

THE VERMONT ASSOCIATION OF SNOW TRAVELERS, INC.

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Dedicated in Memory of

Tim Mills

1963-2022



55th Annual Meeting

Hosted By Essex County Snowmobile Clubs

Saturday, September 10, 2022 - Island Pond, Vt.

Remembering VAST PRESIDENT TIM MILLS

By Cindy Locke, VAST Executive Director

Tim Mills brought to this organization a drive to see VAST become a better and unified association. His approach was always one of strength, kindness, and integrity. He truly impacted all who knew him and this organization.

Tim and I would spend countless hours on the phone over the years talking about VAST. When Tim was voted into the position of president and I was new to VAST as well, VAST had already spent a few years in turmoil. It had gone through many leadership changes on the board of directors and a couple of changes in organizational leadership within VAST staff. Consequentially, there were divides and mistrust within the board and within the staff. Tim and I vowed to work together to heal the divides and be open and clear with all decisions and paths to reach goals to help build that trust back. It was important to us and many others that VAST right the wrongs and heal the wounds so we could continue to have an amazing and strong association.

One way Tim did this was to have time outside of monthly board meetings to bring board members together to find common ground. Over time it worked. Board members began to communicate more, share ideas and actually bond. I remember watching a board member that had left during my first year at VAST come back a few years later to attend a board meeting. I watched his face as he experienced the VAST board of directors arriving to the meeting and he got to experience what had changed as the minutes were filled with handshakes, laughing and catching up. This all happened before the seriousness of the actual meeting started.

There are countless more stories I



can tell you. I know there are many of you that can tell your own too. I will always be grateful to Tim for stepping up when VAST really needed him. He should be remembered for being the great leader he was and the dedicated volunteer he was for this association. Tim truly was bigger than life with the heart of a lion and the compassion of true hero. He will be missed by so many of us, his VAST family. We stand with his family in their grief and hope memories of Tim will bring peace and smiles in the future.

Obituary

Timothy Paul Mills Jr., 58, of Bethel, VT passed away Monday evening, February 21, 2022, at UVM Medical Center in Burlington, VT with his family by his side. Tim was born August 17, 1963, to Timothy P. Mills Sr. and Anna Leclerc in Lancaster, NH. Tim was raised in Groveton, NH then later moved to Monroe, NH. Tim attended

the Saint Johnsbury Academy before starting his working career. Tim began his career in Waste Water in Plainfield, VT. He worked at the treatment plant and drove a school bus part-time.

Tim eventually moved to Barre, VT. This is where Tim met his life long partner Angel Emmons. Tim and Angel worked together at the Tower Restaurant in Barre, VT. Tim started work at the Town of Randolph at the Waste Water Treatment plant, where he worked for a short time. In 1987, Tim started work for the Town of Bethel at the Waste Water Treatment plant. From 1992 to 2002, Tim also worked for Vermont Castings.

Tim worked for the Town of Bethel for 35 years. Tim started for the town while the Waste Water Treatment plant was being built. Tim was the Chief Waste Water Operator and eventually promoted to Utility Director. Tim received many awards and recognition for his work and dedication. In 2011, he was awarded the Green Mountain Environmental Excellence award. In 2016, Tim was also awarded Waste Water Operator of the year. This is a very unique award in that Tim was nominated by someone from the State of Vermont. This is very rare and shows just how deserving Tim was of this award. In 2020, Tim received the GMWEA's Michael J. Garofano Water Operator of the year award. Yet another prestigious award for his hard work. Tim also volunteered for several Town Committees including the Class 4 Road Committee, the Safety Committee, and the Emergency Planning Committee.

Tim was an avid member of the Vermont Association of Snowmobile Travelers (VAST). From the mid-1990s until 2018, Tim was the Trailmaster.



Where he eventually became Vice President of The White River Valley Ramblers. During this time, he was also the Trailmaster for Orange County. From 2007-2009, Tim was the Vice-Chair of the Trails Committee with Doug Wilson. Tim became the VAST Vice President in 2015. Tim then became the VAST President in 2016, where he continued to hold that position. Tim was awarded multiple awards for his hard work and dedication to VAST. He received: 2007 Trails Coordinator of the Year, 2012 Executive Director's Award of Excellence, 2014 Trail Administrator Award, 2016 Award of Excellence, and 2019 Officer of the year.



"TIM-ISMS"

By Matt Tetreault, VAST Trails Administrator

"We have two ears and one mouth so there is more going in than coming out."

This is a good lesson on listening and learning instead of always talking. If you can obtain someone else's knowledge by listening, you then have your knowledge plus their knowledge and are way ahead of the game. If you are talking all the time, you are giving away your knowledge and aren't absorbing others. Yeah, I am one to say this huh!

"When you're standing around a puddle and someone jumps in, everyone gets wet."

I tell this to my kids all the time and it is now a running joke with them. As they grow older in life they are beginning to understand this Timism however as they see friends and even themselves getting dragged into drama and other middle school things as a result of others jumping into that puddle while they are only standing around it. Get away from the puddle kids and surround yourself with dry ground!

