

**VAST BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES**  
**Monday, August 24, 2020**

**OFFICERS PRESENT:**

President, Tim Mills  
Vice President, Jeff Fay  
Sonia Koehler, Treasurer  
Secretary, Jim Hill

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:**

Addison: Lewis Barnes  
Caledonia: Ken Gammell  
Chittenden: Pat Poulin  
Essex: Mike Daley  
Franklin: Mike Burns  
Grand Isle: Dave Ladd  
Lamoille: Ellis O'Hare  
Orange: Juliann Sherman  
Orleans: Roger Gosselin  
Rutland: Curt Marechaux  
Washington: Mark Reaves  
Windham: Drew Fraser  
Windsor: Dick Jewett

**ALTERNATE DIRECTORS PRESENT:**

Windham: Ivor Stevens  
Windsor: Doug Jacobs  
Orleans: Milo Day

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Executive Director: Cindy Locke  
Trails Administrator: Matthew Tetreault  
Ken Brown, LVRT Manager  
VAST/LVRT Associate: Peggy Whiteneck

**GUESTS:**

Patty Companik, Chair, Awards and Nominating Committee  
Carmin Lemery, President, Lamoille County  
Stan Choiniere, Windsor County  
Raymond Rodrigue  
Ed Hebebrand  
Mike Koehler  
Larry Dwyer  
Stan Chester

President Tim Mills called the remote attendance Zoom meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

### **Approval of Agenda**

#### **MOTION:**

Item c under new business was removed from the agenda pending discussion at the Monday, 8/31 Trails Committee meeting. Dick Jewett moved the agenda be accepted as amended, Pat Poulin seconding.

**Motion carried.**

### **Secretary's Report**

#### **MOTION:**

Curt Marechaux moved and Dave Ladd seconded approval of the July 27, 2020 Board minutes as corrected: 1) date of meeting 2020 (not 2202), and 2) Treasurer's report was approved, not the budget. **Motion carried.**

### **Treasurer's Report**

Sonia Koehler reported that the financials are as expected, with some savings due to Corona virus.

#### **MOTION:**

Pat Poulin moved and Mark Reaves seconded approval of the Treasurer's report as submitted. **Motion carried.**

### **Tabled Items**

#### **MOTION:**

Mark Reaves moved and Roger Gosselin seconded the un-tabling of discussion on Caledonia County's outstanding TMAs. **Motion carried.**

Cindy Locke reported there have been no additional TMAs received from the Caledonia Club since last report. The club has elected a new Membership Chair, which should lead to improvements in TMA tracking. Still outstanding from 2020 are 41 regular season and 17 3-day TMAs, totaling \$7,170.

#### **MOTION:**

Rutland moved and Mark Reaves seconded that this item be re-tabled until such time as there is further information to report. **Motion carried.**

### **Consent Calendar**

Nothing to report.

### **Old Business**

Nothing pending.

## **New Business**

### Appropriation of Reserves

Cindy reported on the proposed reserve budget. There are \$356,213 in current reserves, with an additional \$519,093 to be moved in September, for total reserves of \$875,306, the largest share of which is in Emergency Reserves since that is the most flexible category. The Board prefers to wait for a motion until there is better clarity on the numbers in the subcategories.

#### **MOTION:**

Curt Marechaux moved and Mark Reaves seconded that the Board defer approving the appropriation of reserves until next meeting. ***Motion carried.***

### Insurance Increase and Planning for Reduced Risk

Cindy Locke reported that insurance will increase by \$50,000. Options to control the increase include reducing the additional premium coverage of \$42,000 and/or reducing the \$1,000,000 umbrella (an addition to the \$3,000,000 already provided in the policy); we haven't needed to use the umbrella, but the Board consensus is that it would be risky to eliminate it.

The increase is unbudgeted. Cindy is concerned that we haven't closed our water crossings and that this fact, not known to the insurance company, is an additional liability risk. Roger Gosselin noted that Orleans County is opposed to closing water crossings that are so important to that club's trails. He said Orleans is willing to dead end trails with additional signage appropriate to the risk of going beyond the sign. Water is considered state highway and crossing is at the rider's own risk. Cindy countered that if our trails lead riders to the water, that becomes our insurance risk. Vigorous discussion ensued. Curt Marechaux asked that if ice fishermen are covered by the state indemnity, why shouldn't snowmobilers on ice also be covered? Ultimately, it's a question of whether we can get insurance or not and the fact that our insurance company is holding us hostage to the lack of options in insurers. Dave Ladd agreed that the only way we are going to escape the risk is for the state to indemnify us for water crossings. Steve Koehler pointed out that an increase in snowmobile sales in this past season may mean less skilled riders who aren't as risk-conscious. Cindy suggested that we call in some experts to meet with the Board to discuss this issue further.

#### **MOTION:**

Kenny Gammel moved and Roger Gosselin seconded that we cover the total insurance increase out of reserves. ***Motion carried.***

## **Staff Reports**

Nothing to add that was not already in the Board packet.

## **Committee and Other Meeting Reports**

Committees/meetings that either had reported earlier in this meeting or had nothing new to report are not included in this section of the minutes.

Northeast Chapter and USA continues to meet monthly and is working out some issues on financing.

Law Enforcement Committee has held meetings with Fish & Wildlife and with State Police. Report is due out next month.

### Awards and Nominating Committee

Patty Companik, Committee Chair, reported that she has picked up the awards, one of which needed revision for an error. Everything is ready for Annual Meeting, including signup for award receipts. Two awardees are not attending because of Covid. Write-ups on each awardee for inclusion in the *Vermont Snowmobiling* magazine are in process.

### Annual Meeting

Cindy Locke reported that we have 79 pre-registered for the Annual Meeting. Pre-registration is online. Tent capacity is 150 with masks, and provisions have also been made for people to remain in cars with FM radio transmission of the proceedings and with mics set up in the parking area. Safety Ambassadors will be helping with parking, mask distribution, etc. Lunch will be provided.

Long Range Planning Committee has been working on Annual Meeting and the VAST insurance issues.

### Resource Committee

Ivor Stevens reported the Resource Committee has come up with a list of questions for members to go over with their clubs and counties. Cindy is doing historical research for the committee. Roger Gosselin asked if we can get traffic counts for the season; Cindy said there are still a handful of counters to be picked up and that the report will be coming.

Trails Committee is meeting next Monday via Zoom.

Safety Committee is meeting by Zoom on the 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss safety training policies.

### Governor's Snowmobile Council

The Council does not meet during the summer months and will resume again in September.

As the Annual Meeting is scheduled for September 12, the Board will not have its regular meeting in September. The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for October 26, 2020.

Dave Ladd 's contributions to the Board were warmly acknowledged. He was thanked for his time, service, and dedication. He will continue to be socially involved in snowmobiling and will be kept on VAST email lists.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Hill  
Secretary