

## VAST BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

January 22, 2007

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

**GUESTS:** Mitzi Oakes, Jim Holbrook, Star Poulin, Jeff Fay, Jodie Ross, Howard Smith, Stacy Lynds, Norman Gilman, Conrad Stewart, Sue Trottier, Sandy Woodbeck, Brian Currier, Rhonda Bedell

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

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

- 10 b. No Travel Policy
- 10 c. Legislative Banquet
- 10 d. Seyon Ranch – Board Retreat
- 10 e. Dealers/Local Radio Stations
- 10 f. Confidentiality Policy

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** *Bruce Murray moved and Brian Wells seconded to approve the minutes of December 18, 2006 Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.*

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** *Jim Hill moved and Larry Trottier seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried.* There were a few questions regarding some of the expenditures. Until TMAs come in, we are operating at a negative cash flow.

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

### COUNTY REPORTS:

**Addison County** has 2 trails open from 17 Stockborough to Lincoln Gap. There's about 22 miles open. Route 116 in Hunnington is open. The Bridgeport Club cancelled their Super Bowl Brunch due to lack of snow. The Addison County snowmobile trails were voted "best recreational trails" in Addison County.

**Bennington County** reported that Woodford has about 30 miles of mountain trails open that were just opened Saturday.

**Caledonia County** has most of their trails open. You can start in St. Johnsbury at Gray's Pit and go towards Danville and all around that area except Peacham and Barnet. Trails from Marty's Store north are good.

**Chittenden County** has been out and panned. Hinesburg had a pancake breakfast that was successful.

**Essex County** has a lot of the trails that are groomed. Maidstone area is boney. County Director, Dave Page, said that Matt Tetreault is doing a great job on the VAST Snow Phone Line and would like Bryant Watson to pass the thanks and kudos onto Matt. Everyone agreed. Froggy Radio has been doing a great job telling people to stay off the water and to go to the VAST website for trail updates. One of the clubs in Orleans sold 100 tickets on Saturday and one of the dealers sold 100. There were 125 TMAs sold in Brighton on Saturday.

**Franklin County** is open from St. Albans and across the northern part of the state. At some dealers on Saturday, they had two hour lines waiting to purchase TMAs. Ann Shangraw asked all directors to kindly ask their clubs to have all membership chairs to PLEASE process all TMAs as soon as possible and get the paperwork into the office to help us project figures. The Board has an enormous responsibility to be fiscally responsible.

**Grand Isle County** did brush out some new trails. Not sure if open.

**Lamoille County** has everyone grooming. The rail trail from Johnson to Wolcott is groomed. You can download at Uncle Bill's in Eden or places by the rail trail in or by Morrisville.

**Orange County** is fairly quiet and is closed for the most part.

**Orleans County** reported that the northern part of the county is out grooming but is uncertain about the lower part of the county. The top part of the state is good. Stay away from "the big Lake". Please stay off all lakes. Friday, Feb 2 is the Cook's Groomer Rodeo from 8 to 4 at Cook's Equipment. There is one in February in Groveton.

**Rutland County** does not have much of anything open. There may be riding in higher elevations.

**Washington County** from Bolton Area to Little River on Route 100 is open. There are some locked down areas. Barre has some trails open. Groton has been out grooming.

**Windham County** reported that Northern Windham's gates are closed. There is not enough snow. There may be some riding in higher Stratton.

**Windsor County** is not open as yet.

John Perkins asked why we haven't spent time and money to advertise snowmobiling in Vermont especially with TMA sales down. We need to remember that we are very dependent on volunteers for grooming and maintaining trails and we are also very dependent on private

landowners sharing their land. We are given a resource that we have the privilege to ride private land. We need to educate our members that the money for the TMAs does not go to the State of Vermont. Recently many of us have been questioned by members about cutting back the amount of the TMA that goes to the State of Vermont and why we don't keep the money for trails!

**EARLY BIRD WINNER:** The winner does not want a new snowmobile because he already had one so he would like cash instead. **David Page m/m and Roone Gibbs 2/m to make a cash offer \$7,500 to the winner of the Early Bird Winner. Motion carried.**

**BRIDGEWATER/BARNARD ROADS ISSUE:** The Town of Barnard wants Windsor County Snowmobile Clubs to help support. **Ken Gammell m/m and Brian Wells 2/m that we table this issue until next month when we can get more information.**

**HOWARD SMITH – REPRESENTING COMMERCIAL OPERATORS (requested to speak):** Howard asked about the study group and \$75 of every Commercial TMA that is to go to the Impact Study. It's 6 years later and the study has not been done. He asked why they are still paying that, and with their financial crunch, if VAST would consider not charging that this year because the study is not being done. This issue will be added to the agenda for next month.

**RTP GRANT FOR THE LVRT:** There is a file copy that is available for review. It's a very large document. John Perkins questioned how much time the staff is spending on the LVRT.

**NO TRAVEL POLICY:** There was an Executive Committee meeting tonight before this meeting. The Executive Committee strongly feels that we need to be fiscally responsible by cutting back where we can. We are looking at an extremely conservative travel policy and we are going to look at each case on a case-by-case policy. We are looking at other ways to cut back. Financially we should be fine this year but the membership needs to consider what they want for a trail system.

**LEGISLATIVE BANQUET – FEBRUARY 8<sup>TH</sup>:** The invitations have been sent to the Legislatures. The ones for the Directors will go out this morning. Board members will receive bulleted items to talk about at the banquet. There will be signs for the table and will be set up by county.

**SEYON RANCH – BOARD RETREAT:** It was agreed to post pone the retreat scheduled for 22-23 of February and try to get our deposit back. Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, we would like to try to do a one-day ride instead.

**DEALERS/LOCAL RADIO STATIONS:** Ann Shangraw asked how many visited dealers. This month Ann challenged everyone to call in to the radio stations and put your own plugs in. Tell them what your clubs are doing and to ask members to help support your local clubs and businesses through this time.

**CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY:** Ann Shangraw asked for the Boards' support in enforcing the Confidentiality Policy. When the Board is in Executive Session, it is confidential and is not to be repeated.

**COMMITTEES:** The **Personnel Committee** is reviewing the policy and will submit any recommendations for changes. **Responsible Riding and Public Relations Committee** had a successful weekend at the University Mall with the safety display celebrating the International Snowmobile Safety Week. We spent a lot of time explaining what the monies from TMAs cover and how important it is that we continue to sell TMAs in low snow years to meet expenses. Some folks said that instead of waiting longer for snow that they would go ahead and purchase their TMAs in support of our association.

**EXTERNAL RELATIONS:**

**Brian Wells moved and Steve Fielding seconded for the Board and Alternate Directors to go into Executive Session to discuss possible litigation. Motion carried.**

**Bruce Murray moved and Brian Wells seconded to come out of Executive Session at 8:25 PM. Motion carried.**

**Brian Wells moved and Bruce Murray seconded to direct Alexis Nowalk and Bryant Watson to continue working on possible litigation and to keep the Board informed. Motion carried.**

The next Director's Meeting is February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at 6:00 PM with refreshments by Lamoille County. **Roone Gibbs moved and Bruce Murray seconded to adjourn at 8:29 PM. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted by,

*Bonnie Holbrook*, VAST Recording Secretary