

## VAST BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

December 15, 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; Larry Trottier-Orange; Dave LaBelle -Orleans; Merritt Budd-Rutland; John Lynds-Washington; Tom Baltrus(*absent*)-Windham; Bruce Murray-Windsor; Pat Poulin - President; Jim Hill-Vice(*absent*)-President; Mark Ellingwood-Treasurer; Bonnie Holbrook-Recording Secretary; Bryant Watson-Executive Director, Alexis Nowalk-SSTP Trails Administrator; Kent Gardner-VAST News Manager

**GUESTS:** Star Poulin, Mitzi Oakes, Jim Holbrook, Ed Hebebrand, Francis Pillsbury, Joe Cicia, Howard Smith, Josh Nelson, Matt Goodyear, Dave Pastula, Mike O'Hara, Sue Trottier, Matt Jacovelli, Nikki Simpson

*The meeting was preceded by our Annual Holiday Potluck at 6 pm. Many thanks to all that brought goodies for the awesome feast.*

The meeting was called to order at 6:55 pm by President Pat Poulin.

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

- 11a Executive Session is to be postponed to the agenda next month.
- 10d Website Update on club project

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** *Conrad Stewart moved and Jeff Fay seconded to approve the minutes of November 24, 2008 Board of Directors meeting as amended. Motion carried and one nay by Orleans as he was not present at the meeting.*

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** *Conrad Stewart moved and Bruce Murray seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried.* We are still running at a negative cash flow.

**CONSENT CALENDAR-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT and TRAIL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:** *Larry Trottier moved and Jeff Fay seconded to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. Motion carried.* Bryant Watson brought up that we are still having problems with clubs not being aware of zoning changes and also some trail work that's being done without landowner permission and/or with permit violations. John Perkins from Bennington County has run out of TMAs. They are ok to use the equivalent of the regular season for the Early Bird **BUT** they will have to contact Kathy Duprey **NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 16** with the corresponding numbers for the TMAs they had to use. That is if they can not get some from another club. There was also a discussion on the different TMA stickers. We printed 30% more stickers this year and sent clubs 20% more than they sold last year. We will be installing a few trail counters in a few high traffic areas in a few counties. John Perkins pointed out that those traffic counters do not work well at all. The counts from the trail impact study were way off. The cost of the trail counters was taken out of the GPS mapping budget.

### **COUNTY REPORTS:**

**Champlain Valley; Addison County** reported that Conrad Stewart was on 92.1 Radio today for about 20 minutes. Conrad asked other Directors to bring to the attention of their clubs the letter on the first page of the second section of the VAST News. The trail in Ferrisburg crossing Lewis Creek is closed at this time. **Chittenden County** Williston Hill Hawks received their 'new' 2000 groomer. The Hinesburg Club provided Thanksgiving dinner for about 12 families that were very much appreciated by those families. Safety Week will be celebrated at the University Mall on January 10 & 11<sup>th</sup>. Bob Stebbins has been promoted to Lt.

**Central Vermont; Orange County** has a trail closure on Route 12 in the Camp Brook area and due someone tore down a couple of gates and stole cameras he had. He realizes the snowmobilers are not the ones that did it but has still shut the trail down. **Washington County** is preparing for the Military VIP Ride in January. They are also working on the Annual Meeting. The County gave some money to their local clubs to help with some construction that didn't get approved under the VAST Construction Grant. The Suspension Bridge has been re-decked. They still have some work that will need to be done to it. They bought a new 4-stroke snowmobile for the Washington County Sheriff's Department for their fleet.

**Northeast Kingdom; Caledonia County** has some groomers going out tonight to pack trails. They had one trail that was closed at the last minute. The Coles Pond Sledders had a Christmas Party along with some other clubs. They have had clubs doing a lot of hard work. **Essex County** is pretty good except East Branch being closed. The trail over Sable Mountain may be closed. Ray Dubreuil has talked to Mark M. at the Conte Refuge Visitor Center. This may be a great place for a Trail Head and that would get more winter visitors for the Conte Refuge Visitor Center. **Orleans County** is reporting they are ready to open but they are having a few problems. The County runs ads on the radio during hunting season.

