



SNOWMOBILE VERMONT

**Board of Directors  
January 22, 2024  
Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:**

**OFFICERS PRESENT**

President, Jeff Fay

Vice President, Mark Reaves

Secretary, Ruth Halpin

Treasurer, Patty Companik

**DIRECTORS PRESENT**

Addison: Lewis Barnes (Not Present)

Bennington: Carol DeJohn

Caledonia: Bruce Carlson

Chittenden: Pat Poulin

Essex: John Hull

Franklin: Mike Burns

Grand Isle: Jeff Porter

Lamoille: Dustin Turner

Orange: Juliann Sherman

Orleans: Roger Gosselin

Rutland: Mike Stewart

Washington: Jeff Halpin

Windham: Michael Garber

Windsor: Doug Jacobs

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Executive Director: Cindy Locke

Trails Administrator: Matthew Tetreault

Office & Programs Manager: Mandy Dwinell

Technology & Media Manager: Beth Flint

Office & Programs Assistant: Tina Bedard

**GUESTS:**

Ivor Stevens, Windham County Alt. Director, Ed Hebebrand, Caledonia County Alt. Director; Amber Stevens, Grafton Outing Club; Greg Rouleau, Washington County Alt. Director, Stan Choiniere, Windsor County Alt Director; Re'al Cyr, Franklin County Trails Coordinator.

President Jeff Fay called the meeting to order at 6:01pm

Introduction to Tina Bedard, VAST Office & Programs Assistant.

**Approval of Agenda**

**Windsor County moved and Bennington County seconded, to approve the Agenda as presented.  
MOTION CARRIED**

**Secretary's Report**

**Chittenden County: Motion to approve, Essex County seconded to approve Secretary's Report.  
MOTION CARRIED.**

**Treasurer's Report**

*Reminder: dollars\$ - not the number of TMAs sold or types  
Revenue does NOT include Club Dues/Donations*

	Dec-20	Dec-21	Dec-22	Dec-23	Dec 2023 w/o \$10	
<b>Membership \$\$</b>						
Budget	\$2,481,915	\$2,478,385	\$2,767,295	\$2,767,295	\$2,767,295	
MONTH activity	\$1,365,653	\$1,475,067	\$1,507,752	\$1,238,871	\$1,146,907	\$91,964
Season So far	\$1,862,131	\$2,103,007	\$1,951,027	\$1,820,171	\$1,678,770	\$141,401
	-\$619,784	-\$375,378	-\$816,268	-\$947,124	-\$1,088,525	
percentage	75.03%	85%	71%	66%	61%	

**Membership - December 2023**

Increase of \$10.00 per TMA implemented this Season.  
 ~\$1.2 million Membership Income Activity for December/ 66% of budget expectations - with \$10 increase  
 61% year over year comparison (w/o \$10 included) which is about 10% less than last season this time

NSB-Trails Special Reserve Acct - \$214,245 (5.00 & 10.00 per TMA sold) x 66% = \$141,401 Season  
 Oct: 11,101, Nov: 38,336 and Dec: 91,964

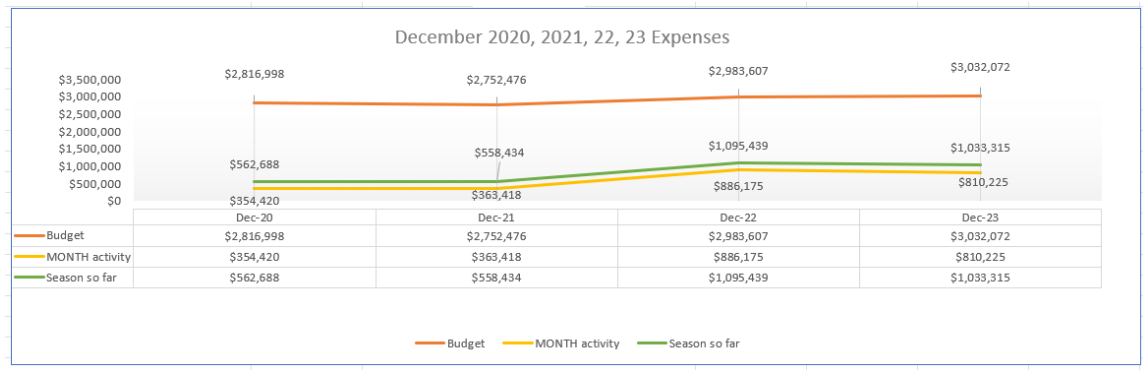


Expense	Dec-20	Dec-21	Dec-22	Dec-23
Budget	\$2,816,998	\$2,752,476	\$2,983,607	\$3,032,072
MONTH activity	\$354,420	\$363,418	\$886,175	\$810,225
Season so far	\$562,688	\$558,434	\$1,095,439	\$1,033,315
	\$2,254,310	-\$2,194,042	-\$1,888,168	-\$1,998,757
percentage	19.97%	20%	37%	34%

