

VAST BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

March 26, 2007

DIRECTORS, ALTERNATES & STAFF PRESENT: Steve Fielding-Addison; John Perkins-Bennington; Ken Gammell-Caledonia; Jim Hill-Chittenden; Dave Page {Absent}-Essex; Jon Ross-Franklin; Bill Oakes-Grand Isle; Brian Wells-Lamoille; Jim Holbrook-Orange; Dave LaBelle-Orleans; Merritt Budd-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 {Absent}, Alexis Nowalk{Absent}-SSTP Trails Administrator

GUESTS: Mitzi Oakes, Star Poulin, Norm Gilman, Jeff Fay, Howard Smith, Conrad Stewart, Ted Chase, Alan Robertson, Don Glover, Sandy Woodbeck, Roberta Stammers, Tim Mills, Ron Collins, Mark Reaves

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

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

10b Property discussions – possible trail closures

SECRETARY'S REPORT: *Jim Hill moved and Bruce Murray seconded to approve the minutes of February 26, 2007 Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.*

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

Our negative cash flow has decreased and so it's looking a little bit better.

CONSENT CALENDAR-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT and TRAIL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: *Brian Wells moved and Pat Poulin seconded to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. Motion carried.* An updated report from the Legislative Team was distributed. The number of snowmobile registrations increased and hopefully that will mean that a lot more riders purchased late TMAs.

COUNTY REPORTS: Grand Isle has been GPS. There was snow and the trails came out beautiful this season and they were able to ride! Windsor County entertained the editor from Snowmobile magazine. Trails are pretty much closed down in Orange, Windsor, Rutland, Orleans, Franklin, Chittenden, Lamoille, the lower elevations of Bennington, pretty much all Addison, Caledonia and the lower elevations of Washington. There may still be some riding in the high country of Eden in Lamoille County. Chittenden County had some problems with ATVs on snowmobile trails this past weekend. They escorted an FBI agent who took to it like water. Bennington County still has snow in the high country. Tour operators in the Woodford area met with the county and some good things have come out of it. Walden still has some riding along with some of the higher elevations in Washington. Chittenden County Sheriff's found TMA compliance was not a problem. Insurance and off-trail riding were some of the major offenses. The companies of the tour operators that were given to Ann Shangraw since the last Board meeting were checked on and they were found in compliance by the time they were checked on.

BAKERSFIELD ISSUE – ANN: Ann Shangraw invited the Bakersfield club to attend the VAST Board of Directors Meeting last month to discuss their issue. The club declined to attend. The club treasurer sent another letter saying they would close the trails if VAST does not reimburse them for a project that was done two years ago although they admittedly did not follow the VAST policies to seek reimbursement for a construction grant. Ann Shangraw read the latest letter verbatim to the Board. *Brian Wells moved and John Perkins seconded that we offer to have Franklin County to pay 50% and VAST pay 50% of the requested money. The vote was six yes and eight no. Motion FAILED. Ken Gammell moved and Jim Holbrook seconded that we follow the VAST Policy that is in place. Motion carried with Steve Fielding, John Perkins, John Ross and Brian Wells opposed.*

LVRT UPDATE: LVRT Committee Chair Ted Chase and Project Manager Alan Robertson gave an update on the LVRT project. Alan explained what the National Environmental Project Act (NEPA) is. Vermont does not follow the federal law. Because of this, it will add several additional months to the project while a study is done on the complete length of the rail trail. There is a question of the use of volunteer labor for the matching funds until the assessment is done. A description of Proposed Option (DOP) to do the minimal amount of change/disturbance is being written. This study includes historians, archeologists and others. VAST will need to pay for 20% of this study which can be in done with labor. The 11th member of the LVRT should be voted on in a meeting in April. VAST needs to appoint a representative to the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail Advisory Committee. *Pat Poulin moved and Ken Gammell seconded for the Board of Directors to appoint Brian Wells to be the VAST representative on the LVRT Advisory Committee. Motion carried.*

APPROVE LVRT FINANCIAL MANAGER: Laird McDowell was unable to clear his schedule to attend the VAST Board meeting tonight. The committee asked the Board to approve their recommendation to appoint Laird McDowell as the LVRT Financial Manager. *Brian Wells moved and Steve Fielding seconded to approve Laird McDowell as the Financial Manager for the LVRT Project. Motion carried.*

EARLY BIRD & GRADUATED TMA'S: Our esteemed leaders recommend that you do not use Mapquest for traveling in another country in the wintertime unless you check with the local authority! The shortest route wound up not being plowed in the wintertime and they had to turn a truck and four-place trailer around on an unplowed road. The Northeast Chapter meetings went well and a lot was covered. The Northeast Chapter Associations are in agreement to move forward with proposals at the ACSA meeting in Washington, DC next month.

EARLY BIRD & GRADUATED TMA'S: Ann Shangraw presented a slide presentation to introduce a proposal for new TMA categories and online TMA sales to be done in a two part phase. The idea is to try to bring some of those older snowmobiles out of the barns and to make the cost of snowmobiling more affordable for families. We need to move forward and be proactive. The prices need some tweaking and Jim Holbrook questioned the issue for law enforcement on the 3-day passes. We do need to find more law enforcement funding and are actively looking for solutions. The early season and the late season will need to be discussed more. Ann Shangraw asked that we compile a list of questions and concerns and email them to her in the next week. Ann Shangraw, Pat Poulin and Bryant Watson will attend meetings with each county to present the proposal and answer questions. *Bruce Murray moved and John Perkins seconded to approve the Board support of the new TMA marketing proposal. Motion carried.*

OTHER: There is a landowner in Lamoille County that has a private "playground" that he has built for his grandchildren. He welcomes the snowmobile trails through his property but his land is not open to the public in the summer. He would like us to put the word out.

CALEDONIA ISSUES: Mark Ellingwood reported on the committee that was formed to work on the issue in the county. They are continuing to work on the issues and trying to make progress.

The next Director's Meeting is April 23rd, 2007 at 6:00 PM with refreshments by Orleans County. *John Lynds moved and Pat Poulin seconded to adjourn at 8:35 PM. Motion carried.*

Respectfully submitted by,

Bonnie Holbrook, VAST Recording Secretary