

Governor's Snowmobile Council

October 5, 2022

Present:

Pat Poulin, Chairman
Star Poulin, Governor Appointee
Dick Jewett, Governor Appointee
Chief Paul Doucette, Southern VT Wilderness Search & Rescue
Jeff Haplin, Governor Appointee Central VT Representative
Mark Anderson, Windsor County Sheriff
Jane Kitchel, Vermont State Senator
Gary Nolan, VAST LE Committee Chair
Michael Smith, Vermont DMV Coordinator
Brian Smith, Vermont State Representative
Jacob Matayer, VT Dept of Public Safety
Randy Hazard, Fish & Wildlife
Mike Musacio, Governor Appointee Northeast VT Representative

VAST Staff Present:

Cindy Locke, VAST Executive Director
Matt Tetreault, Trails Administrator
Ken Brown, Trails Manager/LVRT
Mandy Dwinell, Office & Programs Manager

Guests:

Roger Gosselin, Safety Committee & Orleans County Director
Paul Fisher, DVSJ

The meeting was convened at 3:02PM via Zoom by Pat Poulin.

Approval of Minutes

Mike Smith moved to approve the September minutes as presented; Dick Jewett seconded. MOTION CARRIED. Jane Kitchel abstained, absent from September's meeting.

Approval of SSTP Financial Report, Matt Tetreault

Typical monthly expenses of administrative, office rent and supplies including the basic monthly expenses. There was also a trails publication, Matt will follow up with additional information prior to November's meeting.

No motion as we don't physically have the report at the time of the meeting and will review it for approval for next month's meeting.

Agency Reports

Vermont State Police, Matayer

Currently, up to 5 classes are scheduled and the materials are starting to be sent out.

Fish & Wildlife, Randy Hazard

- Jenna Reed is currently out on leave.
- F&W would like to eventually share their patrol calendar with LE.
- Question Cindy Locke if F&W would be available for training with LE on the calendar.
- Inquiry on a statewide Google map to be shared with neighboring agencies to assist with planning for coverage.

Sheriff's Association, Mark Anderson – President of VT Sheriff Association & Windham County Sheriff

N/A

Police Chiefs & Southern VT Wilderness Search & Rescue, Paul Doucette

Met 9/25 to develop for planning for the upcoming season, had a very effective meeting.

Department of Motor Vehicles, Mike Smith

Not a lot to report. Mike sending an email to Pat Poulin with prior years' registration numbers. 8902 registered as of today, 9047 registered at this time last year.

Cindy inquired about the language included regarding it to be mandatory to carry physical proof of insurance. Mike offered for Cindy to email it to him to review. Jane mentioned that it was previously included in the verbiage and must've been removed by the house. Cindy mentioned we would like to try to have it added for verbiage for next year. Jane recalls it may have been included in the DMV Bill that didn't pass.

Cindy clarified that the verbiage is separate from the LE funds granted to VAST.

Forest, Parks & Recreation, Becca Washburn

N/A

VAST

VAST Financial Request to Governor, Cindy Locke

Cindy thank you to Jane and to everyone in the State House, for the \$800k of funding. The efforts, dedication and support are very much appreciated. \$50k for LE and \$750k for general funding.

Currently working with AOT to develop the programs to be in place by spring, with a first draft submitted to Joel.

Can change on future agenda line item to State Program Update

VAST is live selling TMAs as of 10/1 with roughly 200 sold as of today. Mailing printed permanent TMAs weekly, with temporary paper TMAs emailed immediately after purchase.

This year's safety inspection stickers are yellow to match the color of the TMA sticker to help with increased visibility. Safety inspection stickers and books are available for pickup or mail from the VAST office.

Law Enforcement Committee, Gary Nolan

We had meeting prior to this meeting with majority of LE agencies.

Looking to develop a map in conjunction with a calendar with shared agencies.

Increased assistance with Safety Ambassadors and LE when needed for trail presence, safety checks and to help be an overall support to LE.

Two new agencies on board Hardwick and Windham County Sheriff's for this year.

We're excited for an increased presence on the trail where there was previously limited coverage.

Mike recapped that he reviewed the DMV Bill and didn't see the verbiage on the insurance requiring riders to physically carry proof of insurance. Jane mentioned that she believed that it was previously included and will connect with Athena for updates.

