

**BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING**  
**June 28, 2004**

**DIRECTORS, ALTERNATES & STAFF PRESENT:** Lisa Viau-Addison; Norm Roark-Bennington; Ken Gammell-Caledonia, Jim Hill-Chittenden; Dave Page -Essex; John Ross-Franklin; Bill Oakes-Grand Isle; ~~Brian Wells-Lamoille~~; Jim Holbrook-Orange; Brian Cook-Orleans; Barry Bradley-Rutland; Scott Stone-Washington; Roone Gibbs-Windham; Bruce Murray-Windsor; Ann Shangraw-President; Pat Poulin-Vice-President; David LaBelle-Treasurer; Bryant Watson-Executive Director, Alexis Nowalk-SSTP Trails Administrator; Bonnie Holbrook-Recording Secretary  
**GUESTS:** Mitzi Oakes, Betty Roark, Star Poulin, Bill Benham, Don Glover, John Lynds, Conrad Stewart, Sandy Woodbeck, Doug Wilson, Dennis Lemire, Gordon Holmes, Dick Jewitt, Dexter Wilson, Lucille Wilson, Buzzy Eastman, Tjark Aldeborgh. Howard Smith,

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by President Ann Shangraw.

**AGENDA:** Bruce Murray moved and Pat Poulin seconded to approve the agenda as presented with 2 additional items. Motion carried.

11c Personnel committee asked for executive session for personnel reasons  
8d Shirts

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Norm Roark moved and Barry Bradley seconded to approve the minutes of May 22, 2004 as presented.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Norm Roark moved and Dave Page seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried.

Pat Poulin asked about the registration costs for the VAST truck. It was \$20 extra for the vanity plate and it goes by the weight of the truck. The total was \$160 for a year.

**CONSENT CALENDAR-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT and TRAIL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:** Dave LaBelle moved and Roone Gibbs seconded to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. The motion carried.

**COUNTY DIRECTORS REPORTS:**

Several directors reported that not much is happening in their counties. Ken Gammell reported that **Caledonia County** had a picnic with a good turnout. **Chittenden County** was invited to for a discussion on a research property in Jericho, Vermont. The students are doing a forest management plan as a project. It was a welcoming meeting and they (the students) asked why we didn't ask for a 5 year plan instead of an annual plan. It was nice to go to a meeting that was not a hostile meeting. Jim Hill asked what the status of the ATV survey committee. Bryant Watson said that "they" are going to put a draft process plan for the ATV's. The survey has not received funding. **Addison County** has their annual field days coming up. Lisa Viau has raffle tickets for sale and the drawing will be at the Addison County Field Days. Nooks' has been removed from **Rutland County Snowmobile Clubs**. Jim Holbrook reported that **Orange County** parked cars at Tunbridge this weekend for the Vermont History Expo. This is an annual fundraiser for the county. **Windsor County** has applied for funding for work on a covered bridge that crosses a small bridge. The landowner has asked Windsor County Snowmobile Clubs to split the cost of the repairs for the covered bridge. The cost of the restoration is about \$8200. There may be some federal historical funds available to assist in paying for it. **Grand Isle County** is the wettest county in the state! Bill Oakes reported that they are planning a float for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade.

Ann Shangraw announced that Bryant Watson received the Snowmobiler of the Year award from ASCA at Congress this year.

**FY 2005 Budget** - The only changes that were made from last month were the ones that Bryant Watson had in his directors' report. The second item on our agenda will be discussed. The fiscal committee worked to get the budget to be easier to read by the general membership. They eliminated the six-month figures. Some of the line items were moved to so that the actual amounts are clearer instead of disbursed between a few areas of the budget. Ann Shangraw asked Bryant Watson and Dave LaBelle to be prepared to have the budget to be displayed on overhead at the annual meeting. David LaBelle stated that we do know that we have an imbalanced budget due to using the average TMA sales. There could be a surplus or deficit at the end of the year depending on the TMA sales. Norm Roark asked about the final numbers for the TMA sales. We still have about 5 clubs that have not finalized their TMA sales. Ann Shangraw asked that each director be notified to have the clubs be completed. As of the last count we have about 39,000 TMAs that were sold. Bryant Watson will update the figures one more time for the TMA count. Ann Shangraw thanked the Fiscal Committee for their hard work on the revision of the budget. **Dave LaBelle moved and Pat Poulin seconded to table this discussion to the end of the meeting. Motion carried.**

**Bid Results – Governmental Relations** – Bryant Watson distributed the bid proposals that we received from 7 bids. Bryant Watson read the cover letter from Kimbell – Sherman – Ellis. Their proposal was for \$90,000. They are a public and government affairs company. Essex County had a special meeting to discuss the budget and one of their members brought up the subject that we should be looking at improving and selling our image. Ann Shangraw asked for volunteers to serve on a sub-committee to investigate further. Scott Stone, Pat Poulin, Ann Shangraw and Roone Gibbs volunteered to be part of a committee to investigate this further. Lisa Viau asked if we know who these people represent and if they have other clients that may be lobbying for other interest groups in direct opposition to us. The Kimbell, Sherman and Ellis group's proposal is not just for lobbying but is also for government relations, public relations, press relations, grassroots organizing, newsletter writing, speech and media training and more. Anthony Otis is the one that we had years ago and if we go with him he would hire Gerry Diamond to help him. David LaBelle recommended that we leave the figures as we have them with the line item in the proposed to cover the costs of a legislative Information Specialist if it is approved by the membership at the Annual Meeting. Ken Gammell asked if we should ask for a \$5 increase and pay for the best one (\$90,000) and David Page from Essex County agreed with Ken Gammell. Others are still against increasing the cost of the TMAs unless it's really necessary.

