

VAST BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
May 23, 2005

DIRECTORS, ALTERNATES & STAFF PRESENT: Conrad Stewart-Addison; Norm Roark-Bennington; Ken Gammell-Caledonia, Jim Hill-Chittenden; Dave Page -Essex; John Ross-Franklin; Bill Oakes-Grand Isle; Brian Wells-Lamoille; Larry Trottier-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, Jim Holbrook, John Lynds, Bill & Ruth Benham, Sandy Woodbeck, Don Glover, Sue Trottier, John Murphy, Doug Peabody

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

AGENDA: **Dave LaBelle moved and Roone Gibbs seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.**

SECRETARY'S REPORT: **Dave LaBelle moved and Barry Bradley seconded to approve the minutes of April 25, 2005. Motion carried.**

TREASURER'S REPORT: **Dave LaBelle moved and Roone Gibbs seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried.** Scott Stone questioned a few of the line items.

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.** Alexis Nowalk reported that about 95% of the trails have GPS'd.

COUNTY DIRECTORS REPORTS: **Lamoille County** had a landowners' dinner and had about 90 present. **Chittenden County** had put up sign-up sheets on a trail in Jericho for snowmobilers to write a thank you note to Landowners. Lt. Governor Brian Dubie even signed it! **Caledonia County** has a little bit of snow in Granby although not enough to snowmobile on! Plans for the annual meeting are coming along great. The Caledonia Trails club purchased 2 groomers. They want to thank all the County Directors and VAST for helping them with the lease program. The lease program really worked for them and they appreciated it very much. **Orleans County** has an ATV club that is trying really hard to control the ATV action in Orleans County. They have put signs up in hopes of cutting down on the ATV problems in that area. **Bennington County** had their last meeting until August. **Orange County** has the VT History Expo at Tunbridge Fairgrounds next month and they'll be parking cars again. There will be a reroute in Chelsea. **Rutland County** has hit a snag on the 7N trail and they will have to permanently change the location of that trail. **Grand Isle County** has their groomers greased up, the oil changed and all maintenance done and ready for next season. The season went really good for them. **Washington County** has some changes in leadership with the Cabot club.

MAKE-A-WISH: Ann Shangraw and Bryant Watson have been working on plans. Bryant Watson has been working with the Town of Lyndon. The Town of Lyndon has a winter fest that the town manager thought would be great to combine with the Make-A-Wish Ride-In.

GMNF ALTERNATIVE "E": Originally we didn't think that Alternative E was not going to affect any of the snowmobile trails. But upon further investigation, it will in fact affect some of our snowmobile trails. Some the trails can continue but no new trails can be created. We are going to need to get comments in to the Forest Team. Bryant Watson recommends that we support Alternative E but with some caveats. Bryant Watson, working with the Board, will create some comments ready for the Directors to share with members and to use as guidelines when commenting on the Green Mountain National Forest plans. We will also put them on the VAST website for access to VAST members too.

TRAIL COMMITTEE REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL TRAILS: Alexis Nowalk presented the requests the Trails Committee received for additional mileage. The Trails Committee, along with Alexis Nowalk, approved all the requests. Bryant Watson cautioned everyone to think about the future impact on the budget when those new trails are upgraded. Bryant Watson also cautioned that members need to decide whether they would like to see more money in Grant-in-Aid programs or more money in grooming. Each year there is more and more demand on the administration end of trails to maintain and keep them open. So when we add new trails, it doesn't just impact the cost of grooming and equipment, but also impacts the cost to "run" them. Approving these requests, would bring the total trail system to 4717 miles which exceeds the cap that Board previously set of 4700. When Alexis Nowalk receives requests, she takes a hard look at the long term costs of the trails before endorsing them. **Brian Wells moved and Brian Cook seconded to approve the requested additional trails. Motion carried.**

FY 2006 BUDGET: Dave LaBelle reported that we are basing this year's budget on 35,000 members versus the 38,000 we did last year. We have not reached last year's projected amount. The biggest expense in the budget is the cost for

grooming and trails maintenance. The general budget fund takes the biggest hit when we do not reach the projected amount of members. The budget committee recommends that we increase the portion of the TMA that goes to the General Fund. The budget committee is not recommending that the Board request an increase in the cost of TMAs this year. We can survive another year without an increase. We need to add the \$34,000 to the budget to cover the new trails. **Brian Wells moved and Norm Roark seconded to approve the budget as presented with the \$34,000 for the increased mileage for trails. Motion carried with Dave Page abstaining.** Bill Oakes asked the Board to take a closer look at budget for trails increase ahead of time next year, prior to presenting the budget for approval. There was a discussion on whether we should ask for an increase in TMA's this year.

