

VAST BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

November 24, 2008

DIRECTORS, ALTERNATES, OFFICERS & STAFF PRESENT: Conrad Stewart-Addison; John Perkins-Bennington; Ken Gammell-Caledonia; Jeff Fay-Chittenden; Ray Dubriel-Essex; John Ross-Franklin; Bill Oakes-Grand Isle; Brian Currier-Lamoille; Jim Holbrook-Orange; Brian Cook-Orleans; Merritt Budd-Rutland; John Lynds-Washington; Tom Baltrus *{absent}*-Windham; Bruce Murray-Windsor; Pat Poulin -President; Jim Hill-Vice-President; Mark Ellingwood-Treasurer; Bonnie Holbrook-Recording Secretary; Bryant Watson-Executive Director, Alexis Nowalk-SSTP Trails Administrator

GUESTS: Star Poulin, Mitzi Oakes, Ed Hebebrand, Francis Pillsbury, Joe Cicia, Gordon Holmes, Dick Jewett, Denise Lemire, Howard Smith, Buzzy Eastman, Stacy Lynds, Josh Nelson, Matt Goodyear, Dave Pastula, Mike O'Hara, James Anderson

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by President Pat Poulin.

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

8b Border-To-Border Ride

8c Mitzi Oakes

8d VPT (Vermont Public Television)

11a Executive Session (about 8 PM) with a guest to include Windsor County, Staff, Officers and Alternate Directors and Mitzi Oakes,

SECRETARY'S REPORT: *Bruce Murray moved and Conrad Stewart seconded to approve the minutes of October 27, 2008 Board of Directors meeting as amended. Motion carried.*

TREASURER'S REPORT: *Bruce Murray moved and Jeff Fay seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried.* We have almost \$211,000 less cash this month than we did last year at this time which is due to checks were sent out for a lot of equipment grants and construction grants.

CONSENT CALENDAR-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT and TRAIL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: *Jim Hill moved and Jim Holbrook seconded to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. Motion carried.* Alexis reported that start up payments will be mailed this week. Startup payments for grooming contracts won't go out until the signed contract is received by Alexis. The maps will be printed in Canada this year as they gave us the best deal. They are supposed to be in the VAST Office by Monday. Bruce Murray and Conrad Stewart questioned the arrival time of the TMAs. Ray Dubreuil questioned the family TMAs and why one name has to be on all the registrations to qualify for the Family TMA price. The quick answer is extended family and potential misuse of Family TMAs.

COUNTY REPORTS:

Champlain Valley; Addison County has received their new drag. Most sign posts are up except for fields where corn still needs to be harvested. They had some bridge repairs. The Foote of the Mtn. Sno-Travelers club is having their pancake breakfast on Super Bowl Sunday. **Chittenden County** put in a couple of new bridges. They had their landowner's dinner and served about 165 landowners. They had door prizes that included a large basket and a \$100 Gas Card that were given away. They have a new Assistant Trails Coordinator.

Central Vermont; Orange County will be having a safety class on December 6th and will be at the Thetford Center Community Center. The Fairlee Baldtoppers are planning to merge with the Corinth snowmobile club upon approval from the County. **Washington County** is looking pretty good. They held their election of officers and Josh Nelson is the new Alternate Director. They granted some grants for trail work that needed to be done. They donated \$2,501 to Vermont Traditions Coalition.

Northeast Kingdom; Caledonia County has some signing to get done but is in pretty good shape. **Essex County** is looking good. **Orleans County** has to move the trail around the golf course at Jay Peak.

Northwest Vermont; Franklin County has a couple of little issues that should be worked out soon. **Grand Isle County** is working on a trail that will make a nice loop. **Lamoille County** reported things were pretty good until last week. They found out about a couple of bridges on the rail trail that need repair and one that has been condemned. One of the bridges will be a quick fix. Without the trail it cuts the county in two and cuts off Franklin County from Chittenden County. The condemned bridge is a \$230,000 bridge.

Southeast Vermont; Windham County was not present to report **Windsor County** is doing well.

