

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
October 27, 2003

DIRECTORS, ALTERNATES & STAFF PRESENT: Lisa Viau-Addison; Norm Roark-Bennington; Ken Gammell-Caledonia, Jim Hill-Chittenden; David Page-Essex; Jodie Ross-Franklin; Bill Oakes-Grand Isle; Mike Cote-Lamoille; Larry Trotter-Orange; Brian Cook-Orleans; Barry Bradley-Rutland; Greg Rouleau-Washington; Roone Gibbs-Windham; Bruce Murray-Windsor; Ann Shangraw-President; Pat Poulin-Vice-President; David LaBelle-Treasurer; Bonnie Holbrook-Recording Secretary; Bryant Watson-Executive Director, Alexis Nowalk-SSTP Trails Administrator.

GUESTS: Mitzi Oakes, Betty Roark, Bill and Ruth Benham, Star Poulin, Jim Holbrook, John Ross, John Lynds, Don Glover, Sandy Woodbeck, Conrad Stewart, Maridelle Tomlinson, Mickey Auclair, Ted Kenyon, Howard Smith.

The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by President Ann Shangraw.

AGENDA: Norm Roark moved and Lisa Viau seconded to approve the agenda with additions. Motion carried.

8h - Conflict of Interest Statement and Confidentiality

8i - DC Fly-In

8g - may take a little longer

8j - North and South Annual Meetings

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Bruce Murray moved and Norm Roark seconded to approve the minutes of September 22, 2003 as amended with correction. Motion carried. Jodie Ross - change 2004 annual meeting location from the sports center to Collins Pearley Center.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Bruce Murray moved and Roone Gibbs seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried.

CONSENT CALENDAR - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT and TRAIL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: David LaBelle moved and Jodie Ross seconded the approval of the Consent Calendar as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Support for Public Television: Bryant Watson reported on the request for support for Public Television. He has received comments in favor of continuing the

coverage and some have asked why we want to do this. This fits the target audiences that the Marketing Committee endorsed a couple of years ago for enhancing our public image. Norm Roark moved and Dave Page seconded to support the public television for \$5,000 for this year. Motion carried.

STATUS OF ALBANY SNOW ROLLERS SNOWMOBILE CLUB: Bryant Watson indicated that Alexis Nowalk had an initial contact from the Albany Snow Rollers Snowmobile Club that they would no longer be a club due to the fact that they had extensive trail closures in the Albany area and were unable to hold their trail system together. They indicated that they had no volunteers to work the trails or groomer. They wanted to give up the leased groomer they have. Alexis has put in a lot of legwork to address this problem with trails going in and out of Albany. The club did not have a way in or out although Alexis found a way. The Albany club is now in default of their grooming lease but they want to remain a club and sell TMAs. Brian Cook said they want to stay on as more of a skeleton club and continue working on the trails and do some bridge work. They don't want to be a social club. It was expressed that they should not be allowed to continue as a club and sell TMAs when they are in default of the leased groomer contract. David Page expressed that it is up to the County whether they are allowed to be a club. The reason it was brought to the Board was because of the club being in default of the lease contract for the groomer. It was expressed that if clubs are not a grooming club and do not participate in trail maintenance they possibly should not be a club. Alexis Nowalk needs an answer because she is working on grooming contracts. David Page read from the leased grooming contract the consequences for a club when it is in default. Alexis Nowalk has dealt with the equipment. Bryant Watson and Alexis Nowalk are looking for direction from the Board for sending the TMAs to the club. This has turned into a discussion item and the Board is not taking action at this time. It is up to the County to take action on the club. Dave LaBelle moved and Ken Gammell seconded that Bryant Watson will withhold the TMAs until the outcome of the County meeting. Motion carried. Bill Oakes asked if there is any way that we could have in the bylaws that the clubs have to give one year's notice to disbanding. It is already in the lease agreement that the club give a year's notice. Ann Shangraw asked Alexis and Dave Page to take this issue up with the trails committee.

FY 2003 YEAR END FIGURES: Bryant Watson reported that we came in under the approved budget that was passed by the general membership. Jodie Ross questioned the difference between the total income and the actual budget. ED Watson explained that income, within all budgets, was above that budgeted and that expense, within all budgets, was below the amounts budgeted. Bruce Murray

brought up that at the annual meeting that we went out and bought a truck when it was not budgeted. He asked how we reported the purchase of the truck and asked why it was a problem if we did not exceed the budget? Ann Shangraw stated that it was her perception that about 60% of the membership questioned the amount of spending. Some counties do not meet during the summer and wind up missing out on important information and decisions.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS APPROVED IN JULY PAID IN OCTOBER:

Norm Roark lead a discussion on approval of construction in July and then not getting paid until October and that is creating a problem for some clubs. It has been discussed in the past to hold funds for construction in the summer. Bryant Watson distributed the policy for payment of construction projects and obligating VAST funds that was adopted on November 21, 1994. We have set aside 25% of the budget to hold over to the annual meeting. There were six counties that showed their hands that they know they have had problems with not getting payment for construction projects until October. Alexis Nowalk noted that usually we have monies left over from projects that have cancelled or come in under budget. When this happens she pays completed projects if they come in early. In Norm Roark's case, the Woodford club has a large amount of their trails on Forest Service (FS) land. The process for trails on FS land is different, as we have a cooperative agreement with the FS that encompasses trail work as well as the percentage that VAST is responsible for paying. Unfortunately the contractor bills the FS and then the FS bills VAST, VAST pays the contractor in full, VAST then invoices the FS and we are reimbursed at the rate that is spelled out in the cooperative agreement. Sometimes bills do not indicate what they are for, and this leads to a lapse in timely payment to the contractor. Alexis Nowalk has told clubs that if they have an issue with getting payment before the fiscal year or needs a partial payment made on a project, then they can contact her and she'll work with them.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - SUMMER STUDY: Bryant Watson reported that we would basically have one change in the landowner incentive item. If the trail appears on the trails map and has been GPS, then the landowner can be reimbursed. The ultimate impact appears to be about \$110,000 to the proposal. The final proposal for law enforcement distribution is by 50% to go to the State Police, 30% to go to Fish & Wildlife and 20% go to Sheriffs' Department. It appeared that the general consensus is that most counties receive more support from the Sheriffs' department. Lt. Buck is no longer in charge of recreation. He has been reassigned to another program. Lt. Croto was the name given to Bryant Watson. Ann Shangraw asked the Board if we want to propose that the distribution be reevaluated to at least 25% to Fish & Wildlife and 25% to Sheriffs. Bryant Watson

