

Governor's Snowmobile Council December 6, 2023

Present:

Pat Poulin, Chairman
Star Poulin, Governor Appointee
Michael Smith, Vermont DMV
Claire Polfus, Forest Parks & Recreation
Jenna Reed, Fish & Wildlife
Gary Nolan, VAST L/E Committee Chair
Stan Choiniere, Governor Appointee
Mike Mutascio, Governor Appointee
Jeff Halpin, Governor Appointee
Jacob Metayer, VT State Police
Marc Poulin, VT Sheriff Association & Washington County Sheriff

VAST Staff Present:

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

The meeting was convened at 3:01PM via Zoom by Pat Poulin.

Approval of Minutes

Star Poulin moved to approve the November minutes as presented; Marc Poulin seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

Approval of SSTP Financial Report September and October 2023, Matt

Stan Choiniere moved to approve the September and October SSTP Financial Reports as presented; Gary Nolan seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

Agency Reports

Vermont State Police (VSP), Jacob Metayer

Williston VSP moved into their new location.

Snowmobiles are serviced and are ready for the season.

Classes: 1 person with 22 students, all passed. Another class last week, awaiting results.

7 classes are scheduled between December – February.

Online 159 students, all passed.

Arranging classes for Tour Guides, hopefully within the next 2 weeks.

Discussion regarding snowmobile tours in Stowe.

Fish & Wildlife, Jenna Reed

Working with wardens to get ready for the season.

Wardens will be attending upcoming snowmobile safety course.

Currently for open snowmobile trailers for their new trucks.

Sheriff's Association, Marc Poulin –VT Sheriff Association & Washington County Sheriff

Connected with Franklin County recently, both county's snowmobiles are ready for the season.

Recent complaints on early riding in Windsor and Washington counties

Sheriff's attending snowmobile safety course in Barre Saturday 12/9.

Police Chiefs & Southern VT Wilderness Search & Rescue, Paul Doucette
Not Present.

Department of Motor Vehicles, Michael Smith
Not Present.

Forest, Parks & Recreation, Claire Polfus
RTP applications are now open until the end of the month.
Working on revising the RTP plan based on suggestions from last summer's workgroup.
Flood grant recovery applications closes 12/15.

VAST

Office position is currently vacant. Emails and phones have been forwarded to Cindy in the interim.

TMA Sales

To date, TMAs sales are ahead of last year.

TMAs Sold	Revenue
2024: 6509	2024: \$1,272,554
2023: 6310	
2022: 8801	

Continuing to work with FEMA and SBA, this process may take up to a year.

Previously Jeff Halpin suggested inviting the Governor for a ride on the LVRT. Cindy reached out to the Governor's Office with some tentative dates. Coordinating with Jeff Halpin regarding ideas and media coverage.

Discussion of an increased presence of VAST at Vermont snowmobile rental locations.

Discussion on a public survey regarding interest in snowmobiling and information. Suggestion to add this topic to the December BOD meeting agenda.

Discussion on online map system and GPS units. Discontinued moving forward with Mapgears for the 2024 season. Working with Alpine and AtlasTrack for the 2024 season. Some adjustments are being made from Alpine on map features such as route planning. Ken Brown has returned remote part-time to assist with map updates and changes for the season.

Reminder clubs will need to return their old GPS unit to VAST for a possible resale to another association and would need to install and turn on new GPS units.

Law Enforcement (LE) Committee, Gary

All LE contracts have been sent, most have been returned to Cindy.
Received grant request applications from Southern VT, anticipate a couple more request applications.
The \$50k will be transferred from FRP to VAST soon.

VAST Safety Committee, Stan

Meeting last month with limited attendance.
Next meeting Monday 12/11
Stan doing a Zoom presentation on 12/7 with UVM for a Snowmobile Safety riding for kids.

SSTP Trail Report, Matt and Cindy

A lot of trail maintenance and flood-related projects have been approved and payments disbursed. Approvals are submitted to Sheila weekly for ACH payments on Friday. If clubs have questions regarding applications or disbursement status, reminder to check with club members to ensure all of the application requirements are completed.

Legislative Report

House Report, Matt Walker

Not Present.

Senate Report, Jane Kitchel

Not Present.

Appointee Reports

Northwest, Star

Addison and Chittenden counties have been working on signing.

There has been a mix of rain and snow in the area.

Trails are ready to go.

Northeast, Mike

Trails are looking good.

Reached out to county directors and they reported things are on track for the season.

Essex County: logging changes that will open up additional routes.

Congratulations to NEKSB for wrapping up their grooming shed.

Encouraged clubs to submit their events to the VAST events page.

Central, Jeff

Doing well snow-related.

Snowmobile safety course held in Barre Saturday 12/9.

Signs are staked, and with the 2 recent storms clubs have been working on removing trees and debris.

New trail to open with the Waterbury Club to the Bolton Valley ski area lodge and will be open for food.

Update from FRP of the Worcester Range Management Unit meetings with a presentation and a tables based on interest. Events are held on 12/13 at Doty Elementary School and on 12/19 at Stowe High School. For more information available at <https://fpr.vermont.gov/worcester-range-management-unit>

South, Stan

Received a mix of rain and snow lately.

County meeting held last week with 14 clubs in attendance.

Have been receiving requests from people planning trips to the area this winter.

Attended the SAM show with great response.

Discussion of process for reporting accidents. The process continues to be evaluated, with more details to come.

Next meeting is Wednesday, January 3, at 3pm via Zoom.

Motion to Adjourn:

Star Poulin moved to close the meeting at 3:58pm; Jeff Halpin seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mandy Dwinell, VAST Office & Programs Manager