I was fortunate to share a lot with Tim, work related and personal. He was a good friend, like an older brother



to me. We could talk about anything, and he usually had some experience with what we were talking about and could offer some brotherly like advice to whatever the situation was. He was practical, to the point, and wise in his ways and calculated in every move that he made, whether you knew it at the time or not. I rarely ever saw him get upset about anything, and he genuinely cared about how you were doing when you spoke to him. He was an asset to VAST and life in general that will be sorely missed for reasons we don't even realize yet! Tim had a sophisticated and soft side, but also a redneck side you didn't want to mess with. Which side you got was up to your own attitude at initial contact!

I have a great story about Tim. We were on a trails committee ride in Tim's neck of the woods around 2010 I would say. We rode all day on great trails with Tim as the leader. Throughout the day, Tim was around with his camera phone snapping photos of the group here and there. Keep in mind that the trails committee at this time was all male. No one thought much about it...

until the next day when he emailed the group a series of photos with each of us at some point throughout the day relieving ourselves in the bushes along the ride. The photos were tastefully taken from the back of course, but it was obvious from "the stance" what each of us were doing. Talk about hilarious, a series of photos of approximately 20 grown men peeing in the bushes in various locations around the state. This was Tim's sense of humor, quietly snapping photos throughout the day without a word until that email hit our inboxes!

Hoping that Tim is in a place where he has all he wants to eat and drink, one hell of a garden, great hunting adventures to enjoy and some time to be Tim. If anyone wants to listen to the song "Give Heaven Some Hell," by Hardy. I feel that some of the content of this song sums Tim up pretty well. We'll all see you when we get there, my friend. Until then, keep our spots warm and waiting for us, and if you have a chance, give it some hell for me!

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VAST DIRECTORS & OFFICERS

FY 2021 Officers * *Interim Officers*

President – Tim Mills (**Jeff Fay*)

Vice President - Jeff Fay (**Mark Reaves*)

Treasurer – Patricia Companik

Secretary – Jim Hill

Board of Directors

Addison County – Lewis Barnes

Bennington County – Carol DeJohn

Caledonia County – Bruce Carlson

Chittenden County – Pat Poulin

Essex County – John Hull

Franklin County – Michael Burns

Grand Isle County – Damien Henry

Lamoille County – Carmin Lemery

Orange County – Juliann Sherman

Orleans County – Roger Gosselin

Rutland County – Curt Marechaux

Washington County – Jeff Halpin

Windham County – Michael Garber

Windsor County – Doug Jacobs

COUNTY TRAIL COORDINATORS

Addison County – Mike Paquette

Bennington County – Scott Daniels

Caledonia County – Michael Dante

Chittenden County – Dieter Mulac

Essex County – Reginald Bunnell

Franklin County – Real Cyr

Grand Isle County – Damien Henry

Lamoille County – Terry Carpenter

Orange County – Mike Mann

Orleans County – Raymond Rodrigue

Rutland County – Tim Park

Washington County – Jeff Halpin

Windham County – Ivor Stevens

Windsor County – Barry Messer

PAST PRESIDENTS

Wayne Flynn 1967-1969

John Hall 1969-1971

William Oakes 1971-1973

Norman Hayes 1973-1975

Darwin Rogers 1975-1977

Mark Hutchins 1977-1979

Patricia Rogers 1979-1982

Donald Denko 1982-1985

William Oakes 1985-1987

Dexter Willson 1987-1989

Donald Finick 1989-1992

Bryant M. Watson 1992-1994

Fred Putnam, Jr. 1994-2001

Ron Bartemy 2001-2003

Ann Shangraw 2003-2007

Pat Poulin 2007-2009

Jim Hill 2009-2013

Joe Cicia 2013-2015

Tim Mills 2015-2021

VAST STAFF

Executive Director – Cindy Locke

Trails Administrator – Matt Tetreault

Technology & Media Manager – Beth Flint

Finance and HR Manager – Sheila Fenoff-Willett

Trails Manager & LVRT Project Manager – Ken Brown

Office and Programs Manager – Mandy Dwinell

55th ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Saturday, September 10, 2022 | Island Pond, VT

AGENDA

10 am to 12 pm - Delegate Registration

10 am to 1 pm - Vendor Display

10:30 am to 1 pm - Pre-Meeting Open Session

11:30 am to 1 pm - Lunch (Tickets sold 10 am - 1 pm)

1 pm - Awards Ceremony and Annual Meeting begin

2021 54th VAST Annual Meeting Minutes

The 2021 VAST Annual Meeting was held at Farr's Field in Waterbury, Vermont, with Covid pandemic social distancing and masking norms observed, including some attendees participating from their cars via FM broadcast. President Tim Mills welcomed everyone and introduced the Professional Firefighters of Vermont Color Guard to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Acknowledgment of Special Guests

On behalf of the assembly, Tim Mills welcomed and thanked past Presidents, Lifetime Members, Volunteers and Landowners.

Awards

Patty Companik, Chair of the Awards Committee, announced scholarship winners and recipients of this year's VAST awards and read their write-ups. Write-ups for each awardee will also be included in the Snowmobiling Vermont magazine.

Tim Mills officially called the meeting to order at 12:47 PM. Documentation for all motions considered at this meeting was included in the Annual Report distributed to attendees.

