

**VAST BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING**  
**October 26, 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; Larry Trotter-Orange; Brian Cook-Orleans; Barry Bradley-Rutland; Scott Stone-Washington; ~~Reene 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, Jim Holbrook, Conrad Stewart, Meridelle Thomlinson, Sandy Woodbeck, John Lynds, Bill & Ruth Benham, Tony Mirando, Greg Rouleau

The meeting was called to order at 5:59 pm by President Ann.

**AGENDA:** David LaBelle moved and Pat Poulin seconded to approve the agenda as presented with one item removed. Motion carried.

Ann Shangraw asked to remove the 3-day pass from the agenda. She has asked Bryant Watson to do more research on the issue including projected money figures.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Dave LaBelle moved and Jim Hill seconded to approve the minutes of August 23, 2004. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Norm Roark moved and Brian Wells seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried. Scott Stone asked about the amount for the buyout amount. Bryant Watson confirmed the amount for the buyout.

**CONSENT CALENDAR-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT and TRAIL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:** Dave LaBelle moved and Jim Hill seconded to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. The motion carried. Pat Poulin asked for clarification of the stop ahead signs in the Executive Director's report as Bryant Watson had it backwards.

**COUNTY DIRECTORS REPORTS:** Chittenden County does not have much going on, just a few trail changes. Addison County checked on the section of the trail that has a new house and they have a snowmobile trailer in the yard so it's looking positive. Orange County reported that the Tri-Town Trail Travelers had their banquet and gave away a 4-wheeler to a very nice couple. They also obtained signed landowner permission in August for a new section of trail. They got half the trail cut when they found out the property was sold in that short time! The new landowners were not aware of the permission given for the new trail. Luckily it worked out after some conversation with the new landowners and they give permission. Larry Trotter asked about getting notification from the town clerk's office. Tony Mirando shared that they have extremely good luck working with their real estate offices. Lamoille County Director Brian Wells' truck was stolen after the Annual meeting. The perpetrator followed Brian Wells and his wife, and later stole the truck, did some extensive property damage and totaled the brand new truck. The railroad tracks are mowed from Johnson to Wolcott. The Eden club has a fighting chance to succeed this winter. Johnson may have the Route 100 trail open back up this winter. Windsor County has some possible trail closures. Weathersfield Pathfinders had their landowner's dinner. Bruce Murray received a call from a person with the Woodstock Gazetteer and she had been trying to get a hold of someone in the County to do a story on the snowmobiling in Windsor County. Franklin County reported everything is pretty good. Ann Shangraw thanked Franklin County for a job well done on the Annual meeting. Bennington County is in pretty good shape. They have an application for a new club in Stanford. They will be working with the National Forest to legalize about 40 miles of trails. Rutland County has an article in the Cat's Pride this month. Dave Page reported that things are well in Essex County. They had a meeting with Essex Paper Company and they'll be losing a section of trail in Canaan that will cause some pain and heartache. There's a bridge in Brighton that's being put in. Caledonia County had a Halloween Party. Ken Gammell said all counties should have one because it was so much fun. They are working hard to get a section of trail back open that was closed. There are some other problem trails that are being worked on to get fixed. They have a groomer that looks like it will be sold to an outfit in New Hampshire. Ken Gammell has about \$80,000 to \$90,000 to put back to the lease program. The club purchased their groomer out at the end of the lease and sold it very quickly. Buzzy Eastman is in business grooming and Ken is glad to have him back on board. Orleans County looks good. A reroute on trail 58 has been done to get off the side of the road. There are some closures in Glover that hopefully will be resolved by snow fall. Washington County reported that Middlesex has a revised town plan that will put restrictions on landowners. If this passes, there are 3 large landowners that will be closing their land to everything. The snowmobile club in the town is working diligently with five landowners to lobby to get the plan voted down. The County gave two snowmobiles to the sheriff's department for law enforcement and the department has pledge a number of hours per week for the equipment. They will be patrolling during the week. Grand Isle County Director Bill Oakes reported that Dave McFadden has been doing a great job getting permissions slips. There's a trail by the Missisquoi that will be rerouted a bit. There are a couple of other trails with little changes. The southern part of the county has not held a meeting although they do have a restaurant owner that has offered his place for meetings. They need snow!