**Expense - December 2023**

Monthly Expenses of ~\$810k ( ~\$668k is in Trails of which ~\$535k was in start up Grooming payments)  
 ~108k is GMNF Grant - so you see it in INCOME and now the offset in EXPENSE

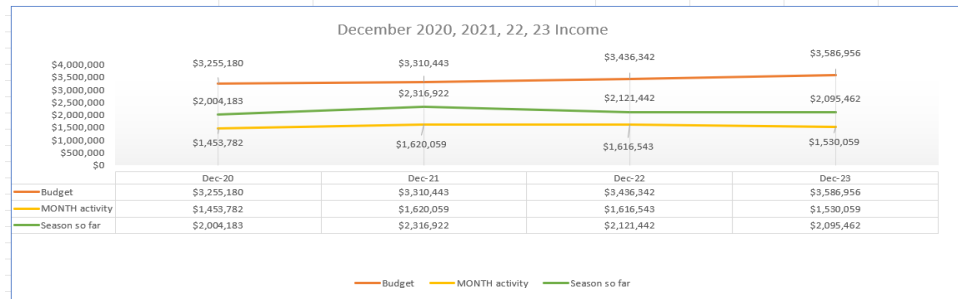
You can see this year and last year the impact of the Grooming Rates/Startup changes compared to the two years prior.



Income \$\$	Dec-20	Dec-21	Dec-22	Dec-23
Budget	\$3,255,180	\$3,310,443	\$3,436,342	\$3,586,956
MONTH activity	\$1,453,782	\$1,620,059	\$1,616,543	\$1,530,059
Season so far	\$2,004,183	\$2,316,922	\$2,121,442	\$2,095,462
percentage	61.57%	70%	62%	58%

**Income - December 2023**

\*1.5 million Income - of which \*1.2 million was from Membership (includes \$10.00 TMA Increase funds)  
 \*126k in PR Mktg/Grant (of which \*125k is GMNF Grant)  
 We are 58% of Expected Income Budget (with the 10 increase)



Trails Encumbered	2020 Season Final	2021 Season Final	2022 Season Final	2023 Season Final	Dec-23
Budget	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$550,000	\$554,170	\$554,170
MONTHLY ACTIVITY					\$105,697
Season so far	\$363,721	\$434,560	\$501,293	\$583,721	\$194,532
8310/2010 Trail Construction		\$100,764	\$157,804	\$223,860	\$28,920
8310/2010a Trail Maintenance		\$283,450	\$268,248	\$303,654	\$61,360
8310/2021 Trails Emergency Fund		\$24,895	\$45,556	\$26,499	\$6,522
8310/2027 Trail Debrushing		\$26,942	\$29,686	\$29,708	\$8,895
8310/2030 Next Year's Trails Projects		\$0	\$0	\$0	

Flood Relief Trail Work	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23
Budget	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000
MONTHLY Project Expenses 8310/2010b	\$16,044	\$91,518	\$150,784
Season So Far	\$16,044	\$107,563	\$258,348
Percentage of Budget Utilized	2.14%	14.34%	34.45%
BALANCE	\$733,956	\$642,437	\$491,652

**Trail Projects - December 2023**

Regular Season Projects for December: \$105,697 Regular Season Projects for the Season so far: \$194,532

Flood Relief Projects for December: \$150,784 Flood Relief Projects for the Season so far: \$258,348

TOTAL: \$452,880 paid for Reg & Flood projects (\$194k + 258k)

**Windsor County: Motion to approve, Franklin County seconded to approve Treasurer's Report. MOTION CARRIED.**

**TABLED ITEMS**

Nothing new to report.

**Old Business**

Nothing new to report.

**NEW BUSINESS**

TMA Update - Cindy

TMA Totals:

2024 – 17,605

2023 – 18,338

2022 – 21,299

Noticing snow-based purchasing trends with TMAs.