VAST VSAP Ambassador Program, Cindy

Meeting today following this meeting.

4th year with 40 SA, with 2 new SA this season. The overall program is going very well.

Mostly statewide coverage especially in the Central VT and Island Pond areas.

Jeff Haplin inquired on the Waitsfield and Mad River Valley area for possible additional SA coverage.

VAST Safety Committee, Roger Gosselin

Working on increasing safety related signage.

Pat mentioned that Safety Committee also connecting on the information and planning for the Military and First Responders Day in January in Morrisville.

VAST will also be sending clubs QR code stickers to include on the intersection signs to link to the VAST trail map.

Ken mentioned partnering with BRP, Garmin, GPS Trailmasters and TrackMaps on digital trail maps

Cindy mentioned VT will no longer have free weekend, will be replaced with a Ride for \$25 weekend the last weekend in January 27-29. This will help to capture all rider's information including signing the waiver and to help ensure rider's have insurance. Rider's select the club/area their riding and the \$25 fees will given back to the clubs to help with maintenance.

Mike is there a 911 refresh day? Ken said this is updated once annually prior to the season.

Club contact information is not automatically added to the 911 map, this would be left on the state database system and not for public view. Roger files by the name of the club to see what club maintains area or can look up the VAST name card system to search for full information. Roger is currently working on a Powerpoint presentation to dispatcher centers to show all the features on what's included and what the VAST map includes as far as safety features.

Gary found the language on his phone from Jenna Reed from last year and shows the verbiage and where to include information regarding carrying physical proof of insurance.

SSTP Trail Report, Matt Tetreault

Projects are being submitted and working on being completed.

Signs were start going up soon.

Grooming contracts going out soon.

No emergencies at the moment.

Preparing for the upcoming season.

Legislative Report

House Report, Brian Smith

A reminder this is an election year

Senate Report, Jane

Last year was busy with funding, \$4.3 billion appropriated in Federal money

1/3 of the senate is turning over

Annual funding for Southern VT Wilderness Search and Rescue

Governor is currently working on their budget. Jane suggested for Cindy to connect on a public hearing for funding requests.

Cindy suggested that the Task Force board put together a similar funding request as VAST did displaying their needs, what they've been spending money and exact reason for the request on funds to help prove need. VAST would support the agency as they can. Jane suggested a base increase request for a written request as ongoing funds. Argue for increases with cost of labor, fuel, materials, equipment and overall expenses. Jane recommended this is the right timing for a request. Paul has made notes to follow up on information and write-up with Mary Morce. Jane suggested CC: Sen. Sears as a helpful when submitting. Cindy welcomed her to be CC if Paul would like as additional support. Cindy also suggested sending to Dep. Chief of Staff, Brittnee Wilson

Legislation for L/E to Investigate/report Snowmobile accidents, Where do we begin?

N/A

Appointee Reports

Northwest, Star

Clubs in Chittenden have been meeting and starting to work on more projects. Meeting for this month coming up with more information to come.

Northeast, Mike/Ken

- Hosted VAST Annual Meeting in Island Pond, unable to attend but sounded like it was a successful event.
- NEK Heritage Lands meeting involving land managers and logging companies in the NEK and was a successful meeting.
- Throughout the Northeast on club debrushing and fundraising.

Central, Jeff

County meeting this past Monday, with lots of great information and things in works. Lots of projects are coming into VAST to help with projects and working on getting signage out, reviewing and prepping groomers for the upcoming season.

One concern on communication from the county meeting regarding Washington county. During the county meeting discussed on possible ideas on areas of coverage to help with more enhanced and productive coverage.

Cindy shared during the LE meeting that a reminder was shared that VAST does pay up to 50% of funding for existing agencies for sleds and trailers, as Bret with Washington County shared equipment is diminishing.

South, Dick Jewett

Windham county club trail closure to get the trail off the road and will be reallocated to the road. Meeting is tonight, looking for updates on this project. Getting ready for the upcoming season.

Next meeting Wednesday, November 2, 2022 at 3pm via Zoom.

Motion to Adjourn:

Dick Jewett moved to close the meeting at 3:58pm; Star Poulin seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Mandy Dwinell
VAST Office & Programs Manager