

**Board of Directors
February 28, 2022
Meeting Minutes – FINAL**

Members Present:

OFFICERS PRESENT

President: Vacated

Vice President: Jeff Fay

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: Damien Henry

Lamoille: Carmin Lemery

Orange: Juliann Sherman

Orleans: Roger Gosselin

Rutland: Curt Marechaux

Washington: Mark Reaves

Windham: Michael Garber

Windsor: Doug Jacobs

STAFF PRESENT:

Executive Director: Cindy Locke

Trails Administrator: Matt Tetreault

Trails Manager: Ken Brown

Technology & Media Manager: Beth Flint

Recording Sec'y: Cyndy Carrier Brown

Office & Programs Manager: Mandy Dwinell

GUESTS: Silver Linn, Ivor Stevens Alternate Director for Windham, Jeff Halpin Alternate Director for Washington, Stan Choiniere Alternate Director for Windsor County, Real Cyr, Ed Hebebrand Alternate Director for Caledonia County, Mike Mustacio President of Lunenburg Polar Bears

Vice President Jeff Fay called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

Jeff Fay opened the meeting by giving condolences for and memories of Tim Mills. Silver Linn (Tim's daughter) thanked VAST for our support during this very difficult time and thanked everyone for their love and friendship with her father.

Approval of Agenda

Rutland County moved to approve the agenda as presented, Addison County seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

Rutland County moved and Chittenden County second to add President Vacancy to the approved agenda, MOTION CARRIED.

Approval of Secretary's Report

Rutland County moved to approve the Secretary's Report as presented; Chittenden County seconded. MOTION CARRIED

Approval of Treasurer's Report

Patty Companik gave a report of the financials as of February 28, 2021.

Summary of Financial Report: General budget, Trails budget, Scholarship budget
January 2022 - 4 months - 33% of budget season

Income thru January 2022:

- Budget: \$3,310,443
- Monthly Activity: \$ 433,335 (394,168 from membership income)
- Income to date/season: \$2,750,252 (-560k to make budget income expectation)
- Overall income is at 83% of budgeted income expectations - compared to Jan 2021 we were at 78.37%

Expense thru January 2022:

- Budget: \$2,752,476
- Monthly Activity: 175,339 (89,634 in trails expenses of which 63k was grooming payments)
- Expenses to date/season: \$733,755
- Currently at 27% of budget expense expectations - compared to Jan 2021 we were at 23.56%

Chittenden County moved to approve the Treasurer's report as presented; Washington County seconded, to approve. MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

President's Vacancy

Cindy Locke provided an overview of the process for appointing a president when a vacancy occurs from VAST Bylaws and Policy until the next VAST Annual Meeting. Cindy Locke asked if someone is interested in the president's position. Jeff Fay said that he is interested. Jim Hill asked if someone was going to make a motion.

Washington County made the motion to appoint Jeff Fay as President of VAST; Rutland County seconded. MOTION CARRIED

Carmin Lemery inquired about the bylaw's interpretation regarding if the president is a member of each committee (voting rights) or ex-officio of VAST committees? Cindy Locke stated that the president is not allowed to chair committees as per our bylaws.

Jeff Fay said that he has already contacted two people to take over chair positions: Mark Reaves: Policy & Bylaws, Juliann Sherman: Personnel. The Trails Committee will be vacant until assigned by Jeff or Cindy. Jeff will reach out by the end of this week to fill this position. Carmin Lemery mentioned that she may have a recommendation. The Vice President position now is vacant. Mark Reaves offered himself for this position.

Orleans County moved to approve Mark Reaves for Vice President; Rutland County seconded. MOTION CARRIED

Jeff Halpin was Alternant Director and is now the new Director for Washington County.

AORRG Increase the LOC

The LOC is now \$1,250,000 for the original \$1,000,000 as requested by Vermont regulators. The breakdown of where those funds will be coming from is below.

- From Checking Account: \$850,000
- From Emergency Reserve Fund: \$300,000
- From Disaster Relief Reserve Fund: \$100,000
- From RRG Reserve Fund: \$50,000

Rutland County made the motion to increase the LOC to \$1,250,000; Chittenden County seconded. MOTION CARRIED

Administration Request

Cindy reminded the board of the request to the Governor for \$1M for equipment grants and \$50,000 for law enforcement. Frank Stanley is overseeing the process in the legislature. The crossover was last Friday and the Misc. DMV bill was moving from the House to the Senate. We should expect payment in the summertime.

Questions arose about what the equipment monies could be used for. Cindy stated that it would be up to the VAST Board, but that it could only be used for our equipment grant and aid programs that include new equipment or fixing old equipment.

Taiga Event (Electronic Snowmobiles)

This company is based out of Quebec, Canada. They had originally planned to launch their event in Lake Tahoe, after talking with Cindy about VAST and Vermont trails they moved the event to Stowe and will be arriving 3/1/22.

We are looking forward to this event which will be bringing media from all over the US over the course of 5 days. This is a great way to showcase snowmobiling in VT and our commitment to green initiatives.

Committee and Other Meeting Reports

Northeast Chapter and USA - Pat Poulin

VT Snow Trails Conservancy – Jim Hill, VSTC President

- No update

Awards/Rec Committee Updates – Patty Companik, Chair

- March 1 - deadline for scholarship applications
- May 1 - deadline for award nominations

Law Enforcement Committee – Gary Nolan, Chair

- No update

Lamoille Valley Rail Trail Committee – Ken Brown

- No update

By-Laws & Policy, Jeff Fay, Chair

- Jeff is working on connecting with an alternate person for the position.

Annual Meeting, John Hull

- Plans are moving along. Tents are rented out, Catering organized. Working with clubs to take on a role for the meeting

Finance - Patty Companik

- No update

Long Range Planning & Organizational – Mark Reaves, Chair

- No Update

Resource Committee – Ivor Stevens

- Going to meet with the Trails Committee 3/21 to review resource meeting. Working on preparing a slideshow after to present to board for our next meeting

Personnel – Jeff Fay

- Jeff Fay asked Juliann Sherman to Chair the position, Juliann accepted.

Trails – Jeff Fay

- Next meeting is 3/21.

Safety Committee – Stan Choiniere

- Seems to be an increase in cars & trucks on the trails. Working on signage.

Governor's Council – Pat Poulin

- The 3/1 meeting is postponed to 3/9.
- We had 1,011 safety courses completed, which is down from last year.
- Hopefully can return to in-person next year more frequently.
- Mark Reaves stated that he had difficulty with securing the location for classes in his area because of COVID protocols and limitations with schools.
- Curt stated that there is more value to the course and conversation when holding an in-person course.

Rutland County made the motion to adjourn; Grand Isle seconded. MOTION CARRIED. At 7:02PM

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Hill, Secretary