

VAST BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
October 24, 2005

DIRECTORS, ALTERNATES & STAFF PRESENT: Steve Fielding-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, Jim Holbrook, John Lynds, Conrad Stewart, Nikki Simpson, Sandy Woodbeck, Dave Pistoula, Nancy Cook, Erica Dalager and Dyan Walker.

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

AGENDA: **Dave LaBelle moved and Larry Trottier seconded to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.**
9c Law Enforcement (action item)

SECRETARY'S REPORT: **Dave LaBelle moved and Larry Trottier seconded to approve the minutes of August 22, 2005 Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.**

TREASURER'S REPORT: **Norm Roark moved and Jim Hill 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 Roone Gibbs seconded to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. The motion carried.** Before any contractor can be awarded a contract, they must have a business name registered with the State Department of Labor and all checks will be made out to the contractor. The issue the State has is with the individual contractors and not the club groomer operators. We need to have the Policy Committee present the new policy.

Dave LaBelle moved and Pat Poulin seconded to move the NH Reciprocity for Special Events to an action item. Motion carried.

COUNTY DIRECTORS REPORTS: In **Windham County** all is well. **Grand Isle County** will have their first meeting on the 10th. **Addison County** has a new director, Steve Fielding. They have a major reroute on Trail 7. **Chittenden County** has a couple possible trail reroutes. The Hinesburg club has had all their officers resign. The county landowner appreciation dinner is in a couple of weeks. **Orleans County** will be putting in approximately 10 port-a-cotties for the snowmobile season and will possibly buying one more rescue sled. They are working with a few landowners on issues. **Franklin County** has a meeting tomorrow night. **Bennington County's** first meeting is Wed. Night. **Washington County** reported Worcester has a new landowner that had a problem with the trail going down the road in front of his house. **Caledonia County** is doing okay. **Rutland County** has a lot of trail work to do. Their first meeting is Wednesday night. **Windsor County** has some wonderful things going on in their county. The legal issues in Hartland are coming to a head with a meeting with the Selectboard on 7th. **Essex County** has a lot of water and they are working on getting their trails in order. **Orange County** has a major trail closure in Chelsea but they are working on a reroute. Tri-Town Trail Travelers is taking over the grooming of Chelsea trails. The Strafford club has a couple of culverts they have installed. Tri-Town Trail Travelers have changed some class IV trails into a class I trail at their own expense.

FORM 4-H SNOWMOBILE CLUB - JIM HILL: Jim Hill reported that the 4-H has a lot of benefits that could be useful to us. There is very little cost. If other states in the Northeast formed 4-H Snowmobile Clubs then we could potentially add some competition. This is a great way to get more involvement with our youth. There is a background test involved to get approved to be a leader. Jim Hill has spoken with other leaders in the 4-H network and they are looking forward to seeing this happen in Vermont. In Washington and Ohio, they have some local 4-H snowmobile clubs. There is a 4-H leadership training workshop on January 21st in Colchester. Ann Shangraw would like to see a pilot program in Orange County. This is a way to get our youth more involved with snowmobiling beyond just riding. It would probably include youths between 8 and 18 years old. Ann Shangraw visions this club to include fun things with this group for year round participation. She was thinking activities in the summer time could include learning about forest and land erosions and in the wintertime could have snowmobile rides and cookouts. There is a manual online that is over 600 pages. Stacy Lynds is very interested in working on this program. We are looking for these groups to work with the local snowmobile clubs. Rutland County has a youth club that could easily be converted into a 4-H Snowmobile Club. **Pat Poulin moved and Bruce Murray seconded for Ann Shangraw and Jim Hill to support the 4-H Snowmobile Club program. Motion carried.**

AMERICAN INCOME LIFE - ERICA DALAGER: Erica Dalager introduced her associate, Dyan Walker who is from this area. American Income Life has been licensed in every state in the US and every province in Canada and New Zealand. They provide this policy for members at no cost. They do not ask for the membership list. They only ask the organization to do the mailing with American Income Life paying the expense. They will sort the return cards. They also provide point of service cards (at no cost to the membership) that provides discounts for medicines and prescription glasses and other items. They have other information kits included in the information packet including a Child Safe Kit and information card for Family Information. They will call and meet with members that they have received the information cards back. They ask every member they meet with to fill out a survey form to provide feedback. The feedback will be provided back to our organization in the form of feedback. Bryant Watson suggested that they provide the information packets to be included as an insert into our VAST News instead of doing a separate mailing for over 35,000 members. They provide the \$2,000 per member policy at no cost to the association. When they meet with members, they also offer other supplemental insurance options that are strictly voluntary and they are under no obligation. They make their money when they sell additional policies. Where the \$2,000 accidental death benefit is a blanket policy, no member is required to return the card. **Dave Page moved and Roone Gibbs seconded that we allow American Income Life to do an insert in the VAST News with an informational letter of endorsement using American Income Life letterhead and a beneficiary card. Motion carried with two opposed.**

