

VAST BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

July 27, 2009

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

GUESTS: Star Poulin, Mitzi Oakes, Jim Holbrook, Ed Hebebrand, Joe Cicia, Matt Goodyear, Sue Trottier, Senator Jane Kitchell, Representative Kitty Toll, Roone Gibbs, Roberta "SNOMO" Stammers

SPECIAL APPEARANCE: Miss Zoey Nelson along with her Mommy (Alexis Nelson, SSTP Trails Administrator) and Daddy (Josh Nelson)

The meeting was called to order at 6:48 pm by President Pat Poulin.

AGENDA: *Jim Hill moved and Larry Trottier seconded to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.*

Consent Calendar - PR & Marketing Committee report under the Consent Calendar

8g - Skidoo Million Dollar Club

8h - Bayley Hazen Club

SECRETARY'S REPORT: *Bruce Murray moved and Conrad Stewart seconded to approve the minutes of June 22, 2009 Board of Directors meeting as amended. Motion carried unanimously.*

TREASURER'S REPORT: *Tom Baltrus moved and Bruce Murray seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.* Mark Ellingwood gave a brief overview of the budget report. We have a positive cash flow this month.

CONSENT CALENDAR-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT and TRAIL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: *Larry Trottier moved and Bonnie Holbrook seconded to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. Motion carried unanimously.* Josh Nelson, PR & Marketing Committee chair, reported the committee has had a couple of meetings and they are working on a couple of projects. They are also working on a web calendar to list VAST events, meetings, county meetings and committee meetings. This would also be a place clubs to post events. We have the official name for the military ride in January. It will be "The VAST Military Appreciation Ride In" and will be the last Saturday in January (January 30th, 2010) at Kenyon Fields in Waitsfield. The committee is asking **all** Directors to put it on their calendars now and to promote it to their clubs please.

COUNTY REPORTS:

Champlain Valley; **Addison County** is not going to be at the Addison County Field Days this year as they voted against attending due to lack of manpower. The bridge over Lewis Creek is not going to make it this year. **Chittenden County** reported all is quiet.

Central Vermont; **Orange County** has been quiet. **Washington County** reported they have some projects in the works including the large suspension bridge known as the "Winooski Wonder". They are also working hard on the VAST Annual Meeting.

Northeast Kingdom; **Caledonia County** has some projects they are working on. **Essex County** has made an effort on the landowner booklet. Things are getting pretty tough in their area with the Ethan Allen plant going out. The Tax Proposal in Canaan has been brought to Ray Dubriel's attention a couple of nights ago. There is a bill in the House Ways and Means Committee to help protect landowners from town listers assessing a tax on land with trails on them which we need to monitor closely. **Orleans County** was absent.

Northwest Vermont; **Franklin County** was absent. **Grand Isle County** is doing well. They have a few bridges that are being rebuilt. **Lamoille County** has some ATV issues which Brian Currier is hoping to get taken care of shortly. Next week they are having their election of County Officers.

Southeast Vermont; **Windham County** is pretty quiet. Tom Baltrus is working on an issue with ATVs on the snowmobile trail in one area. **Windsor County** brought up a letter received from John Graves. Bruce Murray also reported that he has not heard anything lately on the Bridgewater situation.

Southwest Vermont; **Bennington County** has several chain saw and other certification classes going on. They have been notified that the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF) has designated a half a million dollars towards trail work from stimulus funds that they (GNMF) have received. They will have to hire out the work because of the restrictions with stimulus funds. There is a picnic coming up in Woodford and other events going on around their county. **Rutland County** is still working on a bridge that needs to be put in. The Corridor 7 trail looks like it may happen for this season. There were a couple of positive articles and editorials in the Rutland Herald recently.

ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE: Things are moving along. John Lynds has asked each director to bring something for the Silent Auction. Grand Isle County has already brought something in (a scenic airplane ride over the islands). The proceeds from the Silent Auction will be given to Make-A-Wish of Vermont. The ticket price for the catered lunch has been established for \$7.50 per ticket with the balance of the cost to be picked up with the annual meeting budget. The Vermont Traditions Coalition, a couple of insurance agents and other vendors will be there. There will be a lot of PR for the vendor & family activities in the BOR. The vendor and expo in the BOR will be open to the public. There will be a bouncy house and other activities for the children.

LANDOWNER APPRECIATION BOOKLET: Jim Hill reported that all of the clubs should have received applications/forms for the landowner appreciation booklet. One business wanted to know if they could do more than one coupon which is a definite yes. They are due the end of July. Businesses that are along the state borders are also welcomed to offer a coupon for the landowner booklets.