Secretary Jim Hill presented the tally of delegates: Caledonia, 7; Chittenden, 8; Essex 8; Franklin 6; Grand Isle 3; Lamoille 7; Orange 8; Orleans 7; Rutland, 11; Washington, 9; Windham, 5; Windsor, 16 for a total of 95 delegates.

Agenda Approval

MOTION: Lewis Barnes moved and Stan Chioniere seconded that the agenda for the 2021 Annual meeting be approved. Motion carried.

MOTION: Ed Hebebrand moved and Linwood Mixer seconded that the minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting be approved. Motion carried.

President's Report

MOTION: Lewis Barnes moved and Ed Hebebrand seconded that the President's Report be approved. Motion carried.

Executive Director's Report

MOTION: Curt Marechaux moved and Stan Chioniere seconded approval of the Executive Director's Report. Motion carried.

VAST Committee Reports

MOTION: Ed Hebebrand moved and Yvonne Rice seconded approval of the Committee Reports as printed in the Annual Report. Motion carried.

VAST Trails Administrator Report

MOTION: Lewis Barnes moved and Larry Dwyer seconded approval of the Trails Administrator Report. Motion carried.

Proposed Bylaws Changes

Jeff Fay presented the few recommended changes to the Bylaws as printed on page 17 of the annual report.

MOTION: Ed Hebebrand moved and Larry Trottier seconded that the Bylaws revision be accepted as presented. Motion Carried.

Treasurer's Report

As of August 2021 we were 11 months into the budget utilized or we are at 92% of the budget season

2021 54th VAST Annual Meeting Minutes

Membership - finished the season at almost 114% of expected membership income, or \$96,783 above budget expectation

Income through August 2021:

Budget: \$3,255,180

Monthly Activity: \$183,959 - big jump - putting us in the positive regarding income expectations for the season! - 165k GMNF (Green Mtn Ntl Forest) construction grants (get back what we pay out for the projects) and RTP (Recreational Trails program) grooming grants

Actual: \$3,341,308

\$86,128 exceeding budget income expectation or we are standing at 103% of expected income for the budget year

Expense through August 2021:

Budget: \$2,816,998

Monthly Activity: \$71,225 -

Actual: \$2,315,953

\$572,272 of expense budget remains or at 82% of expense budget has been utilized

MOTION: Lewis Barnes moved and Yvonne Rice seconded approval of the Treasurer's report as presented. After thanks to Sonia for a wonderful job as Treasurer, motion passed.

Annual Auditor's Report

MOTION: Ed Hebebrand moved and Mark Ellingwood seconded approval of the auditor's report published in the Annual Report. Motion carried.

2022 Budgets

Cindy Locke presented the proposed VAST General Fund, Trails, and Scholarship budgets for FY 2022, beginning on page 13 of the Annual Report, and highlighted changes from last year's budget. The budget is based on 2018 TMA income since that was a "normal" snow year for VAST and all budgets since 2018 have been based on 2018 TMA income. Cindy also mentioned that because

of the insurance and formation of a new risk retention group (RRG), folks should expect the line item in the trails budget for insurance to go over this year, due to the fact that we still had to buy our regular insurance policy while building the RRG.

MOTION: Larry Trottier moved and Curt Marechaux seconded approval of the FY 2022 VAST budgets as presented and reviewed. Motion carried unanimously.

Elections

Pat Poulin was invited to the podium to preside over the elections for the Board of Directors and slate of officers. At least one nomination for each position having been submitted prior to the meeting, he called for nominations from the floor three times for each of the four officer positions: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

MOTION: Mark Ellingwood moved and Larry Trottier seconded that nominations for the office of President be closed. Motion carried.

MOTION: Larry Dwyer moved and Ed Hebebrand seconded that nominations for the office of Vice President be closed. Motion carried.

MOTION: Mark Ellingwood moved and Larry Trottier seconded that nominations for the office of secretary be closed. Motion carried.

MOTION: Yvonne Rice moved and Greg Riveiro seconded that nominations for the office of Treasurer be closed. Motion carried.

MOTION: Yvonne Rice moved and Larry Dwyer seconded that the Secretary cast one ballot to approve the slate of officers as nominated: Tim Mills, President, Jeff Fay, Vice President, Jim Hill, Secretary, Patty Companik, Treasurer
Motion carried.

MOTION: Linwood Mixer moved and Curt Marechaux seconded adjournment of the 2020 Annual Meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:19 PM.

VAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Submitted by Jeff Fay

The dedication of this year's annual meeting book is in honor of VAST President Tim Mills as a small tribute to all that he has given to the snowmobile community across the state. Tim was an active volunteer at the local and county level before stepping up to the VAST officer positions of vice president and president. He was a strong leader at a time when VAST was struggling and a major support avenue for Executive Director Cindy Locke, the office staff, and the Board of Directors. Personally, Tim taught me to listen better to all sides of a situation and how to compromise. We didn't always agree, but we respected the other's opinion, often agreeing to disagree. Tim's passing was a devastating loss to his family, friends, and VAST.