**Annual Meeting** - John Ross said that they are all set for the annual meeting. All the arrangements are made. There will be London broil and Ham on the meal. The multiple microphones have been arranged. There will be vendors there too.

**Shirts** – We have talked about having shirts for the directors that travel representing VAST. We are one of the last states that do not have shirts. It's about time that we stand out and are united. Ann Shangraw found some shirts that are only \$10. If we order them in bulk, then we can send them up to Cook's and get them embroidered with the VAST logo. Lisa Viau pointed out that the staff had new shirts last year. Lisa Viau moved and Dave Page seconded that we purchase a shirt for each Director and the county trails coordinators and the total cost not to exceed \$2,000 total. Motion carried. This should come out of the public relations budget line item 225 for the Board members. Alexis Nowalk will find money from the trails budget for the shirts for the county trails coordinators. We'll have a sign up sheet at the next Board meeting for extra shirts to be purchased by the board members if desired. Dennis Lamire asked if the money could be taken out of the promotion and tourism budget for the shirts. The fiscal committee will move some money in the budget to cover this.

**FY 2005 Budget** - David LaBelle moved and Norm Roark seconded to remove the budget from the table. Motion carried. David LaBelle moved and Bruce Murray seconded to approve the budget for FY 2005 to be approved as submitted by the fiscal Committee. Motion carried with Caledonia and Essex County opposed. Essex County suggested that we increase the cost of the TMA by \$5 a piece to cover the increases in the fuel and other variables. Roone Gibbs stated that he is concerned with increasing TMA's Ann Shangraw said that she is not sure that she could go back to the counties and say that we are purchasing shirts for the board for image at meetings and "oh by the way, we are asking for a \$5 increase!". Barry Bradley said that weather killed them for riding this past winter. Chittenden County is opposed to an increase. Bill Oakes said that he does not think we want to turn our back to the costs of fuel but the price should go back down. Doug Wilson noted that we are down in membership totals by almost 15%. New Hampshire and Maine are down about 10-15% in membership this past winter too.

**New Trail Approval** – Alexis Nowalk pointed to her Trail Administrator's Report to review. The trails committee is asking for approval for new trails to be added to grooming contracts. She has a total of 99 miles to be added. The first proposal she's requesting is for the first three clubs as they are Class IV groomers. Norm Roark moved and Brian Cook seconded to approve those three requests. Motion carried. She reviewed the next contract. Ann Shangraw asked Alexis Nowalk to prioritize the requests. Priority 1 would be the Class IV contract. Priority two will be Buzzy Eastman's request. Priority three will be several others. Hazen's Notch is a priority for Orleans County and they are requesting an additional 15 miles on their Class 1 Grooming Contract. They also have taken over another club's grooming contract. We are trying to help this club to increase their miles to support the purchase of their leased groomer. This is a major trail that gets a lot of snow. The next one would be Pittsford Sno-Mads & Chittenden Dammers. The trail is ready to go at no additional cost to VAST for construction. The Chittenden Dammers would pick up the grooming and this would increase their contract by about \$2500. This section of trail is a great addition to Rutland County because the current Route 4 corridor trail is currently a goat path going through yards and around clothes lines and around pools and etc. This increase would take a lot of traffic off the current corridor 4 trail. They have worked really hard with no cost to VAST. Alexis walked the whole trail with Ralph Farwell. The next priority would be the Hartland Hill Hoppers and they are in Windsor. They have a class 2 contract for 30 miles and they have 14 miles of secondary trails and they are looking to add those 14 miles on Class 2 contract. This will help to alleviate traffic that could potentially shut down another part of the trail that has heavy traffic. There is only one corridor trail in Windsor County that is open all the way through from north to south. The last request is for the Weathersfield Pathfinders. They are asking for 12 miles on the Current Class I Grooming contract. This is now a main trail onto Hawk's Mountain. David Page moved and Bruce Murray seconded the increase in mileage to the grooming contracts requests. Motion carried unanimously. Bruce Murray wanted to know why we had to itemize and vote individually on the contracts. Alexis Nowalk noted that we had to look at them individually because of the question on the amount that it will cost. We have to be accountable to our membership for increases in expenditures. The next item is for new trails. Buzzy & Betty Eastman are requesting 3.5 miles of new trail construction in the Groton Area. A lot of the trail has been built by the land owner to Buzzy's specifications. Norm Roark moved and Dave Page seconded to approve the request. Motion carried.