**Approve Government Relations Goals and Agenda 2005/2006:** We have two firms the committee is recommending. They are *Morris and Associates* and *Primmer and Piper*. They specialize in different areas and we can hire both of them and stay within the budget. Both of the firms got excellent marks from the legislative representatives the committee contacted for references. The executive committee will be meeting shortly with the two firms and finalize a planning strategy. Ann Shangraw and Pat Poulin both are on deck so if one of the firm needs directive and Bryant Watson is not available then they can contact Ann Shangraw or Pat Poulin. **Dave LaBelle moved and Lisa Viau seconded that we approve the hiring of the 2 firms, *Morris and Associates* and *Primmer and Piper* as our Government Relations Firms. Motion carried.**

**Officers and Directors Planning Retreat:** Please review the information in this month's Board packet for our Long Range Planning Retreat in November. There is information from the last retreat. We will get a map and directions to the Seyon Ranch prior to the retreat. We want to carefully plan our long range plan and goals. We do have a facilitator.

**Approve Government Relations Goals and Agenda 2005/2006:** One additional item to add to the list in Bryant Watson's report will be storm water run-off. Storm water run-off will be back at the forefront this legislative season. We now have nine items that we need to make sure we stay on top of. The Environmental Board is leaning towards us not being a for-public use. The vote is going to be very close. We won't know until December what the decision of the Environmental Board will be. **Scott Stone moved and Dave Page seconded to approve the Government Relations goals and agenda presented in the Director's packet along with the additional item added. David LaBelle moved and Brian Wells seconded to add the addendum to approve the committee to add to the agenda as or if needed. Amendment carried. Motion carried.**

**Travel Policy:** David LaBelle moved and Jim Hill seconded to approve the travel policy as presented in the Board packet. Motion carried. Ann Shangraw stressed that this was in no way to discourage people from traveling and getting further involved. She wanted to have the Board be able to be accountable to our membership for travel expenses. David LaBelle asked if we should have a clause in the policy that when there is more interest of participation and the budget allows that we can approve the additional travel. Bryant Watson said that it is covered in the current policy being presented. There was a discussion on the wording to verify the amount paid. Committee members travel and expenses are also addressed in the policy. This will need to be exceptions like next year's ISC in Salt Lake City where we will need additional volunteers to help with the reception and promoting of the 2006 ISC we are hosting.

**Iriquois Sno-Beavers (Chittenden County) Forgiveness for Trail Drag \$:** Pat Poulin was asked to address the Board with a request from the Iriquois Sno-Beavers to "forgive" the \$3,000 owed for a drag purchased under the "drag renewal program" about six or seven years ago. The club received two drags with one being non-functional but was fixed and has been taken care of. The club turned over their grooming equipment to an independent contractor about that time. The club has been billed for the drag and they would like to be forgiven for the drag. The drag went directly to the contractor. The club approached the contractor but he said that they signed all the equipment over to him and he has no liability to paying for it. Dave Paige said that he agreed with Ann Shangraw's idea that we either get paid for the drag or go pick the drag up. Someone has to pay for the drag. Last year the contractor groomed 243 traveled miles. David LaBelle suggested we reduce the amount paid grooming. Lisa Viau asked why we don't deduct \$2 mile until the drag is paid up. We do not want to bankrupt the club but the regime at the time gave it away so it's the responsibility of the club to pay for it. It's up to the club to try to get the money from the contractor. **Ken Gammell moved and Brian Wells seconded that we have Pat Poulin work out a payment plan for the club to pay for the drag. Motion carried with Jim Hill and Pat Poulin abstaining.**

**Replacement of Stop Ahead Signs:** The signing manuals state the colors of the stop ahead signs are yellow and red. The trails committee is asking if we want to trade the signs one-for-one. **Brian Wells moved and Dave Page seconded that we have a one-for-one swap for up to a period of one year. Motion carried.**