A review of the season starts back in the fall when area powersports shows were held. VAST volunteers covered shows in New York, New Hampshire, Maine, and Massachusetts. These were the first shows since the pandemic, and all shows were well attended, allowing great interaction with our members and potential members. Early season weather again played havoc with trail grooming with rain and warm weather mixed in among snowstorms, causing variable conditions depending on the area and elevation. TMA sales were strong despite the strange weather, showing a slight gain over last year's numbers. This season also saw the return of club fundraisers and gatherings with the reduced COVID restrictions. As an overall season, it wasn't great, but it wasn't terrible either. A seven out of ten maybe? As always, club volunteers did the best they could with the hand dealt by Mother Nature.

VAST was able to finally host the Northeast Chapter of the ISC ride and meeting in February that was canceled the two previous years. This event was in Island Pond and brought together association representatives and guests from Vermont, Maine, New York, New Hampshire, and New Brunswick for a couple of days of

networking and riding. It was a terrific opportunity to share information and common issues including off-trail riding (trespass), landowner relations, the rising cost of grooming, and shorter seasons.

There has been extensive work put into sifting through the data collected by the Resource Committee. A working group has been drafting a proposal for revising the grooming contracts, taking into consideration actual miles groomed, using the highest mileage over the last six years. The intent is to balance the mileage that is actually used in the contracts, to where the grooming is taking place. A grooming rate increase is part of this proposal as is a larger startup payment at the beginning of the season. It is anticipated that this plan will be able to be implemented this fall after Trails Committee and BOD approval.

As spring and summer have progressed, so has the work on the LVRT with the state predicting a completion date of this fall. Several contractors are working on different areas of the remaining sixty miles of trail, with bridge work being a major part of that work. Hopefully, the weather and materials will continue to be favorable for reaching the end of this project.

In closing, I would like to extend a pre-season thank you to all the clubs for their ongoing efforts to provide our membership with the best riding experience in the northeast. Now, if Mother Nature will cooperate a little better, we'll be in great shape for an outstanding season.



VAST VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Submitted by Mark Reaves

It's been a very busy and eventful year for VAST, filled with highs and lows. The tragic, unexpected passing of VAST President Tim Mills, an uneven season, the inclusion of money in the state budget for equipment grants and the creation of VAST's own insurance company are just a few of the events that the 2021/22 season will be remembered for. Through it all there has been one thing that has truly stood out to me, the dedication, perseverance and hard work of our

members and employees. It takes a lot to make an organization as large and complex as VAST function. From the volunteers who stake trails in the fall, to the landowner who enjoys sharing the use of their property with their neighbors, to the staff in the office who answer calls, solve problems and lobby on our behalf, each one of you is vital in keeping VAST going. For all that you do, I thank you and I hope to see you on the trail this winter!

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Submitted by Cindy Locke

Dear VAST Members:

We had a pretty busy year as usual. Even when we don't get a ton of snow, the VAST office is always busy, and this year was no different. No matter what, our main goal is to provide the best snowmobile experience for our members and Vermont visitors. What we do as a staff of six though is a drop in the bucket compared to the work our thousands of volunteers do who are our boots on the ground. I never feel like I say it enough, so I will never stop saying it, "THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!!!"

Of course, I also will continue to thank our landowners, private and public for allowing us to use your lands to recreate on. I hope that someday the State of Vermont

Legislature will really grasp the need to thank you all more for what you provide to not just VAST but also to others that use your land for recreation, fishing and hunting. Having indemnification from litigation is just not enough. This is a subject I bring up often when in the Vermont Statehouse. If you would like to provide me a support letter as a Vermont landowner, I will definitely add it to my briefcase of reasons and support of why you should receive more.

This year, Vermont Governor Phil Scott, proposed in his budget \$1,000,050 to come to VAST for club equipment and law enforcement. It is important to thank Phil for his help and support! While I spent a lot of time in the Statehouse going to committee rooms to defend the funding and explain the need, it got dicey near the end, but thank you to Senate Transportation, House Transportation and Senate Appropriations, we were able to secure \$800,000 in the end.

During the past year VAST formed a new company, the American Outdoors Risk Retention Group (AORRG). AORRG is an insurance company that now allows VAST to be "self-insured." While it is a separate LLC, the VAST Board of Directors (BOD) voted on who to make up the BOD of the AORRG and all are VAST BOD members currently. Also, VAST funded the organization by reserving the money needed to hold a 1.25 million dollar trails liability policy and a 1 million dollar directors' and officers' policy (covering VAST and VAST clubs). The best news about having our own company is we now have the ability to hire our own team of professional attorneys specializing in snowmobiling and also decide for ourselves if and when we wish to settle a case and for how much.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT *(continued)*

Lastly and most importantly, we lost our VAST President Tim Mills to COVID-19 in January. Tim along with Fred Putnam Jr (1994-2001) was President of VAST for seven years. Tim is the first president to pass away while still in office. Personally, he ended up being a friend and was a great mentor and leader. I knew I could always count on him to be supportive and loyal to VAST, and he sure was. I will always miss Tim and I say a prayer for his family every day. Sometime this fall we will be installing a granite bench at VAST in Tim's honor. It will be on a Saturday or Sunday, and I will for sure let folks know in case you would like to come to the dedication.

If you have any questions about this report, please feel free to reach out to me. I am always happy to talk to members interested in learning more about how VAST operates and to answer any questions. Please check out the other articles in this report to get more information about our work in FY2022.