Southwest Vermont; Bennington County is still working on the trail in the Snow Valley area. If that section of trail does not get open, the route for the Border-to-Border ride will have to be changed. **Rutland County** lost Charlie Monroe on November 8th. He was very instrumental in their county for many years. This year's donation to the Therapy Pool will be in Charlie's name. They had a guy from the Boys Scout that attended their county meeting last month and talked about the Venturing Program. They are trying to get Corridor 4 straightened out near Merritt Budd's area. Corridor 7 stops in Shrewsbury and then picks back up in Chittenden, Vermont January 17th & 18th they will hold a Safety Snowmobile Show at the Rutland Mall. Jim Hill will be helping them set up. The Sheriff's Department will have a representative there during the whole show.

VENTURE SCOUTING: Pat Poulin had asked the Directors to check with their counties and report back. Green Mountain Roamers is starting a Green Mountain Roamers Teen Group. The teenagers at their safety class were very interested but did not want it to be called a youth group or 4-H club. There did not appear much interest from counties at this time.

VERMONT BORDER-TO-BORDER RIDE: We have been requested by the Border-to-Border Committee to print a full page ad for the ride at no cost. They would like free full page ads for 4 months. We have already printed a full page ad for free. There is a special advertising rate for charity events. Bonnie Holbrook expressed concern that we need to be fair to other charity groups and treat everyone equal. The decision made will be setting precedence for other events. The Border-to-Border Ride Committee was offered a quarter page ad at no cost but they want a full page free. *John Ross moved and John Perkins seconded that we authorize Kent Gardner to proceed with the advertising and that the space we give them does not mean that we have to add 4 pages to give them one or that it adversely impacts advertising revenue. Motion carried by majority vote with Nays from Washington, Chittenden, Essex and Windsor Counties, Jim Hill, and Bonnie Holbrook.*

Bruce Murray moved and Jeff Fay seconded that we set a limit to size of the ad and the frequency of the ad for future charitable events. Motion withdrawn and Pat Poulin will assign the charge to the Policy Committee to create a policy to bring to the Board for approval.

MITZI OAKES: Mitzi Oakes requested that we (the Board) send a donation in memory Charlie Monroe to the VAC (Vermont Achievement Center). Charlie Monroe was very beneficial in fundraising for the VAC. *Bruce Murray moved and John Lynds seconded that we send \$500 to the VAC in Charlie Monroe's memory. Motion carried unanimously.*

VERMONT PUBLIC TELEVISION: VPT has requested sponsorship support from VAST again this year. VAST has been supporting the Outdoor Journal and VPT added the Wild Chronicles. This is a good way to get our name in front of the public in a position way. The funds are in the PR & Marketing Committee. The Committee wanted to know how the Board felt. *Bruce Murray moved and Jeff Fay seconded that we sponsor the VPT as we have in the past for \$5,000. Motion carried unanimously.*

LANDOWNER APPRECIATION COMMITTEE: There will be a postcard that will be going out to all clubs asking them for numbers. How many landowners we deal with and how many of those landowners snowmobile per club. This is to investigate how many potential land owners are snowmobilers for a potential Landowner TMA.

LVRT UPDATE - BMW: Bryant Watson gave a brief update on the LVRT.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: The **Nominating Committee** chair has been changed to Norm Roark. The **Personnel Committee** is working on the questionnaire survey filled out by the VAST Staff. The **PR & Marketing Committee** is working on a Military/VIP ride. Washington County will be hosting the event and helping with pulling it off. It will be January 31st at Kenyon's Field in Waitsfield. Josh Nelson has met with a National Guard representative. They are very excited about the ride and will be promoting it. They are also working with us to help make it a success. The **Trails Committee** met last week. They formed a sub committee and will be reviewing the grooming costs structure. They also will be doing a survey with the groomers. The trails committee will be going on a ride in January. Johnny Lynds asked to put the Annual Meeting on the agenda for next month.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – POTENTIAL LEGAL ISSUE: *John Perkins moved and Jim Holbrook seconded that we go into Executive Session at 9:15 pm to discuss the potential legal issue and include the Alternate Directors, Staff, Mitzi Oakes and guests from Windsor County. Motion carried.* Pat Poulin extended the meeting at 9:00 PM for 30 minutes without objection from the Board. *Jim Hill moved and Jeff Fay seconded to come out of Executive Session at 9:26 pm. Motion carried.*

The next Director's Meeting is December 15th, 2008 at 6:00 PM with it being the traditional pot luck. *John Perkins moved and Jim Hill seconded to adjourn at 9:32 PM.*

Respectfully submitted by,
Bonnie Holbrook
VAST Recording Secretary