**Generic TMA Applications No:** Every year we are asked why we can't get the TMA forms out sooner. If we do not print the amounts and have the agents fill in the amount so we don't have to throw out annually. Lisa Viau moved and Brian Wells seconded to move this issue to an action item. Scott Stone asked that we wait a month and go back to our clubs for their opinions. Bill Oakes asked about having different colors for resident. **There was a motion to move the Generic TMA Application topic into an action item from discussion. Motion carried. Dave Page and Lisa Viau seconded that we move to a generic TMA form without the prices so that they are available as soon as we hold the annual meeting. It will be the clubs responsibility to put the amount on the form. Motion carried with 4 nos.**

**Update on LVRR Process:** Sandy Woodbeck reported that some movement will begin on lifting the rails from the rail bed. They may unbolt the rails and move them to the side. We don't know how fast they'll move or how long into the winter they'll work. According to the newspaper, the job will not be going back to bid. Brian Wells told Sandy Woodbeck to let him know if there is anything he can do to help. Scott Stone asked Bryant Watson about the funding that Bernie Sanders was talking about. We haven't heard about pulling the funding. Sandy Woodbeck reported that we lost a bridge on the trail. A truck hit the bridge a number of years ago going up hill and now a couple of days ago a garbage truck hit the bridge going down the hill and moved it. The bridge is now gone.

**Update on Act 250 & E. Board Process:** Bryant Watson gave an update on Act 250 and E. Board process.

**VT Chamber of Commerce Legislative Report Card:** Bryant Watson included a report card for our legislators and how they voted on some of the issues important to us. He asked the Board to check it out.

**ATV Collaborative:** Ken Gammell reported the meeting went pretty good. There was a man from Forest Watch said that presented a picture that he had taken of stones that he claimed were scratched by snowmobiles. Ken Gammell told that man to please take a picture of the snowmobile registration instead of taking pictures of the scratched stones and he would turn them in for riding where they were not suppose to. A law enforcement office present said that he thought we would have fewer problems if we got the ATV riders organized and they had trails. For the most part, it went well. Bryant Watson and Ann Shangraw have been to all of the meetings so far. Bryant Watson feels that the meeting format has worked well. There was about 15% that attended there were against but they are also the most vocal. We need to be more vocal at the public meetings for our sport. Barry Bradley asked with the wording of the class IV roads if the ATVs are allowed on class IV roads were they going to be allowed on the section of the snowmobile trails that are on class IV roads. One direction identified was to be the primary interest of getting trails on public lands and see how they do and then see about getting them on to private lands. There will be some big changes to the ATV laws and changes for law enforcement and fees and fines. Then it will be up to the Governor to accept it or not. He will also have to decide on the funding and whether it will come from the general fund or from user support by enacting taxes on all recreational items sold in Vermont from roller skates to bicycles to all items used for sport and recreation.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Responsible Riding & Safety Education Committee -** Mitzi Oakes reported our meeting was a bust. Bob Stebbins, Star Poulin, Mitzi Oakes and Bonnie Holbrook were the only ones to show up for the meeting. Mitzi Oakes has forms for promotion items for safety classes. There are two missing

clubs from the safety equipment report. Hopefully next month the law enforcement people will be back. The VAST Courtesy Patrol vests have been ordered and will be available for Chittenden and Washington County programs.

**PR & Marketing** -We have 2500 handle bar hangers to give to the dealers. The committee has a list of requests for the *riders for reading* program. We're having difficulties purchasing the books but the committee is working on it. The legislative dinner is January 20<sup>th</sup>. We will have a short video. The Legislative ride will be January 10<sup>th</sup>. Stowe Snowmobile Tours will be providing the snowmobiles. We will be having a legislative coffee hour on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Tjark Aldeborgh is writing a series of articles for newspapers.

Bennington County will provide the refreshments for the November Board meeting. The next Director's Meeting is November 22, 2004 at 6:00 PM.

**David Page moved and Bruce Murray seconded to adjourn at 8:24 PM. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Bonnie Holbrook  
Recording Secretary