Again, thank you for your support, and to those of you who have the time to volunteer and do so for your clubs, county and VAST, THANK YOU!



LAW ENFORCEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by Gary Nolan, Chair

This year was rather quiet due to low snow near the end of the season. It was also a tough year for some law enforcement agencies because of low staffing levels. On the other hand both Vermont State Police and Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife have been growing their staff. In the fall we had a meeting with agencies about a new web link into the back end of our database that law enforcement (in real time) can look up members when they are stopped to perform a safety check. At this meeting we were also able to speak about the importance of ticketing snowmobilers that have violations, especially for not being legal to ride on VAST

trails and for trespassing and off trail riding. We will be holding another of these meetings in the fall of 2022.

Because of the additional \$50,000 given to VAST to help with law enforcement we are also looking at how we can continue to grow our program. With the State of Vermont finishing the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail this fall, we know additional traffic will be on this trail as it will open connections currently closed. We want to make sure folks are following speed limits, especially when close to town centers.

VERMONT SNOW TRAILS CONSERVANCY REPORT

Submitted by Patrick Poulin, Secretary

The VSTC did not meet during the 2021/22 season. No items are currently under review.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the trustees of the VSTC for their time and efforts over the past year.

Jim Hill – President
Cindy Locke – Vice President
Mark Ellingwood – Treasurer
Stan Choinere – Trustee
Frank Stanley – Trustee
Greg Rouleau - Trustee

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by Mark Reaves, Chair

This year has been a busy one for the Long-Range Planning Committee. The VAST majority of our time (see what I did there?) has been spent working on the formation and licensing of the American Outdoors Risk Retention Group (AORRG). After years of drastically increasing premium rates and a dwindling number of providers in the market, the LRPC began investigating alternatives to traditional insurance policies to protect VAST from the instability of the liability insurance markets. The LRPC's research led to the conclusion that a Risk Retention Group, a type of Captive or Self-insurance would be the best alternative. In the autumn of 2021, the BOD gave the LRPC approval to move forward with this plan.

Since receiving approval to move forward, the LRPC has gone through an extensive process that involved creating an entirely new entity and navigating the complicated State licensure process. I can guarantee that when our committee members decided to volunteer for VAST, they

did not expect that to mean they would need to become liability insurance experts! Like all our members though, they did not let this deter them. After hours of meetings, seemingly hundreds of signatures and a couple of tough interview sessions with State regulators, AORRG received its license to operate on July 1, 2022. AORRG will begin covering VAST's liability insurance requirements as of September 1, 2022. This project could not have gotten this far without a lot of hard work being put in by the LRPC committee members. A huge thank you goes out to Patty Companik, Jeff Fay, Jim Hill, Pat Poulin and of course VAST Executive Director Cindy Locke.

The LRPC is dedicated to the long-term stability of VAST. All of our discussions and proposals are guided by these principles: Ensuring our member clubs have the support they need to build and maintain their trail systems to the highest possible standards and ensuring the VAST organization remains financially stable during periods of fluctuating revenue.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by Patricia Companik, Treasurer

Thank you all for your continued support of the sport of snowmobiling in the State of Vermont.

This Finance Committee report is based on projections on how we will finish the fiscal year. This report is done several months before the fiscal year ends in order for it to be included in the annual report, numbers are fluid.

Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST) is funded primarily by TMA sales, but also receives revenue from Vermont snowmobile registrations, a portion of the Vermont Gas Tax, some federal and state grants and sled fines/penalties. The cost of the TMA supports several budgets; approximately 28% goes to Operating/General Fund, 72% for the Trails Fund and less than 1% for the Scholarship Fund.

This year our total paid Trail Maintenance Assessments (TMAs) exceeded our budget expectation. Early Bird in Vermont and Out of State was \$112,800 more than our budget expectation. Family (which is only sold during the Early Bird time period) was \$33,506 more than our budget expectation. Regular Season in Vermont and Out of State was \$136,336 more than our budget expectation. Three Day passes were down by \$7,904. Overall, membership revenue (all type of TMA sales) was up a little over \$289k or about 112% of expected budget.

The Trails Fund income budget was projected to be \$2,297,085. The actual income as of June 2022 is \$2,143,452 (less than expected at this time due to some State Grant money not reflected in budget yet). The expense portion of the Trails Budget for 2022 was set at \$1,738,476 and expenses are projected to end around \$1,093,110. Grooming expenses were down approximately \$450k, primarily due to lack of snow. The difference is positive revenue of approximately \$600k. This number includes the \$5 per TMA increase voted on by the membership in 2019 (FY22 sold 20,834 TMAs \$5 each = \$104,170) combined with the historical movement of \$450,000 (total of \$554,170) which will move into the Trails Budget for the following years trail projects once the FY23 is approved and the fiscal year ends.

In addition to the 72% of the TMA revenue going to the Trails Fund. The fund receives additional revenue from the State of Vermont (formulas associated with VT sled registration, gas tax, and fines/penalties) of approximately \$800,000 expected for FY22. The State of Vermont funding has very specific guidelines on how the money can be utilized. This budget is managed by

the Governor's Council in the Statewide Snowmobile Trails Program budget (SSTP). Approximately 21% of the revenue received from the state is utilized for trails administrative support and the remainder of the state funding is utilized for the following: law enforcement, equipment, safety, plowing and good portion of it for liability and volunteer Insurance.

