

**Board of Directors
November 21, 2022
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present:

OFFICERS PRESENT

President: Jeff Fay

Vice President: Mark Reaves

Secretary: Jim Hill

Treasurer: Patty Companik

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Addison: Lewis Barnes

Bennington: Carol DeJohn

Caledonia: Bruce Carlson

Chittenden: Pat Poulin

Essex: John Hull

Franklin: Mike Burns

Grand Isle: Jeff Porter

Lamoille: Carmin Lemery

Orange: Juliann Sherman

Orleans: Roger Gosselin

Rutland: Curt Marechaux

Washington: Jeff Halpin

Windham: Michael Garber

Windsor: Doug Jacobs

STAFF PRESENT:

Executive Director, Cindy Locke

LVRT/Trails Manager, Ken Brown

Office & Programs Manager, Mandy Dwinell

Media and Technology Manager, Beth Flint

GUESTS:

Dustin Turner, Lamoille County Alt. Director; Club. Stan Choiniere, Windsor County Alt. Director; Mike Koeler, Orleans County Alt. Director; Ivor Stevens, Windham County Alt. Director; Mike Stewart, upcoming Rutland County Director; Rich Spitzer, Chittenden County Alt. Director; Ed Hebebrand, Caledonia County Alt. Director.

Jeff Fay called the meeting to order at 6:08P.M.

Approval of Agenda

Rutland County: Motion to approve, Addison County seconded to approve as amended to add LVRT Lease. MOTION CARRIED.

Approval of the Secretary's Report

Orleans County: Motion to approve, Grand Isle County seconded to approve October BOD meeting minutes as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

October 2022 - 1st month of the budget season

Income thru October 2022:

- **Budget:** \$3,436,342 vs 2021 which was 3,310,443 (\$125,899 additional revenue expected reflected in budget)
- **Monthly Activity:** \$106,581 (83,054 from membership) - vs 2021 which was 262,046 (232k from membership - which is about 44k less than this time 2020)
- **YTD Actual:** \$106,581
2022 / 3% vs 2021 / 8%

Expense thru October 2022:

- **Budget:** \$2,983,607 vs 2021 which was \$2,769,476 (\$184,131 additional expenses reflected in budgeted)
- **Monthly Activity:** \$114,341 vs 2021 which was 102,283
- **YTD Actual:** \$114,341
2022 / 4% vs 2021 / 4%

Approval of Treasurer's Report

Washington County: Motion to approve, Windsor County seconded to approve as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

LVRT Lease Agreement, Cindy

- Since July, Agency of Transportation (AOT) and VAST have been discussing the new LVRT lease.
- This afternoon Cindy received the proposed final draft of the LVRT lease from AOT. Cindy shared her screen and is emailing a copy of the lease to the BOD to review for a vote.
- State of Vermont (SOV) is not asking for compensation for trail use, they are asking VAST to maintain the trail during the winter.
- The lease agreement is an annual agreement July 1 2022-June 30 2023.
- AOT allows the use of the trail for snowmobile riding, any special events on the trail will require a permit. Please be advised the permit process may take up to 6-months.
- Pre and post-season operations, no clubs are permitted to sign prior to November 12th and signs must come down no later than May 1st
- Only VAST or club maintenance ATVs (while displaying a VAST Trail Maintenance vehicle sign) are permitted on the trail.
- AOT requires VAST to hold insurance, VAST's current policy is in line with the current requirements
- AOT requesting Law Enforcement (LE) and policing for winter months
- Terminating or transferring the lease, would require prior notice to SOV
- Question if LVRT is an annual agreement, is it possible AOT would revoke LVRT usage? It could be possible on any state land, but don't see that as happening unless a severe occasion were to occur.
- Ideally would like a multi-year lease, however currently it's an annual agreement, we all need to be mindful of usage and laws.
- VAST helps AOT save money by grooming and maintaining LVRT. Clubs need to make sure the LVRT is well-signed for speed limits. LVRT will be policed.

- Discussion lease appears to be similar to a standard landowner agreement, except it's with AOT.
- Discussion on if there's a possibility of extending the lease for multi-year when the lease is due for renewal in June 2023. This may be an area for additional discussion and request.
- Special events to be determined such as a parade and signed events on LVRT. There can be signs on townland but wouldn't advise on LVRT as these would need a permit.

Lamoille County Motion to accept the LVRT lease agreement to be approved as presented by Cindy Locke. Orleans county seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

VAST Organizational Policy Updates – Mark, Curt & Cindy

Discussion regarding the updates and suggestions from the BOD during the October BOD meeting. Mark and Cindy shared the screen with the policy changes.