Reached out to other states, they are also experiencing a similar trend with their trail pass purchases.

70% of unsold TMAs are from snowmobiles registered in Vermont.

**DMV Registrations**

A similar trend with DMV registrations has been maintained, except for the year of COVID.

DMV registrations are down this year, which is possibly weather-related or due to changes with registration sticker policy.

Noticed an increase recently via social media and calls to the VAST office of first-time visitors coming to Vermont seeking input on trail related topics, accommodations and food. VAST has been receiving feedback on Vermont being a safe place to experience snowmobiling.

#### Club Pages on VAST Website - Cindy

Reminder for clubs to update their club page on the VAST website. Information on updating club pages is included in the VAST eNews.

Looking into options of potentially adding links from the club's icon on the VAST trail map to their page on the VAST website. More information to come.

#### **Trails Administrator's / ED Report – Cindy and Matt**

Discussion on some of the technical difficulties experienced recently with the new GPS Units. VAST appreciates everyone's patience and is working with Alpine and AtlasTrak to resolve the issues.

VAST has been working with their host company for the VAST trail map. The trail map was temporarily down due to high traffic volume with the recent changes in early season weather.

eNews sent to clubs on Monday, 1/22 with reminders on GPS Unit placement. GPS Unit placement location needs to be visible to the horizon, or it may not provide accurate grooming data.

Discussion on switching to 2-minute from 5-minute intervals for grooming data. Currently, the program collects data every 5 minutes and calculates mileage based on an algorithm.

VAST is aware there has been some incorrect and inconsistent mileage data, which may partially be due to the GPS Unit's placement and technical issues.

Discussion on potentially transitioning grooming to hours from miles. It would be a complex transition converting to hours. More information to come.

Reminder if someone is experiencing VAST trail map difficulties to clear the browsing history and cache. Troubleshooting information has been added to the Trails tab on the VAST website.

Discussion on projected next Trails Committee meeting. Next meeting is TBD, will update when available.

Discussion on grooming appearing on some trails is shown on the VAST trail map where a trail is closed.

Discussion that club's can update trail conditions layers. A reminder that some club's trails are marked as closed due to water holes and down trees. If the groomer is used to access the trail to clear debris, it may indicate the section of trail as groomed, often the following day the club will open the trail under caution.

Cindy reached out to the Governor's office RE: a ride. Dates are TBD.

Encourage clubs to submit upcoming events to the VAST website. Events are shared in the VAST eNews.

Reminder of Ride for \$25 weekend is Friday, Jan 26 – Sunday, Jan 28.

## **Committee and Other Meeting Reports**

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

Meeting next week to create an accident reporting form for clubs to include the reporting procedure.

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

USA: Big issues reported out west with Fish & Wildlife categorizing wolverines as an endangered species.

Northeast Chapter: Ride scheduled in Malone, NY February 8-11, 2024.

### VT Snow Trails Conservancy (VSTC) – Cindy

Had a meeting recently. Talked about working with land trusts.

### Law Enforcement (LE) Committee – Cindy

Nothing new to report.

### Awards & Nominating – Patty Companik, Chair

March 1<sup>st</sup> is the scholarship deadline for two - \$2500 scholarships. Application is available on the VAST website.

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

Nothing new to report.

### Annual Meeting – Amber Stevens

Planning is going well, working on organizing the event.

### Executive Committee – Jeff Fay, President

No meeting this month.

### Finance - Patty Companik, Chair

CPA document has been updated and is posted on the VAST website.

Letters to the clubs have been sent and CCed to the county director.

### Long Range Planning & Organizational Committee – Mark Reaves, Chair

Nothing new to report.

### Resource Committee

Not active.

### Trails Committee

The committee hopefully restarting in February.

### Safety Committee – Stan Choiniere

Met last month, next meeting is 2/12.

Attended a Zoom meeting last month with Safe Kids in Vermont to discuss snowmobile safety.

ISMA safety video links have been added to the VAST website.

Safety features included in the VAST eNews.

Working on an article for Snowmobile Vermont on calling 911 with no cell service.

Governor's Council – Pat Poulin

Met in January.

Vermont State Police and LE agencies have begun patrolling.

The legislative session started on January 3, 2024.

Personnel – Juliann Sherman, Chair

Nothing new to report.

**Motion to adjourn Windsor County moved to approve; Washington seconded to adjourn the meeting.  
MOTION CARRIED.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Halpin, Secretary