TELECONFERENCE CALLS: Bryant Watson included information in the Board packet on two different avenues for conference calls. *Tom Baltrus moved and Jim Hill seconded to try ConferenceCall.com and purchase the VTX1000 phone. Motion carried unanimously.*

APPROVE REVISED GENERAL FUND FY2010 BUDGET - MARK: Last month we revised a couple of line items in the proposed budget. The Fiscal Committee met and agreed that we need to recommend a balanced budget. Last week when Bryant Watson was working on the revised budget he discovered that according to our Bylaws we need to keep the Contingency Fund fully funded at \$250,000. So we need to complete replenishing this fund in the budget this year. We will carry forward budget funds that were not spent this year. *Mark Ellingwood moved that we reduce account number 8200/1006 by \$10,000 and increase account 8300/2011a by \$10,000. Motion carried unanimously.*

FUNDING FOR VT SNOW TRAILS CONSERVANCY & TRUST: Pat Poulin announced that Ann Shangraw has resigned as chair of the Snow Trails Conservancy & Trust. We will need to refill this position. Bryant Watson recommends that we ask the membership to assist with funding this trust. John Perkins asked several questions regarding the process of acquiring easements and who will make the decisions on which will be funded. Pat Poulin recommended that we need to revisit the guidelines for the Trust. We would be able to partner with other land trusts. The premise of this is to be able to establish easements on critical trails. Bonnie Holbrook asked if the committee has met and weighed in on Bryant's proposal for VAST to set aside some type of endowment to establish initial viability. The committee has not met yet. The Board discussed bringing forth the discussion at the annual meeting for input. *Bruce Murray moved and Jeff Fay seconded that we ask the General Membership for \$25,000 to begin funding of the Snow Trails Conservancy & Trust. Motion carried unanimously.*

TMA DECALS & TMA APPLICATION FORM: A special ad-hoc committee was formed to look at simplifying the TMA process. There was a discussion on the process and complaints that different directors have received. *Bruce Murray moved and Larry Trottier seconded that we accept the proposal from the TMA Committee as amended. Motion carried with nays by Essex, Bennington and Washington and Jim Hill abstained. Bruce Murray moved and Jeff Fay second to amend his motion to add a value of \$80 to each TMA except the Volunteer TMA that are sent to the clubs. Amendment carried unanimously.* After much discussion Bonnie Holbrook suggested that to solve all the arguments we could always set one price and one TMA for all and not have any categories! The Committee is going to be meeting right away to set the due date for the Early Birds and will be looking closely at the Form and how many Early Bird TMAs to send out.

SKI-DOO MILLION DOLLAR FUND: Last month we voted not to participate. We are one of two states not participating. Bombardier contacted both Pat Poulin and Jim Hill to follow up on the Board's decision last month and find out why the Board voted to not participate. The main reason we voted against the program was due to the majority of the Board not wanting to give out our mailing list of club presidents. They are willing to submit all the materials to VAST to send out. This is a way for clubs to make \$10 per entry form that Ski-Doo receives from members. *Bonnie Holbrook moved and Ray Dubriel seconded that we participate in the program. Motion carried unanimously. Bonnie Holbrook moved that we provide Bombardier with the list of the Club Presidents to mail the program materials directly to the clubs. Motion carried with Jim Hill abstaining. Bruce Murray moved and Jeff Fay seconded to extend the meeting by 20 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.*

BAYLEY HAZEN CLUB: Bryant Watson has provided the Board with copies of correspondence. There have been three dates in August scheduled with Jim Fink for mediation.

LVRT FUNDING: Bryant Watson asked the Board to approve that we add the request for funding the LVRT project with a line of credit loan of \$750,000 on the Annual Meeting Agenda and have the Membership vote on it. The Loan terms requested would be for 2.5% interest per annum with terms up to 30 years. In the Board packet was an LVRT Proposed Budget for the FY2010 and would pay back VAST for the \$100,000 if we were successful in obtaining the loan and/or other sources of funding. If we were to default on the project, we could be liable for monies already received from the Federal Funds. The political ramifications would be tremendous if we were to back out of the project. *Bonnie Holbrook moved and Jeff Fay second to extend the meeting by 10 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.* Johnny Lynds suggested that Bryant Watson include the document with the brief history on the LVRT with the Annual Meeting agenda. *Tom Baltrus moved and Ray Dubriel seconded to present the loan application to the membership at the Annual Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.*

FOREST SERVICE UPDATE: The Green Mountain National Forest received about 3.3 Million Dollars which they have designated about \$1 Million dollars to be put to use on snowmobile trails which we will manage. The GMNF will outline the projects and will prioritize the projects. We will need to send for bids for the work.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: The TMA Structure Committee will be meeting soon.

The next Director's Meeting is Monday, August 24th, 2009 at 6:00 PM with refreshments being provided by Chittenden County.

Bruce Murray moved and Bonnie Holbrook seconded to adjourn at 9:30 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,
Bonnie Holbrook
VAST Recording Secretary