

VAST BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

August 24, 2009

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; Brian Cook-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{absent}-Executive Director, Ann Shangraw{absent}-Past President; Alexis Nelson{absent}-Trails Administrator; Kent Gardner-VAST News Editor; Jessi Hudson-LVRT Technical & Administrative Assistant

GUESTS: Star Poulin, Mitzi Oakes, Jim Holbrook, Ed Hebebrand, Joe Cicia, Matt Goodyear, Ted Kenyon, Sandy Woodbeck, Matt Jacovelli, Howard Smith

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by President Pat Poulin.

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

15. Annual Meeting

SECRETARY'S REPORT: *Bruce Murray moved and Larry Trottier seconded to approve the minutes of July 27, 2009 Board of Directors meeting as amended. Motion carried unanimously.*

TREASURER'S REPORT: *Bruce Murray moved and Jeff Fay seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.* Mark Ellingwood gave a brief overview of the budget. July had a negative cash flow but we have a positive year-to-date 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 unanimously.* Mitzi Oakes requested that the Conference Call number that was set up for the Governors Council not be given out until she gives the approval. She will bring it up at the next Governor's Snowmobile Council meeting. There were requests for a trails report for this month as there was not one in the Board packets.

COUNTY REPORTS: *Champlain Valley;* Addison County is thinking about getting geared up. Chittenden County has a Hinesburg Club person that is required to volunteer ten hours to their club due to a legal action.

Central Vermont; Orange County reported the Frigid Frost Fighters lost a bridge in the flash flood last Friday in Chelsea. They had other trail damage too. Tri Town Trail Travelers lost two bridges in a flash flood the same day. Washington County has some issues in the center of the county. They will have a meeting next week. They are working with Matt Tetreault and the engineers on the suspension bridge.

Northeast Kingdom; Caledonia County is "just ducky". Essex County attended a meeting the other night that was run by the Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation. It was made very clear that they (FP&R) were in control of what they wanted the groups to hear and there was very little interaction. Orleans County had a problem with four-wheelers (trucks) in Jay where a bridge was destroyed by the trucks driving across it.

Northwest Vermont; Franklin County is quiet. Grand Isle County is working on reconstructing a bridge on state land. Lamoille County is beginning to get rolling on some of their projects. They had their first county meeting the beginning of this month.

Southeast Vermont; Windham County is beginning to come out of hibernation. Windsor County is quiet.

Southeast Vermont; Bennington County lost a road in the Green Mountain National Forest from the storms. John Perkins contacted the Forest Service a couple of weeks ago to notify them that the road was beginning to wash out. Rutland County has had a lot of rain. West Rutland didn't sustain damage that Merritt Budd is aware of. The Rutland City Aldermen unanimously approved the Corridor 7 trail going through the Rutland City Watershed. There will be a lot of trail work to be done. It won't happen for this year but it should be completed by next year. The original route will be changed which is good because the old way had a lot of bridges there were going to be needed to be put in. There is a section in Mendon that will need some help. At the next County meeting, they will donate and hang a plaque in memory of Bill Benham in the pool area of the Vermont Achievement Center.

ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE: Johnny Lynds reported that the PSAs have begun airing about the VAST Annual Meeting and Family Fun Day. PSAs have been sent to radio stations around the state advertising the Vendor Show and Family Fun Activities at the Annual Meeting. JD from FROGGY FM radio will be there all day providing music and live broadcasting in the BOR. There are a lot of vendors scheduled. There are many families that are expressing interest in attending. There will be games and entertainment, an antique snowmobile display, concession stand by one of the county clubs. There will be a lot of fun things happening. Hopefully we'll see a lot more people at the meeting this year. Johnny is still looking for donations from counties and anyone else that would like to donate for the Silent Auction. All proceeds from the Silent Auction will be given to the Make-A-Wish of Vermont.

LANDOWNER APPRECIATION BOOKLET: Kent Gardner reported that we received between 150 and 175 businesses for the Landowner Appreciation Booklet. John Ross expressed displeasure with the number of clubs that participated in soliciting businesses for coupons for the

Landowner Appreciation Booklet. Matt Jacovelli shared his thoughts about the booklet. He suggested that we rethink this and possibly have it done at the County level to provide a gift certificate that can be used at any local area business. Jim Hill, chair of the committee, reminded everyone that this is not in lieu of what the local county and clubs do for their landowners.