would like to wait to see how the law enforcements agencies hash this out. Once this proposal gets to the House, the Sheriffs' Department then goes in and lobbies for a higher percentage. This proposal will not be in place if it passes, for another two years. We plan to GPS all the trails before this could be put in place.

BOARD TRAINING SESSION NOVEMBER 8: The Board Resources Committee has put together this training session. It will start at 9 a.m. and will end roughly around 4 p.m. The topic will address training and coaching communications. Doug McDonough is the trainer. Alternate Directors are invited to come. We need a head count for food. Pat Poulin and Jim Hill were walking a trail and were discussing issues. They have found that some clubs do not know how to hold a meeting. Pat Poulin asked if we thought we could hold a non-mandatory class for club officers on how to hold a meeting. This idea was given to Jodie Ross to do a survey.

ANNUAL MEETING FRANKLIN COUNTY: Jodie Ross reported on the Annual Meeting. September 18, 2004 will be the next Annual Meeting date. Jodie is very proud of her county and how they have pulled together. They will be doing something a little different. They have a total of seven different committees working on the meeting. The caterer has to have a \$5 million policy for serving alcohol and the county has to provide one law enforcement officer for each one hundred attendees.

POLICY CHANGE REGARDING NEW TRAILS: In the last year we have had a request for a new trail or grooming upgrade almost every month. We need to create a time frame for requests for new contracts. The Trails Committee has devoted the May meeting to address any new requests. Norm Roark moved and Roone Gibbs seconded to move this item to an action item. Motion carried. David Page moved and Lisa Viau seconded to approve the recommendation of the Trails Committee Policy change as worded for the Grooming Contract Change/Request. Motion carried.

OTHER COMMITTEES: There were no committee reports at this time. As Ann reviewed the committees she tried to get representation from each area of the state and combine seasoned and new directors for each committee. She distributed copies of the committees. This is the first draft of the reconstructed committees. If anyone has a problem with the committees they are charged with they can contact Ann Shangraw. Bruce Murray asked Ann to invite the members on the committees that are not on the Board to the Board Trainee session.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT AND CONFIDENTIALITY: The Board members were given the Conflict of Interest Statement and the Confidentiality forms to fill out and sign.

DC FLY-IN: Bryant Watson explained what the DC Fly-In is. VAST pays for all necessary charges, including airfare, hotel and meals.

NORTH AND SOUTH ANNUAL MEETINGS: Ken Gammell led the discussion on having the annual meeting alternate between the north and the south. Caledonia would like to be able to host the annual meeting when it is their turn in Lyndonville. It was suggested that we leave the rotation as we have in the past from one county to the next. If a county does not have a facility that will adequately hold the annual meeting they can have it in a different county.

ANY OTHER: Bryant Watson has spoken with Mr. Robinson. The trails will still be open in this area. Bryant Watson does not anticipate a lawsuit from the snowmobiler.

Bryant Watson reported that they met with Addison County, Brian Hill and his brother and sister of Hill Farms. They received FSA verbal approval and did some work. When they filed their claim to be reimbursed, the FSA brought in the Army Corp of Engineers. When the Corp came in they claimed the Hills had altered some wetlands. The Hills have been charged with a \$100,000 fine. The Hills were concerned with VAST taking adverse possession of their property. The clubs in Addison County will need to sign the license agreement with this landowner. Ann Shangraw asked Bryant Watson to invite the directors to meetings that involve their counties so they can have input in any decisions made. Conrad Stewart explained the scenario leading up to this discussion. This person impacts trails in almost every club in Addison County.

Alexis Nowalk met with a landowner and two clubs members. This landowner is very upset with illegal activities of ATVs on his property. It's very difficult for her to respond to requests from landowners for law enforcement. VASA is contacting someone to lobby for them. Ken Gammell stated that in his county a person was just fined for trespassing on private property that was not posted and the person did not have permission. Jim Hill asked if we could get a list of names and contact information of officers of VASA.

Bryant Watson gave an update on insurance.

John Ross questioned the vote of the Board at last month's meeting. Andy Doe is working on getting the rule changed for the placement of the TMAs.

Ann Shangraw asked each committee chair to have a report each month. She would like to see more participation from members. She also requested that each committee set a schedule of meetings for the year. Then if you don't have anything for that month then it could be canceled.

Bryant Watson stated that two-thirds of the safety and responsible snowmobiling committee are law enforcement. He questioned whether we should add some snowmobilers to the committee. At the last committee meeting the message was to send more of the law enforcement issues to the Governors Council.

NEXT MEETING/REFRESHMENTS: The next meeting will be November 24, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. Grand Isle County will provide the refreshments.

Roone Gibbs moved and Bruce Murray seconded to adjourn at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Holbrook