LONG RANGE STRATEGIC & OPERATIONAL PLANS: Dave LaBelle moved and Pat Poulin seconded that we approve the Long Range Strategic & Operational Plans as presented. Motion carried.

ACT 250 UPDATE: We need to wait and see what happens. It is still there and we need to continue to monitor and work on the ACT 250 situation.

H.334 – ANCIENT/HISTORIC ROADS: There was a short discussion on the ancient and historic roads.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: **Board Resources Committee** is proposing a camping trip for the Board. The committee looked into Kettle Pond and they have a 2 night minimum stay. The Board was asked to keep the weekend of August 6-7 held for a Board trip. **Landowner Appreciation & Incentives** was reported on by Pat Poulin. They are still working on the booklet for landowners. Pat Poulin has received names from only 3 counties. Alexis Nowalk sent a survey and received about 65% back. The committee is also working on current use legislation proposals. The committee is looking at other states and providences to see how they show landowner appreciation. There are two different PSA's going out thanking Landowners on local radio stations. We are looking at updating the television PSAs. There are some ads going into newspapers thanking landowners too.

ISC 2006 Planning Committee chair, Bonnie Holbrook, distributed an updated list of committees. She also included copies of the ISC Operating manual. Bryant Watson has been trying to secure funding from the State of Vermont. The State gives funding to other recreational activities like the Long Trail and Skiing. The registration packets are assembled and ready for Salt Lake City. Ann Shangraw has the arrangements complete for the Hospitality Reception we will host at in Salt Lake City to promote our Congress. Plans are underway and the Chairs have met with the Executive Committee. Bonnie Holbrook and Bryant Watson need to meet and address budgets for each committee. The Committee is working on the off-site event, which is traditionally kept a secret. Per the ISC Operating Manual, "The off-sight should provide Congress participants an event or activity which highlights culture, recreation or landmarks of the local area." **Lamoille Valley Rail Trail Committee** chair, Sandy Woodbeck, gave a brief report. **Nominating Committee** chair, Bill Oakes, has not received any other contenders for office. He does have the current slate of officers that have agreed to run again. The **PR & Marketing Committee** was reported on by Bruce Murray. He reported they are working on the Legislative Dinner. They are looking at placemats. He has approached Friendly's Restaurant and they are very interested in getting them and using them. The VT History Expo is next month June 25 and 26th. Ann Shangraw along with Pat and Star Poulin will be minding the booth. They'll bring some antique snowmobiles too. **Recognition, Scholarship, Landowner Appreciation & Volunteerism** gave a brief report. The **Responsible Riding & Safety Education Committee** met. We had a good meeting last week. We had a lot of discussion on the CD with Jere Johnson. There is concern with abuse of the CD. Mitzi Oakes reported the committee will be at the University Mall in South Burlington for Saturday, Sunday and Monday during the International Snowmobile Safety Week for a snowmobile safety display. They would like Dealers there too and make it an "event" for Snowmobile Safety Week. The Mall would also allow us to have snowmobile safety classes. The mall is bending over backwards to accommodate us and plan on promoting the Snowmobile Safety Week. Bear Graphics in Brownington has created a safety kit for rescue crews. The safety committee decided to purchase a kit for each county. The safety trailer has not received any bids. Tjark Aldeborgh is working on putting it for sale on Ebay for \$10,000.

Grand Isle County will provide refreshments for the June Board meeting. The next Director's Meeting is June 27, 2005 at 6:00 PM. **Roone Gibbs moved and Bruce Murray seconded to adjourn at 8:21 PM. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Holbrook
Recording Secretary