- Page 12, section 7: updates regarding defining a club in good standing. Sections include Purpose, Qualifications, Loss of Good Standing Designation, Loss of Privileges and Reinstatement.
- Page 13, Section 8: Right to Review

These changes were made based on feedback and suggestions from the BOD during the October BOD meeting.

Lamoille County Motion to approve proposed VAST policy manual as presented. Grand Isle seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

Green Mountain Trail Blazers, Club Not in Good Standing – Cindy

Cindy had repeated conversations with the Green Mountain Trail Blazer's club president about the club review process. Green Mountain Trail Blazers contacted VAST and said they did not think it was lawful for VAST to ask for their financial books to be reviewed by our CPA and that they were contacting their attorney.

The recommendation based on the updates with VAST policy is that the process would be restarted with the Green Mountain Trail Blazers.

The new 4 clubs selected have not been notified yet, as Cindy wanted to wait until the policy changes had been updated and approved by the BOD.

TMA Report – Cindy

TMA's processed so far are 2612 and is a comparison for about half from 2021, the proposed reflection is from the unseasonably warm Fall temperatures. Cindy emailed the BOD copies of the report and graphs to share with their counties and clubs.

December BOD Meeting – Jeff and Mark

Jeff asked if there is an interest from the BOD regarding an in-person December meeting with a catered holiday menu. The meeting date would be Monday, December 19th. Cindy is sending an email to BOD to see whose interested in an in-person or hybrid meeting.

Trail Administrator's/ED Report/LVRT Report – Cindy, Matt and Ken

Matt is on vacation and is not present for the meeting.

Kudos to Ken from Mark for updates with the mapping app utilizing Google maps. Ken shared VAST is discontinuing the Garmin map and we have connected with GPS trails masters and track maps as both offer very similar products.

Committee and Other Meeting Reports

American Outdoor Risk Retention Group (AORRG) Insurance – President, Mark Reaves

We've completed our filings and have submitted the Certificate of Insurance (COI) to those who have requested it. If landowners request a copy of the COI please contact Mark or Cindy for a copy.

There is an update from the original version with the COI to reflect \$1,000,000 with a \$2,000,000 aggregate. Contact Mandy if a copy is needed.

Northeast Chapter and USA – Pat Poulin, Jeff Fay as VT Representative

Zoom meeting last Thursday. Discussion regarding the hurricane on the east coast. Maine is looking forward to hosting the February ride.

USA meeting not attended.

VT Snow Trails Conservancy (VSTC) – Jim Hill, VSTC President

Working on a couple of possible easements.

Law Enforcement (LE) Committee – Cindy

There has been some turnover. Some sheriffs weren't reelected, or some are questioning the ballots. About half of the contracts have been returned awaiting contracts from Franklin and Orange county.

Awards & Nominating – Patty Companik, Chair

- Awards - plaques in office updated to reflect recipients thru 2022 - thanks to Jeff for drop off/pick up
- Awards - a few missing photos from folks who did not attend the annual meeting sent to Beth for Award Recipients article
- Scholarships - Reminder sent to Beth to put 2022 Scholarship ad in next two publications of magazine

By-Laws & Policy – Mark Reaves, Chair

Discussed previously in the meeting.

Annual Meeting – Jeff Haplin and Mark Reaves

The location has been selected as the Kenyans Field in Waitsfield. Sled Farm Food to do the catering for the Annual Meeting. The county voted to go with this vendor based on success with the 2022 Annual Meeting.

Question what the consciousness has been regarding the Ride for \$25 weekend. Jeff has shared the overall feedback has been positive.

Long Range Planning & Organizational – Mark Reaves, Chair

Reviewing next possible project, been focusing on ARROG.

Safety – Stan Choiniere, Chair

Majority of focus on the Military and First Responders Day in January. Working on connecting with vendors and gathering items for the event.

Next meeting is in December. Cindy will be sharing a list of some next steps and contacts with Stan to review for the next meeting.

Governor's Council – Pat Poulin, Chair

Few discussions on some Law Enforcement things, but nothing major. There was a discussion on the language that was included in the DMV bill last year regarding requiring riders to carry physical proof of insurance. Cindy mentioned Senator Kitchell said she would be introducing it into the Senate portion of the transportation misc.

Discussion following up on property Brian Smith mentioned during the October BOD meeting. Roger shared the Orleans Trails Coordinator went out to the property and met with Brian and Commissioner Herrick and sounded like they came up with a plan that appeased the landowner. The property is not the Silvio Conte property, it's the bill-slated wildlife management area in Newark.

Appreciation was shared to Curt Marechaux as this is his last official BOD meeting as the Rutland County Director.

Happy holidays and safe travels to everyone.

Motion to adjourn by Rutland County: Motion to approve, Addison County seconded to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED. The meeting was adjourned at 7:13pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Hill, Secretary