

VAST BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
October 23, 2006

DIRECTORS, ALTERNATES & STAFF PRESENT: Conrad Stewart-Addison; John Perkins-Bennington; Ken Gammell {Absent}-Caledonia; Jim Hill-Chittenden; Dave Page-Essex; Jon Ross-Franklin; Bill Oakes-Grand Isle; Brian Wells-Lamoille; Jim Holbrook-Orange; Brian Cook-Orleans; Barry Bradley-Rutland; Johnny Lynds-Washington; Roone Gibbs {Absent}-Windham; Bruce Murray-Windsor; Ann Shangraw-President; Pat Poulin-Vice-President; Mark Ellingwood-Treasurer; Bonnie Holbrook-Recording Secretary; Bryant Watson-Executive Director, Alexis Nowalk-SSTP Trails Administrator

GUESTS: Mitzi Oakes, Star Poulin, Jeff Fay, Sandy Woodbeck, Jodie Ross

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Ann Shangraw. She apologized for the error on the time for tonight's meeting.

AGENDA: *Jim Hill moved and Bruce Murray seconded to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.*

SECRETARY'S REPORT: *Brian Wells moved and Barry Bradley seconded to approve the minutes of July 24, 2006 Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.*

TREASURER'S REPORT: *Brian Wells moved and Jim Hill seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried.*

Ann Shangraw welcomed Mark Ellingwood to the Board. Mark Ellingwood shared a few words about himself. He loves snowmobiling and VAST and is glad to be back on the Board. He was on the Board of Directors years ago. He lives in Newark and has been snowmobiling since 1968. He has noticed that we have not tracked detail expenses on a monthly basis. He is going to work on getting a better look at how we report expenses. He thinks the Board made the correct decision on not raising the dues this year. He is looking forward to working more closely with Bryant Watson and the accountant.

CONSENT CALENDAR-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT and TRAIL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: *Jim Hill moved and Pat Poulin seconded to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. Motion carried.*

COUNTY REPORTS: **Orange County** reported that Tri-Town Trail Travelers had their large fundraiser. We decided to go with a newsletter this month instead of a meeting. **Bennington County** has been busy with reconstructing some bridges. They have some issues with the Forest Service as CVPS tore up some roads when they were in running some new power lines. **Franklin County** had a county meeting last week. They are motivated and ready to go. **Windsor County** has a few issues with trail closures in Hartland and Bridgewater. Other than that, they are working to get trails ready. **Essex County** is busy getting their trails ready. They are going to lose a few trails due to logging and some reroutes. **Lamoille County** is in pretty good shape and has some reroutes. Lots of debrushing is needed. **Chittenden County** doesn't have a lot going on. On November 4th they are having their landowners' dinner. **Orleans County** has a reroute around some horse farms. They got new snow Friday, Saturday and Sunday! **Addison County** is doing pretty good and are working on trails and trying to dodge arrows. Like others, they have a few reroutes. **Rutland County** is busy. Everyone is working on trails. They had their outdoor show on Columbus Weekend. It went pretty well and Ann Shangraw, Pat & Ann Poulin were there to help and were appreciated. At the **Rutland County** meeting this week and there will be a new Director and Trails Coordinator voted in. **Washington County** reported that he is now officially the Director. The Groton State Forest Plan is in the working. Route 2 coordinator is going to open over the mountain this year, which is a good thing. There are two clubs that need to work together to reroute that trail. **Grand Isle County** is in pretty good shape at this time. They have a bunch of stakes picked up and they are ready. They are trying to move the location of the county meetings from one end to the other. Unless the lake freezes over, it's hard to get from one island to another in the county. **OTHER:** Bruce Murray asked what others serve at their landowner dinners. Brian Wells serves Delmonico Steaks for the landowner dinner and has a great turnout.

LAMOILLE VALLEY RAIL TRAIL – LEASE: The lease was emailed out to Board members with email and then followed up with paper copies mailed out. Hopefully RFP's will go out in a few months. It will go out as a general advertisement. It will have a date and a sketch outline of the duties on it. We will select two to three from responses and then meet with them to review the plans in more detail before they submit their final bid. It hasn't been decided yet whether to put the trail out in phases or as one job. We are responsible for 1.43 million dollars in matching funds. We will be meeting to set up a new set of books for the trail to help manage. We have to secure a line of credit to draw on for payment of services. Then we will requisition for the federal and state funds. Bryant Watson reviewed some background information on the plan for the new directors.

FINAL PRIZES FOR EARLY BIRD DRAWING: We are looking to use the profit from the ISC (International Snowmobile Congress) to pay for the snowmobile in the early bird drawing. **Bruce Murray moved and David Paige seconded that we negotiate the purchase of the prize sled and use funds from the profits left over from the ISC to pay for it and the remaining ISC funds to go to the Scholarship Fund. Motion carried.** This is a way to thank members for being loyal and purchasing their TMAs prior to the opening of the trails. John Lynds noted that it's important that the Directors go back to their counties and promote this. Bonnie Holbrook expressed her displeasure that the advertisement for the snowmobile went out before the Board had approved the details of the drawing. Bryant Watson stressed that we will deal with the purchase of the snowmobile. The TMAs have been sent out to the clubs already.

COMMITTEE CHARGES: Ann Shangraw distributed the new 2006-2007 Committee lists with charges. Every year we have committee charges distributed in October. Ann Shangraw wanted to address the burden we put on our volunteers. So she has combined some committees, reorganized some of them and named some new chairs and co-chairs. All committees are asked to develop a calendar for the meetings and get them posted now for the rest of the season. On Tuesday, November 20th at 6 PM, we will have a Board Orientation Meeting for a presentation on what we expect from Board members, a brief review of Roberts Rules and other items. This is open to Alternate County Directors and other county members to see how the Board is run.

APPROVE REVISED LVRT MANAGEMENT PLAN: **Bruce Murray moved and Brian Wells seconded to approve the proposed LVRT Management Plan. Motion carried.** Bryant Watson walked the Board through the management plan and reviewed the changes to the plan and answered questions. The committee has approved this plan.

PAVE PARKING LOT: Pike does not want to meet the prices obtained from the other bids, even though they are going to be right here. Bryant Watson recommends that if the Board approves paving the lot, that we wait until spring and pave it then with the low bidder. **Brian Wells moved and Conrad Stewart seconded that we pave the parking lot and driveway in the spring. Motion carried.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS: The **Governor's Snowmobile Council** had a meeting. Unfortunately Senator Starr and Representative Greene did not show. The next meeting is on November 14th. The **Landowner Appreciation Committee** has a meeting tomorrow on the Land Trust. We are going to draft a bill to introduce to Montpelier to get some tax incentive for landowners. The Governor has asked us to "do the numbers" and introduce something. There is only one county that has some of the information for land use. The signs have been distributed to counties. Some clubs have not picked up their signs. Marketing Committee has had placemats printed up. Each Director is asked to grab some to distribute at their local restaurants.

The next Director's Meeting is November 27th, 2006 with refreshments will be provided by Franklin County.

Bruce Murray moved and Brian Cook seconded to adjourn at 8:50 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Holbrook
Recording Secretary