

VAST BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
April 25, 2005

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, John Lynds, Roberta Stammers, Conrad Stewart, Sandy Woodbeck, Tjark Aldeborgh, Don Glover, John Plante, Conrad Stewart, Buzzy Eastman, Lionel Cyr, Ted Kenyon, Baxter Doty, Fred Cota and **special guests:** Dave Willard, Jim Horton, Melissa Reichert, Greg Wright

The meeting was called to order at 5:57 pm by President Ann Shangraw.

AGENDA: **Dave LaBelle moved and Bruce Murray seconded to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.**
10d Lobbyist reports

SECRETARY'S REPORT: **Dave LaBelle moved and Dave Paige seconded to approve the minutes of March 28, 2005. Motion carried.**

TREASURER'S REPORT: To date we've received 29,953 TMAs. There are still clubs that have not turned their TMAs in. Fiscal subcommittee May 9th to begin work on next year's budget and will report next month. **Norm Roark moved and Dave Paige seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried.**

CONSENT CALENDAR-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT and TRAIL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: **Dave LaBelle moved and Pat Poulin seconded to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. The motion carried.** Grooming payments were made Friday. Subsidy payments were made. Alexis Nowalk will have a full report at June's Board meeting with amounts.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Ann Shangraw made a visit to Bennington County for a meeting. She also attended the NY Annual Meeting and has a copy of the book with info if anyone is interested.

COUNTY DIRECTORS REPORTS: **Rutland County** reports that all the signs should be picked up by now. Barry Bradley has a \$10,500 check that will be presented to the VAC for the therapy pool and about \$5000 to be sent to the Takumta Camp. **Bennington County** had snow today. **Essex County** still has areas with frozen ground. As soon as the ground thaws out, they will pick up the signs. **Washington County** reported that Greg Rouleau will be stepping down at alternate director. **Grand Isle County** has paid off both of their groomers. They are trying to find a central location for county meetings. **Franklin County** is in good shape. **Windsor County** had their last meeting. Bridgewater decided not to open the road that was discontinued. Hartland is also having a problem with an ancient road that was thrown up. Yvonne Rice has been doing a good job keeping the office in the loop. **Orange County** has one more meeting on Wednesday night. **Addison County** is working on a reroute in their area that will include a new bridge. **Caledonia County** is pretty much closed up. Kenny Gammell said he couldn't thank the really good grooming operators in Caledonia County enough for all of their hard work. Their county held a landowners supper. **Chittenden County** will be doing a snowmobile raffle. The drawing will be at their first meeting in August. They also have one more meeting in May. **Windham County** is done for the season and everything should be secured.

GROTON STATE FOREST PLANNING TEAM PRESENTATION: Dave Willard, Stewardship Forester, and Jim Horton also with from the St. Johnsbury office of the Forest, Parks and Recreation gave a presentation. They oversee about 245,000 acres. Dave Willard reported that they are about two-thirds of the way through the planning process for Groton State Forest. They are trying to find a way to keep the public in the know. Mr. Willard reviewed the map showing the snowmobile trails system. Timber, fish, salamanders, bridges, culverts, rare plants, animal habitats and many other resources have been inventoried. They are now assessing the information and are in the process of trying to develop a draft plan by October 2005. They did put some snowmobile counters on the trail this winter but something happened with the counters and the data is flawed. You can keep updated on the status at <http://state.vt.us/anr/fpr/lands/index.htm>. Most of the snowmobile trails are in good locations. There is a secondary trail that may have to be moved some. They are also identifying areas where there could be some trails for cross-country skiers that would not have to be shared with snowmobilers. Once they come out with a draft, there will be a comment period where the public can provide comments. Mr. Horton and Mr. Willard both stressed that folks can feel free to contact the office if you have comments or concerns anytime. They always welcome feedback year round. The plans are worked on once the plans are approved. Mr. Horton and Mr. Willard are trying to work with many different forest users. Most of the conflicts in the Groton area happen during the summer months. Ann Shangraw asked about the loons coming off of the endangered species list and will the nesting spots be taken off the state protected area list. The Fish and Wildlife may still keep those as protected areas. Ann Shangraw thanked Mr. Willard and Mr. Horton for all of their hard work and working closely with us.

US Forest Service – Draft EIS GMNF Plan: Melissa Reichert from the US Forest Service gave a presentation similar to what they will be doing at the open houses. She and Greg Wright, also from the Forest Service, mainly spoke about the preferred alternative. The preferred alternative is Alternative E. If new snowmobile trails are added, there will be a site specific analysis done prior to adding them. The comment period ends on July 5, 2005. They are asking people to state what your reasons are for the comments you are making. You can send written comments to

Plan Revision Team
Green Mountain National Forest
231 N. Main St.
Rutland, VT 05701

Or email to gmflplarevision@fs.fed.us

As far as they know, the corridor and secondary trails will not be shut down. Ms. Reichert said that if we see something that was missed in the plan, please send them the information. The proposed land and resource management plan is the document that you really need to look at. It gives the information on how the plans will be managed. This will be used every day because this is how the forest will be managed.

MAKE-A-WISH REPORT: Bryant Watson and Ann Shangraw have checked out a couple of locations. They are still working on that. Once they secure the site, they will see about entertainment to draw a crowd.

WASHINGTON DC FLY IN: Pat Poulin felt that it was a good trip. The presentations that they got on Monday seemed to be repetitive. The Congressional meetings went really well. There were 250 plus snowmobilers on Capitol Hill from 24 of the 27 states that have snowmobile programs. This is organized by ASCA. The ASCA meeting and the Northeast Chapter meeting also take place.

ACT 250 UPDATE: Bryant Watson supplied a copy of the VNRC appeal is making to the Environmental Board. He also provided an update on ACT 250.

H.334 – ANCIENT/HISTORIC ROADS – BMW: The Title Insurers are supposed to be presenting a new wording that is more in the middle of the road.

LOBBYISTS REPORTS: Roone Gibbs asked about the written report that the Lobbyists promised in their proposals. Ann Shangraw and Bryant Watson have been getting verbal reports every week. They will ask them for the written reports that we could bring back to our members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Ann Shangraw asked Lisa Viau, chair of the **Board Resources Committee** to begin thinking about a non-business activity that the Board could do. A camping trip was suggested. The **Fiscal Committee** will meet May 9th. Jim Hill reported on the **Operational Planning Committee**. He requested to be put on the agenda next month. The **Marketing Committee** approved to be a sponsor at the Vermont History Expo on June 25-26 at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds. Ann Shangraw brought back some placemats that could be used for promoting snowmobiling. We should be getting a grant for the books. The committee is also working with a local station to create new PSAs. Ann Shangraw asked that clubs and members to please take photos and video footage of club events like Chicken BBQs and various fundraisers that could be used in PSA's. **Scott Stone moved and Bonnie Holbrook seconded to extend 10 minutes. Motion carried.** The **Awards Committee** is looking for nominations and they need to be postmarked by May 5th. Mitzi Oakes provided a written report for the **Safety & Responsible Riding Committee**. The safety trailer is for sale. The committee is looking into doing a presentation booth promoting the International Snowmobile Safety Week in January at the University Mall in South Burlington for 3 days. They are working on other issues as well.

Franklin County will provide refreshments for the May Board meeting. The next Director's Meeting is May 23, 2005 at 6:00 PM. **Norm Roark moved and Roone Gibbs seconded to adjourn at 9:07 PM. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Holbrook
Recording Secretary