**Forest Plan Revision Meetings – Alternatives** – Plan B provides for more forest products and Plan A will provide for more back woods motorized use. Several folks think that the Forest Service is probably leaning towards Plan C. Glastonbury will be affected by C. The Forest Service has left the Shaftsbury trail untouched. Ann Shangraw asked everyone to read the Plans and decide why we want to support one of the plans. Either Plan A or B will work for us. Plan B gives more flexibility to uses but does increase the amount of wilderness. We have a few more weeks to get comments in to the Forest Service. We've got to get comments in and they will weigh a lot. The anti-access groups have letter writing campaigns going on. This Forest Plan will last for 20 more years so we need to be heard. The meeting in Addison actually took a hand count but none of the others had hand counts. We are hearing a lot of noise from the Wilderness people because they wanted to add 80,000 more acres to wilderness so they would be the only ones to have access. We will discuss the plans at the next Board meeting to decide what stand VAST wants to take.

**ISC Attendees** – Norm Roark said it was one of the best Congresses since NH's. We attended a lot of meetings and heard that others are having a lot of the same problems with insurance as we are. Ann Shangraw said that when Bryant Watson left the room, she got a sub-committee on the Insurance issues going. Bryant Watson will be heading the committee to investigate insurance issues. The Northeast Chapter is heading this up. We have contacted ASCA and informed them that we are heading this up and we are here. We have the largest percentage of members and pay the most in dues. ASCA has agreed to meet with CCSO to go to the European area underwriters. Pat Poulin said the networking is incredible at Congress. Some of the states can't even get their members to pay dues! The food was excellent. Mitzi reported that some of the Vermonters did not behave themselves!!!

**July Board Meeting** – Mitzi Oakes distributed information on the July Board meeting. The meeting will begin at 9 am! Coffee and donuts will be provided. Everyone is asked to provide a dish. Chittenden County will be joining us after the Board meeting for their Annual Picnic. David Page moved and Bruce Murray seconded to reimburse Bill and Mitzi Oakes for the costs of the hamburgers and hot dogs as the Board usually pays for a BBQ for the Board. Motion carried. Lisa Viau moved and David LaBelle seconded the motion to move the Executive Session to the end to discuss personnel and Sno-Kar. Motion carried.

**Committee Reports** – Ann Shangraw reported that on behalf of **Board Resources** she did check around on some trips. She can get a 47 passenger bus for \$950 to take us to the NHTSA Grass Drags. That would be about \$30 per person. This is for the whole day and would include stopping for dinner. After discussion it was decided not to do this. Other ideas that were suggested were Fryburg, Eastern States Snowmobile Show, the Big East Show in Syracuse, Foxwood's Casino and a river trip. The idea is for the Board to participate in a group activity to forge a stronger bond by getting to know each other better so that we can be a more effective board. John Lynds will look at self-guided river trips. The costs are \$38 per person. John Lynds will work on a discount. They have foliage trips. He'll give us details at the next board meeting. We'll vote and commit at the July Board meeting. **ISC 2006 Planning**– Ann Shangraw will form an executive committee and will they will be meeting soon. Bonnie Holbrook, chair, has already received commitments from New Hampshire, Massachusetts and New York for support by sponsoring something for the congress. She also learned a lot about Congress. She'll also be flying to Salt Lake City in August for a Congress Planning Committee meeting. **LVR** – Bryant Watson reported that there are 20 companies that are interested in submitting RFP's by the middle of July for removing the trails. There is a company in the Midwest that is removing 2-3 miles of bed a day with the process they are using. **PR and Marketing** - Ann Shangraw will be asking Bryant Watson soon for a date pretty close to the card room at the State House. Tjark Aldeborgh is writing six articles to send throughout the state. If we can not get them in the newspapers as an article, then we'll send them as Letters to the Editors. Volunteerisms will be one of the topics. They are looking at little give-a-ways we can give to legislatures when we are at the state house. **Recognition** – Star Poulin reported that they have worked on awards. Ann Shangraw has given her list to Star. Star is waiting for the awards that Bryant Watson is wanting. They have given proposed policy changes to Norm Roark for the policy committee to review and present. **Safety and Responsible Riding** – Mitzi Oakes now has software installed on her computer and is receiving training. The committee decided in May that shirts would be ordered and given to the Safety Instructors. It will cost \$3900 and will come out of the Safety Committee budget. Dave LaBelle reported on the **Trails** committee. They approved the additions and upgrades that were presented to the Board.

Windsor County will provide the refreshments in August. The next Director's Meeting is July 25, 2004 at Bill and Mitzi Oakes camp in Grand Isle.

**Lisa Viau moved and Bonnie Holbrook seconded to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues and Sno-Kar and to include the alternate directors. Motion carried.**

**Scott Stone moved and Lisa Viau seconded to come out of Executive Session. Motion carried.**

**Pat Poulin moved and Roone Gibbs seconded to adjourn at 9:00 PM. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Bonnie Holbrook  
Recording Secretary