TELECONFERENCE CALLS: Jessi Hudson reported that the equipment is here and setup. A committee met last week and had a member call in on his cell phone and it worked really well. Each committee has their own number for call in. It will cost 14 cents a minute per person calling in, although for a short time, it will only be 10 cents a minute per person.

LVRT FUNDING – AM POWERPOINT – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: In the last couple of weeks the Executive Board has met and discussed the LVRT. We decided that we needed to all be on board concerning the LVRT. The political ramifications if we were to pull out of the project would be staggering. We (VAST), with approval from the Board and our membership, gave our word to move forward with this project a few years ago. The Executive Board felt that a PowerPoint presentation on the project would be very helpful for the annual meeting. This presentation is to “sell it” to the General Membership and this should help the Board to be fully committed. Jessi Hudson presented the draft presentation to the Board for feedback. The Friends of the Lamoille Valley Recreational Trail are actively working on fundraising. There are a couple of towns along the rail bed that are waiting to begin work on the trail and want to begin just as soon as possible. There are many clubs that are donating to the LVRT including one club that has given \$500. There are also many individuals that have donated too. *John Ross moved and Tom Baltrus seconded that we remove the option to not fund the LVRT and only offer the first two options to the membership at the annual meeting. John Ross amended his motion and Tom Baltrus seconded that the Board does not support defaulting on the project. John Ross and Tom Baltrus withdrew both motions. John Ross moved and Tom Baltrus seconded to support funding of the LVRT and does not support defaulting on the project. Motion carried unanimously.*

VERMONT SNOW TRAILS CONSERVANCY/CHARITABLE TRUST – VSTCCT BOARD OF TRUSTEES: The Board of Trustees met last week. The paperwork has been submitted. The committee needs to create criteria for allocating funds.

APPROVE REVISED LVRT MANAGEMENT PLAN - JESSI: A copy of the revised LVRT Management Plan was included in the Board Packet. There were some minor grammatical changes and one major change that addressed maintenance hours to try to get reasonable grooming hours so the management plan does not have to be changed every time the lease may be renewed.

APPROVE NEW LVRTC MEMBER - JESSI: Dave Polow resigned from the LVRTC. At their August meeting the LVRTC reviewed the resume of a potential member, Andrew Gilbert, whom they approved. Mr. Gilbert was not present to meet the Board. *Bruce Murray moved and John Ross seconded that we approve the appointment of Andrew Gilbert to the Committee. Motion carried unanimously.* Jim Hill asked Jessi to remind the committee to please have the nominee present at a Board Meeting in the future.

FOREST SERVICE ARRA FUNDING UPDATE: VAST is formulating a new cooperative agreement with the Green Mountain National Forest that will allow VAST to complete more than \$500,000 of needed maintenance to trails and bridges in the GMNF. VAST will be responsible for managing the \$500,000 money that has been allocated for trail work from the Federal Stimulus Money that the GMNF has received. *Jim Hill moved and John Perkins seconded to extend the meeting by 10 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.*

COMMITTEE REPORTS: The Long Range Planning Committee needs to update the Long Range Plan. The Fiscal Committee reported that they had another TMA Committee meeting. There will be 2 decals with one for Early TMA and one for Regular Season. All the forms will go out before the season. The deadline for the Early Bird is January 6, 2010 and they will need to be in the VAST Office in hand or postmark no later than January 6, 2010. The stickers will be fan fold. There will still be Volunteer TMA decals and a 5-day TMA booklet for those categories along with the Antique TMA category. The prices will be on the TMA Form. The Awards & Recognition Committee has ordered the awards so stay tuned for them to be presented at the Annual Meeting. The Safety & Responsible Riding Committee will be meeting in September or October. The PR & Marketing Committee has met and they're working on the Military Ride. They are also working on sponsorship for the event. The Trails Committee met last week. Pat Poulin reviewed some of the numbers. The Board received copies of the construction and equipment grants last month. The Trails Committee reviewed the projects for the committee.

The next Director's Meeting is directly after the Annual Meeting to set the TMA prices.

The October meeting will be Monday, October 26th, 2009 at 6:00 PM with refreshments being provided by Franklin County and Essex will do November's meeting as Ray Dubriel will not be at the October meeting.

John Ross moved and Brian Cook seconded to adjourn at 9:13 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,
Bonnie Holbrook
VAST Recording Secretary