Regarding the FY23 budget, there are small increases and decreases throughout which are mostly due to actual dollars received or spent in FY22. The FY23 budget overall is slightly higher than the FY22 budget. The Trails Fund reflects approximately \$250k higher income and \$190k additional expenses and the General Fund reflects approximately \$59k higher income and \$48k additional expenses. The proposed budget is shared with the Board of Directors so they can review with their county clubs and the BOD also votes on it in advance of the overall membership vote (which occurs at Annual Meeting).

We should end the 2022 budget year with a surplus. The VAST Board of Directors will vote on where to allocate any surplus funds in September.



PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by Juliann Sherman, Chair

The Personnel Committee is responsible for the process and implementation of the VAST Executive Director's annual performance review. This annual review is an opportunity for the Board of Directors and members of their counties to reflect on the directors performance

through the year, and to provide constructive and/or complementary feedback on that performance.

The Personnel Committee also provides assistance to staff policies as needed.

NOMINATING, SCHOLARSHIP & RECOGNITION COMMITTEE

Submitted by Patty Companik, Chair

"Whether you're the type of person who craves a lot of social interaction or whether you prefer as little as possible, volunteering has social, career and personal benefits." For those who are retired, working, living in VT or in a neighboring state, volunteering provides mental stimulation, the opportunity to connect within the VAST community at your Club, County and/or Association level, and socialization with others who have a common interest. Many of us who volunteer have made lifelong friends during the process.

People use volunteering as a way to pursue their hobbies while making a difference. Volunteering may provide you with a renewed sense of creativity and motivation that carries over into your personal and professional life.

As a committee, we have the privilege of reading about the amazing volunteers and their many contributions from the nominations we receive. Anyone can send in a nomination, anytime of the year. The more detail provided in the nomination, the better the review and conversation the committee has when finalizing the award recipients.

The committee members are as follows: Amber Stevens, Dick Jewett, and Curt Marechaux. The following VAST employees and VAST officers also participate in the review

and selection process: Cindy Locke, Matt Tetreault, Jeff Fay and Mandy Dwinell.

In addition to the awards portion of this committee, we review and select two scholarship recipients from the applications we receive. We utilize a scoring process which we do independently, and then we total, average and rank the final scores.

Both of our scholarship recipients plan on attending the same school this fall; Vermont Technical College.

Dustin Beloin is from Troy, Vt. and is a member of Country Riders Snowmobile Club of Orleans county. He plans to attend Vermont Technical College and study in the Automotive Technology (AAS) program.

Nicole Fullerton is from So. Woodstock, Vt. and is a member of the Long Hill Snowmobile Club of Windsor county. She plans to attend Vermont Technical College to study Business Technology and Management (AAS) program.

The committee also oversees the nomination of VAST Officers. The following officers are seeking election: Jeff Fay (President), Mark Reaves (Vice President), Jim Hill (Secretary), and Patty Companik (Treasurer).



GOVERNOR'S SNOWMOBILE COUNCIL

Submitted by Patrick Poulin, Chair

The Governors Snowmobile Advisory Council meets on the first Wednesday of the month from September to June. Established by Statute 23V.S.A. and 3216. This council shall review, advise and consent on the development of the annual plan for the expenditure of funds for the statewide snowmobile trails program and the environmental and community impacts, development of snowmobile trails, and ways to encourage snowmobile traffic in those communities that seek more traffic and control the growth in municipalities that desire less traffic, adequacy of parking areas, carrying capacity of trails, state laws and rules affecting snowmobilers and promoting snowmobiling in this state.

Members of the council are:

- (A) The President or designee of VAST;
- (B) The Secretary of Natural Resources or designee;
- (C) The Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife or designee;
- (D) The Commissioner of Public Safety or designee;
- (E) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles or designee;
- (F) The Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation or designee;
- (G) The President of the Vermont Sheriffs' Association or designee;
- (H) The President of the Vermont Chiefs of Police Association or designee;
- (I) Five members appointed by the Governor to represent geographic regions of the State;
- (J) One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House; (K) One member of the Senate appointed by the Committee on Committees.

The Chair shall be appointed by the Governor.

The council meets monthly from September to June to review the current spending levels of the SSTP Budget as well as registration numbers, TMA numbers, and safety class numbers. Each of the VAST Law Enforcement partners reports on current issues and levels of enforcement. Any legislative issues that might impact

snowmobiling are reviewed as well as a report from the Southern Vermont Search and Rescue Team. The council is updated on the status of the LVRT monthly as well as other ongoing items from VAST. Representatives from the geographic regions of the state report on items from their regions that are ongoing or that may have an impact on the sport.

Items that the council reviewed/supported this past season were:

Monitor Snowmobile Safety Education Program

Monitor Snowmobile Law Enforcement efforts

DVM reported 21,576 snowmobile registrations this year vs. 21,496 last year.

Trail Safety: New signing available to clubs for next season on Speed and Alcohol.

