

## VAST BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

February 26, 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 {Absent}-Treasurer; Bonnie Holbrook-Recording Secretary; Bryant Watson-Executive Director {Absent}, Alexis Nowalk-SSTP Trails Administrator

**GUESTS:** Mitzi Oakes, Jim Holbrook, Jeff Fay, Howard Smith, Conrad Stewart, Rhonda Bedell, Josh Nelson, Ted Chase, Alan Robertson, Don Glover, Zeke Zucker, Mike O'Hara, Mark Reaves

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

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

- 9c Northeast Chapter of ACSA
- 10a Legislative Banquet
- 10b TMA sales
- 10c VAST Banner

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** *Jim Hill moved and Bruce Murray seconded to approve the minutes of January 22, 2007 Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.*

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** *Brian Wells moved and Bruce Murray seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried.* There were a few questions regarding some of the expenditures.

**CONSENT CALENDAR-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT and TRAIL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:** *Larry Trottier moved and Bruce Murray seconded to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. Motion carried.* Bryant Watson added handouts to the Board.

**COUNTY REPORTS:** All counties are open with groomed trails. Some counties have trails open they haven't been able to ride in years. There was a fatal snowmobile accident in Orange County. One area had crews out with shovels to get trails open! Chittenden County had \$4,000 worth of tickets in two days this past weekend. They also assisted a homeowner that had just had knee surgery and needed a way to his house that is not accessible by automobile in the wintertime.

**COMMERCIAL TMAS – ANN:** Howard Smith asked to be put on the agenda to discuss the commercial TMAs and the added amount of the Commercial TMAs to fund a Trail Impact Study. He asked that we discuss discontinuing the additional charge for the study, especially if we do not do the impact. Ann Shangraw asked Alexis Nowalk to share her experience in Woodford this past weekend. About half the sleds they met were commercial tours. Some of the sleds had Volunteer TMAs, some personal TMA. They met a group that was totally out of control and it was a big safety hazard. Woodford has a big problem with keeping up with the traffic because of the Commercial Operations. Howard Smith questioned the arrangements made with the Commercial Operators to pay for extra groomers. John Perkins reported that the Forest Service went in and did a study and stopped every snowmobile and checked for type of TMA and found about 12% were Commercial snowmobiles. There are a few rogue commercial operators that are causing major problems with the trail system and

Two plans of action:

- We will contact a school to get the Trail Impact Study
- Gather a list of Commercial Operators in the state and have law enforcement check those operators for compliance.

*Brian Wells moved and Pat Poulin seconded to proceed as discussed with the Trail Impact Study and to gather a list of Commercial Operators in the state and have law enforcement check those operators for compliance. Motion carried.*

**BRIDGEWATER/BARNARD ROADS ISSUES:** *Pat Poulin moved and Larry Trottier seconded to remove the issue from table status. Motion carried.* At the last county meeting, Windsor County approved \$5,000 to appropriate \$5,000 for legal counsel. *Bruce Murray moved and Brian Wells seconded that VAST match Windsor County up to \$3,000 in expenses. Motion carried.*

**APPROVE REVISED LVRT MP:** Bryant Watson reviewed the changes to the revised Lamoille Valley Recreation Trail Management Plan. There are already two landowners on the committee. Every month VTRANS keeps adding 'demands' to the Management Plan. *Bruce Murray moved and Brian Wells seconded to approve the revised LVRT Management Plan. Motion carried.*

**APPROVE LVRT PROJECT MANAGER:** The LVRT Committee approved Alan Robertson as the Project Manager. He has volunteered his time and this can be used as matching funds. He will need to be an employee of VAST. *Brian Wells moved and Bruce Murray seconded to approve the appointment of Alan Robertson as VAST Project Manager and for Bryant to follow the advise of our accountants and legal team. Motion carried. Motion carried.*

**NORTHEAST CHAPTER OF ACSA:**

We will be finalizing proposal to take to ACSA to propose a bylaw change to make all the states to pay a flat fee structure for all states. 44% of the budget of ACSA comes out of the five Northeast states. *Ken Gammell moved and Brian Wells seconded to pay up to \$2,000 expenses for the President, Vice-President and Executive Director to attend the Northeast Chapter meeting next month. Motion carried.*

**LEGISLATIVE BANQUET:** Ann Shangraw asked for feedback for the banquet. The Governor made time for us again this year. We learned the background music was loud and we shouldn't show the video while the meal is being served.

**TMA SALES:** We have about 12,000 TMAs reported. Ann Shangraw asked each director to check with each of their clubs and get a verbal account of the number of TMAs that they have sold and report these numbers to the VAST office by Friday. Ted Chase wanted us to reinforce that the letter to the Editor in last month's VAST News *"that purchasing the TMA is investing in the proceeding years' trail."* As of February 2 there were over 26,000 snowmobiles registered with the state but only approximately 12,000 TMAs have been reported.

**VAST BANNER:** We will have a Banner made with the VAST Logo, "*Vermont Association of Snow Travelers*" and "*Landowners + Volunteers = Snowmobile Trails*".

**ACT 250:** Bryant Watson has submitted the Act 250 application.

**CALEDONIA COUNTY ISSUE:** Since the last meeting, Ann Shangraw, Alexis Nowalk and Bryant Watson have met and discussed issues in Caledonia County. A committee has been formed to address the Caledonia issues and Mark Ellingwood agreed to chair it.

The **Board Resources Committee** planned a Director's Ride for this Saturday and all will meet at Pump & Pantry in Williamstown at 9 AM.

The **Responsible Riding and Public Relations Committee** presented a written report.

The next Director's Meeting is March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at 6:00 PM with refreshments by Orange County. *Brian Wells moved and Bruce Murray seconded to adjourn at 8:50 PM. Motion carried.*

Respectfully submitted by,

*Bonnie Holbrook*, VAST Recording Secretary