist (cost split between General Fund and Trails Fund).

Actual: \$2,103,959

\$713,039 of expense budget remains at 75% of expense budget has been utilized

Mark Reaves moved to approve; Pat Poulin seconded, to approve the Treasurer's report as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

NEW BUSINESS

Insurance Presentation

- Mark Reaves – VAST received a non-renewal notice from our insurance company. We are required to carry liability in order to operate. The LRPC is looking at these issues of raising insurance rates, etc. Specifically we started to learn more about insurance. Risk Retention Group (RRG's) are insurance groups owned by their members. Vermont happens to be an international leader for this type of insurance.
- Christina Kindstedt - Managing Director from Advantage Insurance (RRG). Christina presented a PPT presentation for Advantage Insurance rates RRG's are specialized kind of insurance program/company. RRG's can chose who they want to insure and at what levels.
- Mark Reaves – We are talking about forming a separate insurance company (RRG). Right now we are paying \$230,000 for insurance; with RRG it would be about \$150,000, plus the \$1 million set aside for possible claims. We would own 51% of this if we decide to eventually expand our RRG to other non-profit organizations. We could limit this to snowmobile organizations, or other types of recreation. We will also be able to hire our own council that specialize in defending and understanding the snowmobile industry. With an RRG, if you don't have any claims, dividends can go back to the policy holders if you do end up including other associations.

Lewis Barnes moved to approve VAST starting our own RRG; Roger Gosselin seconded, to move forward on this. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Bylaws Update

Jeff Fay – VAST is doing some modifying of bylaws to cover a couple of things.

- 1) Page 2 - Article 2 – Section 1 – adding verbiage as follows:
 - a) For a County to be eligible for VAST Grant-in-Aid funding, the County Director or Alternate Director shall attend a minimum of 10 Board of Directors meetings.
 - b) The County Director or County President shall provide the VAST office current contact information for each club within their county.
- 2) Pages 4 and 5 - Article 3 – Section 1 – bottom of page 4 – adding verbiage as follows:

Page 4 – Every snowmobile operating on the SSTS shall have a valid TMA as required by Vermont law. TMAs shall be available through local VAST affiliated snowmobile clubs or their agents using the VAST website and complying with all requested (continued on page 5).

Page 5 – signature confirmations. Local club/county dues shall be included in the cost of each TMA.

Page 5 – 2nd paragraph – Certain categories of TMAs may also be purchased directly on-line through the VAST website.....

Page 5 – 4th paragraph – Volunteer TMAs will be distributed through the VAST office based on a pre-qualified list provided by each club. No Club/County dues will be collected for Volunteer TMAs – being pre-qualified by the member's club is a statement of their good standing with club and eligibility for all club benefits and voting privileges.

Page 6 – Section 3 – Remove the reconciliation information, it is no longer required.

Page 8 – Section 1 – New second paragraph – All efforts shall be made to hold the Annual Meeting in an in-person format. However, video conferencing or other arrangements may be employed to conduct the basic requirements to comply with Association by-laws. Minimum requirements would include voting on the annual budget, by-law amendments and election of officers.

Page 9 – Section 2 – New section c) Meetings may be conducted via video conference, in-person or a combination.

Page 10 – Section 3 – New section d) Meetings may be conducted via video conference, in-person or a combination.

Page 10 – Section 4 – New section b) Meetings may be conducted via video conference, in-person or a combination.

Roger Gosselin moved to approve, Curt Marecheaux seconded, the changes to the Bylaws as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

FY22 Budget Review and Vote

- Cindy Locke – You have been presented with the budgets; any questions? There were none, because the budget was given out in early June and discussed at the June meeting.

Roger Gosselin moved to approve to approve the 2022 budgets, Pat Poulin seconded, to approve the FY 22 budget as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

VSTC Funding

- Jim Hill – Back in 2017 there was approval by the board to include up to \$2.00 per TMA to go to the VSTC fund. We have some carry forward funds, so we would like to ask for the \$2.00 per TMA.
- Cindy Locke - VAST started with \$150,000, currently we have \$86,000. We have about 12 easements throughout the state. The \$2.00 per TMA would be about \$44,650 in funding to the VSTC.
- Jim Hill - We never know when an easement may come up. We help the Vermont Land Trust and other organizations to preserve land, trails, etc.
- VAST has a surplus now, so we'd like to ask for this money for the STC.

Curt Marecheaux moved to approve; Carmin Lemery seconded, to approve the \$2.00 per TMA to the VSTC funding. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Club Audit Reviews and Pick Four Clubs

- Cindy Locke – We need to pick 8 clubs because we didn't do 4 last year. Using a random selector.
- Patty Companik shared a PPT presentation on audit recommendations, etc.
- Michael Garber – Can we limit it to 2 clubs in each county?
- Tim Mills – Unfortunately, no we can't. This is a random selection.
- Below is the listing of clubs to be audited in 2022.
 1. Green Mountain Trail Blazers
 2. North Country Mountaineers
 3. Country Riders
 4. Grafton Outing Club
 5. West Windsor Moonlighters
 6. Canaan Border Riders
 7. Green Mountain Climbers
 8. Wardsboro Pathfinders

Miscellaneous

- Cindy Locke – We met with AOT and the state is looking to completely take over the LVRT as of July 2022.

- Curt has reached out EAST a number of times about signing, but no answer.

Committee and Other Meeting Reports

Northeast Chapter and USA - Pat Poulin

- USA did have a meeting, but not much to report.

Awards & Nominating – Patty Companik

- Administrative items in process – notifications, speeches, etc.
- Committee Report was submitted for the Annual Report

Annual Meeting

- Jeff Fay – We are in good shape; will use Ambassadors for parking again.
- Food and tent are all set and we will be selling tickets for lunch – price to be determined, about \$10.

Finance - Patty Companik

- 2022 Budget voting tonight – July 26th
- FY 2020 and FY 2021 Club Audit selections
- Audit General Findings – educational powerpoint for Directors to share with their County clubs
- Committee Report was submitted for the Annual Report

Resource Committee – Ivor Stevens

- Meeting coming up, date not set yet.

Personnel – Jeff Fay

Carmin Lemery moved to approve and Juliann Sherman seconded to give The Executive Director a 1.5% cost of living salary increase. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resource Committee – Ivor Stevens

- The committee is in the final stages of review and hope to come to the VAST BOD soon.

Safety Committee – Stan Choiniere

- We have taken July and August off. There was a report was sent in for the Annual Meeting.

Governor's Council – Pat Poulin

- We are not currently meeting until September.

Miscellaneous

- Carmin Lemery – For the new contracts for law enforcement, when will they be out?
- Cindy Locke – For existing: September or early October (as usual)
- Morristown – August
- Newport - August

Motion to adjourn – Mark Reaves moved to approve; Lewis Barnes seconded to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Hill
Secretary