Off Trail Riding (Law Enforcement focus continues)

Review and approved FY2023 SSTP Budget

Thank you to the following VAST Volunteers from the geographical areas:

Northeast: Ken Gammel/Mike Mustachio

Northwest: Star Poulin

Central: Jeff Halpin

South: Dick Jewett

VAST Law Enforcement/Multi-use Trails: Gary Nolan



BYLAWS COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by Mark Reaves, Chair

The committee met in July to review the by-laws. Although there are no major changes recommended, there are several some minor revisions that have been proposed to align the by-laws with statutory language, reflect current

practice. These will be presented at annual meeting for membership consideration and adoption. Bold text in the document below are additions. Language to be removed is shown with a strike-through line.

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES

VERMONT ASSOCIATION OF SNOW TRAVELERS, INC.

VAST By-Laws – Proposed Changes

ARTICLE I. NAME AND OBJECTIVES

Section 3

Definition of "Snowmobile" - A self-propelled vehicle intended for off-road travel primarily on snow, having a curb weight of not more than 793.783 kg (1,750 lb.); driven by track or tracks in contact with the snow; and steered by a ski or skis in contact with the snow. Maximum width shall be no more than 48 inches. **An all-terrain vehicle converted to operate with tracks shall not be considered to be a snowmobile.**

Shall also meet the requirements listed in Vermont State Statute Title 23; Chapter 29; Subchapter 001; Section 3205.

ARTICLE II. ORGANIZATION

Section 4

- a) Club, hereinafter shall mean a Vermont Snowmobile Club officially affiliated with the County Snowmobile Club.
- b) An existing Club shall maintain a minimum of ten (10) members. A minimum of twenty (20) members shall be needed to establish a new club or reinstate a club with full privileges.
- c) It is required that at least one club officer be a Vermont resident. VAST employees shall not hold any club office or serve as a club director.
- d) VAST affiliated snowmobile clubs shall not offer snowmobiles for lease or rent or for any other for profit or commercial purpose.

Section 5 Right to ~~Audit~~ **Review**

All Clubs shall establish and maintain a reasonable accounting system that enables them to readily identify assets, expenses, and track use of funds. VAST's chosen auditing firm or CPA shall have the right to **audit review**, to examine, and to make copies of or extracts from all financial and related records (in whatever form they may be kept, whether written, electronic, or other). Such records shall include, but not be limited to, accounting records, written policies and procedures; all paid vouchers including those for out-of-pocket expenses; other reimbursement supported by invoices; ledgers; cancelled checks; deposit slips; bank statements; journals; and supporting documentation; (payroll documents and timesheets as applicable).

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES(continued)

The Club shall as requested by VAST, at Club's own expense make such records available for inspection and ~~audit review~~ (including copies and extracts of records as required) by an auditing firm or CPA selected by VAST. Such records shall be made available *in accordance to VAST policy*.

Costs of any ~~audit reviews~~ conducted under the authority of this right to ~~audit review~~ and not addressed elsewhere will be borne by VAST. If the audit identifies substantive findings related to fraud, misrepresentation, or non-compliance to VAST ~~audit review~~ policy, VAST may recoup the costs of the ~~audit review~~ work from the Club. Any adjustments and/or payments that must be made as a result of any such audit or inspection of the Club's invoices and/or records shall be made within a reasonable amount of time (not to exceed 90 days) from presentation of findings to the Club.

ARTICLE III. Trails Maintenance Assessment (TMA)/DUES

Section 1

Every snowmobile operating on the SSTS shall have a valid TMA as required by Vermont law. TMAs shall be available ~~through local VAST affiliated snowmobile clubs or their agents using~~ the VAST website and complying with all requested signature confirmations. Local club/county dues shall be included in the cost of each TMA.

~~Certain categories of TMAs may also be purchased directly on-line through the VAST website where a~~ A portion of the total purchase price will be returned to clubs for membership dues. This portion will be determined on an annual basis and be approved by the Board of Directors in conjunction with the Fiscal Year Budget.

Special category TMAs ~~(including but not limited to Commercial, Dealer, Antique, and Active Duty Military)~~ shall may only be available through the VAST office. Dues will be added to the cost of these TMAs and forwarded to the applicable club.

Section 2

The Board of Directors shall set annual TMA fees/dues for this Association. They shall be based upon a budget approved by the membership, voted on at the Annual Meeting and approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the delegates present.

(b) **Complimentary TMA** - At the discretion of the Executive Director and/or the Board of Directors a complimentary, limited duration, TMA(s) may be issued to visitors to facilitate their stay in Vermont **or for promotional, or charitable purposes.**

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIPS

Section 1

Individual Memberships shall be open to any club affiliated individual upon receipt of their dues **(TMA purchase)** and signifying their intention to abide by the by-laws of the Association.

a) Individual TMA/Membership is 16 years of age or older.

b) VAST Membership is valid until December 31st of TMA year.