MOTION TO RECONSIDER LVRTC POLICIES: Bryant Watson put this issue on the agenda. There is currently a conflict between the By-Laws and the sections of the VAST policy making. Sandy Woodbeck has problems with the policies for the proposed bylaws for the technical committee LVRTC. **Dave LaBelle moved and Scott Stone seconded to table this issue for a few minutes. Motion carried.**

LAW ENFORCEMENT: Ann Shangraw, Pat Poulin and Bryant Watson had a meeting with representation from the State Police, Fish & Wildlife and the Sheriff's Association. In Rutland they have a designated enforcement officer for the State Police but many feel they have better coverage from the Fish & Wildlife and the Sheriff's Department. Washington County is working closely with their area law enforcement divisions. Issues regarding law enforcement coverage have been discussed at the Governor's Snowmobile Council and various other meetings. The funding is distributed currently by 50% to the State Police, 30% to Sheriff's Association and 20% to Fish & Wildlife. Chittenden County has sheriff's deputies that show up at their county meetings and discuss where they are needed. Windsor County has a very good relationship with the Sheriff's Department. They come to the county meetings to discuss where they are needed. The Southern Vermont Snowmobile Task Force receives additional money for enforcement. **Dave Page moved and Larry Trotter seconded that we keep the funding disbursement among the three law enforcement agencies as it has been. Motion carried with one nay.** The board elected to leave the funding distributed as it has been because of action being taken at the Governor's Snowmobile Council, and the promise from representatives of the law enforcement agencies of better coordination, information sharing, and training.

Dave LaBelle moved and Scott Stone seconded to remove from the table the LVRTC policy. Motion carried. Sandy Woodbeck has problems with the Management Plans and the makeup of the members and the duties. The committee and Bryant Watson should meet to discuss the issues that committee has with the policies, which they did not have prior input on. **Dave LaBelle moved and Scott seconded to table this issue for a few minutes. Motion carried.**

VAST GROOMING MANUAL – ALEXIS: The Trails committee reviewed and discussed the grooming manual created by the International Association of Snowmobile Administrators. **Norm Roark moved and Roone Gibbs seconded that VAST adopt the Grooming Manual created by the International Association of Snowmobile Administrators as recommended by the trails committee. Motion carried.**

Dave LaBelle moved and Scott Stone seconded to remove from the table the LVRTC policy. Motion carried. The committee and Bryant Watson will meet to discuss the issues that committee has with the policies which they did not have prior input on. They will come back next month with a motion to reconsider the LVRTC. There was also a discussion on the VAST bylaws and policies and that they need to be reviewed. **Dave LaBelle moved and Scott Stone seconded to table this issue until next month. Motion carried.**

NH RECIPROCITY FOR SPECIAL EVENTS – ANN SHANGRAW: New Hampshire would like to work with us on reciprocity for special events like their ride in for the Easter Seals and we have the ride in for the Make-A-Wish Foundation in February. **Bruce Murray moved and Brian Cook seconded that we give reciprocity for the Easter Seals special event for the state of NH for the 2006 event in compliance with the VAST Trails and Bylaws and Vermont State laws. Motion carried.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Ann Shangraw reported on the **Make-A-Wish Ride In Committee**. She reviewed the ad with a list of events for the weekend which will be February 17-19, 2006 in Lyndonville, Vermont. **The Board Resources** event is January 21st to the 22nd at the Seyon Ranch. **2006 ISC Committee**, Chair, Bonnie Holbrook, reported that International Snowmobile Council met in Burlington this past weekend. They toured the facilities and are very happy with them. They also worked on the agenda for our ISC Congress in June. This Thursday, the ISC Executive Committee will meet with the committee chairs here at the VAST office. The **Marketing Committee** had handle bar hangers made for the dealers here in Vermont. Vermont has a team going to Michigan to participate in the Clean Snowmobile Challenge for the first time. Letters have gone out looking for sponsorship. They need to buy a snowmobile to use to modify along parts. They need money for transportation, food and lodging to go out to the competition. They are looking at a budget of \$15,000 to meet this challenge. Nancy Cook with Cook's Equipment presented a check for \$100 and challenges all business to match their donation. We have the placemats being printed and we will distribute them to area restaurants soon. The **Governor's Snowmobile Council Meeting** met last week. The Governor will be speaking at the next Governor's Snowmobile Council meeting in November. This will be an open meeting so anyone can ask the Governor questions. The council has been charged to be more active. Mitzi Oakes has officially been appointed chair of the Council. The **Safety & Responsible Riding Committee** still has the trailer. The safety week is still a go at the University Mall. The committee will purchase books from Tread Lightly for the week. The **Awards Committee** is looking at getting the nomination forms on the website.

OTHER: A guest asked about the trails report on the web being updated better this year. We had a general trails condition report with some specific trails last year. Unfortunately we have not had volunteers following up in the past.

Rutland County will provide refreshments for the November Board meeting. The next Director's Meeting is November 28th, 2005 at 6:00 PM. **Dave Page moved and Roone Gibbs seconded to adjourn at 8:57 PM. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Holbrook
Recording Secretary