**Northwest Vermont; Franklin County** reported all's well except for one issue that should be resolved soon. **Grand Isle County** doesn't have much happening. **Lamoille County** was looking pretty good until the rain today. Some of the trails in higher areas have been compacted. President Poulin said he was ok with the Poulin Bridge being used although he is the incorrect Poulin. Seriously we should be able to use the bridge with some protective modifications.

**Southeast Vermont; Windham County** was not present to report. **Windsor County** voted not to allow the Border-to-Border Ride to come through the County due to many sensitive areas and issues. There will be a few representatives here next month for discussion of the Bridgewater issue.

**Southwest Vermont; Bennington County** has damage with the ice storm. There are many trees down and frozen in the ground. They may have to get a bulldozer in to clean it up. **Rutland County** is still set for setting up for a display for the Safety Weekend at Rutland Mall on January 17 & 18<sup>th</sup>. Everything else should be all set to good.

**TOWN TAX ISSUE RE: APPRAISALS:** Our Lobbyist will be working on some wording for the Town Tax Issue.

**2009 ANNUAL MEETING:** Johnny Lynds reported they are looking at a couple of options for the location. They are kicking around a couple of options. They are toying with many ideas including the possibility of setting the meeting up differently. Maybe consolidating events in the morning and then have a lunch, then have a meeting and then have an off-site event afterwards and not have an evening banquet. They are talking about combining all the awards at one event instead of some at the meeting and some at the banquet. John Lynds has the first vendor signed up. They are looking at more family events.

**OTHER:** Larry Trottier reported on a phone call he received from a club member in Orange County. Bonnie Holbrook was also contacted by this person. This member was very upset with being charged the cost of shipping of maps. Most clubs recoup the shipping costs in the price of the maps. Washington County asked their Director to check on the discount for culverts from EJ Prescott only being extended to clubs if they have a construction grant. Larry Trottier has found Robert Button in Chelsea has the best price for culverts. Ann Shangraw will give a report on the Land Summit next month. Right now anyone, including dealers, can post items to sell on Sleds2buy.com for free.

**MILITARY RIDE KENYON'S FIELD, WAITSFIELD:** The Card Room is coming up on January 7<sup>th</sup> from 7 am to 10 am. At that event, we will be inviting the Legislators to the Military Ride. The Military Ride is at Kenyon's Farm in Waitsfield on January 31<sup>st</sup> from 10-2. It would be awesome to have ALL Directors present. Froggy Radio will be there. Some of the County members will be providing sleds for people to ride and some dealers will have demo sleds there. The military members are welcomed to bring their own snowmobiles too. There will be many activities going on. John Perkins is going to work with Tour Operators to try to get sleds for demo rides.

**REPORT ON SNOW VALLEY:** The meeting was cancelled today. John Perkins asked they be included on the notices for the meeting. There is not a report at this point. This will be on the agenda for next month.

**LVRT UPDATE - BMW:** Bryant Watson was hoping to have the finalized version of the Facts and Findings ready tonight. He has not received it yet but hopefully will have it by the end of the week. We will then need to submit this to the regional coordinators. After 11 PM and not before 6 AM only Law Enforcement personnel are allowed on the LVRT. We need to check with VTRANS to amend the lease to indicate that Maintenance vehicles be allowed on the trail between 11 PM and 6 AM.

**WEBSITE UPDATE:** The Williston Club was concerned with their website and was having troubles with access. That has been fixed. There has been very little access by the clubs. Jeff Fay also asked if there was a way to have clubs able to update trail reports. All clubs need to do when they want to update the trail report on the VAST website all they have to do is email BOTH Alexis Nowalk and Matt Tetreault to update. Kent Gardner and Bonnie Holbrook will work on getting the minutes updated on the website.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** The **Awards and Recognition Committee** asks all Directors to remind the clubs to get their entries for the Volunteer Weekend in by the end of this month. The **Safety Committee** is working on the displays at University Mall and working with Rutland County for the International Snowmobile Safety Week. The test is much harder for the safety classes. More instructors are finding more people are failing. The Board asked Bonnie Holbrook to have the Safety Committee review the new test and class booklet. There are some questions that have several answers that were very possible. There were several comments on the test level and some of the questions. Directors are to ask the instructors in their counties for feedback.

The next Director's Meeting is January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 6:00 PM with refreshments provided by Washington County. ***Conrad Stewart moved and John Perkins seconded to adjourn at 8:43 PM.***

Respectfully submitted by,  
Bonnie Holbrook  
VAST Recording Secretary