Section 2

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES(continued)

There shall be Six (6) classes of membership:

- a) **Individual TMA/Membership:** General member of the Association.
- b) **Honorary Membership:** Honorary membership may be admitted or bestowed by the Association, to non-members, by a unanimous vote of the Board. Honorary members shall not be entitled to any voting privileges, and they will not receive Association correspondence.
- c) **Lifetime Membership:** Lifetime Membership may be admitted or bestowed by the Association by a unanimous vote of the Board. Lifetime members will receive a permanent membership card and shall be accorded every privilege that voting delegates receive at the VAST annual and special Association meetings.
- d) **Contributing Membership:** Membership may be composed of dealer-distributor or manufacturing individuals or Organizations, or any other individual or Organization who supports the goals and objectives of the Association; benefits and dues shall be established ~~annually~~ by the Board of Directors.
- e) **Dealer Membership:**
 - 1) For snowmobile dealerships to aid in the promotion of snowmobiling and introduction of "new" snowmobilers to the sport.
 - 2) Benefits and dues shall be established ~~annually~~ by the Board of Directors.
 - 3) ~~Dealer TMAs shall be purchased at the VAST Office only.~~
- f) **Commercial Membership:** Required for all snowmobiles operating in Vermont for profit (rental, tour, etc.). For the purpose of this section the term tour shall mean a snowmobile ride led by a guide or leader over a defined route or routes and participated in by one or more individuals that have paid a fee to an individual or corporate entity for the privilege of riding a snowmobile. Each snowmobile shall display a valid Commercial TMA decal. Privileges shall be as determined by the Board of Directors. Membership shall not count toward voting delegates.

ARTICLE VIII. COMMITTEES

Section 1

Committees shall be appointed by the President in conjunction with the VAST Executive Director as necessary to assist in carrying out the mission of the organization. Committees shall be reviewed and approved by the VAST Board of Directors. The President, with the consent of the Board of Directors, or the Board of Directors, shall charge the committees with their duties as applicable. The President shall appoint committee chairs, **in conjunction with the VAST Executive Director**, and it shall be their responsibility to provide reports, of their meetings, to the Board of Directors. At least one member of each committee shall be a Director.

Section 2

~~The Lamoille Valley Rail Trail Committee (LVRTC) is a VAST committee and is under the direction of the VAST Board of Directors (BOD). However, the makeup of the LVRTC is governed by the LVRT Management Plan. Final selection of the committee members is subject to the approval of the VAST BOD.~~

SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by Stan Choiniere, Chair

The committee continues to work with the Governor's Council and the Trails Committee on issues that pertain to safety.

While the Ambassador Program is not directly a part of the Safety Committee, we work to support the activities of the ambassadors. This year, we had planned to have a large and active presence on the trails during International Snowmobile Safety week. However, because of the poor snow conditions, we were not able to execute this plan.

The "GET A GRIP" Hands On For Safety initiative seems to have gained more acceptance. In an informal poll more people say they have adopted "hands on" and many have added Ride Lights to their sleds. They also indicated that they see fewer people using hand signals. Social media doesn't have as many negative comments and riders are accepting that hand signals are not required by law, a very common misconception in the past.

To convey our safe riding goals, two new signs were created this year and are available to clubs at no charge. The first speaks to "zero tolerance" for riding under the influence and the second addresses "safe and prudent" riding. The first is self-explanatory, and the second is meant to bring attention to the fact that everyone is responsible for their safety and the safety of others. There are penalties and risk of injury or worse for being reckless.

Safety class certifications were down significantly over last season, approximately 800 fewer people took the class compared to last year. This is being attributed to what is believed to have been a spike in new riders last year due to Covid. While in-person classes returned this

year, less than 100 of the nearly 1,700 participants used the in-person option. While online classes are convenient, the feeling is they are not as effective as they do not offer the interactive aspect and the opportunity for Q&A and sharing of real-life experiences. As a reminder, anyone born after July 1, 1983, must be certified and carry proof of certification on the trail.

I would like to thank the committee members, many who serve or chair multiple committees: Sgt. Trevor Carbo VSP, Pat Poulin, Juliann Sherman, Roger Gosselin, Dave Rouleau and Lewis Barnes. Also, to Cindy Locke and the entire VAST staff for their support. Special thanks to Ken Brown for all his help with our new sign program.



LAMOILLE VALLEY RAIL TRAIL REPORT

Submitted by Ken Brown, Trails Manager and LVRT Project Manager

2022 marks the end of two decades of VAST working to develop the Lamoille Valley Railroad into a four-season recreation path. We didn't finish the job, but all the work and public support kept the project moving and the State of Vermont has taken it back over to complete the trail and manage it into the future.

The state is moving along with the renovation of the entire trail. Construction is underway with projected end dates for each of four projects in November 2022. Updates can be tracked here: <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/local-projects/lvrt>

VTrans will be terminating VAST's lease of the trail and replacing it with a license agreement for seasonal snowmobile use. This is similar to our arrangements for the MVRT and the D&H rail trail.

VAST is closing out our maintenance responsibilities for the trail with a big project to replace rotten decking on bridges from the first sections to open (in 2015). That has been delayed because our contractor has been waiting for their lumber order. Volunteers from Lamoille county clubs helped patch the decks with plywood to keep the trail open.

STATEWIDE SNOWMOBILE TRAILS PROGRAM (SSTP) REPORT

Submitted by Matt Tetreault, Trails Administrator

FY 2022 was another interesting winter to say the least. In FY 21, the snow was much better in the southern 1/3 of the state than it was elsewhere. In FY 22 snow conditions were mediocre across the entire state for the entire season. It seemed as if each snow event was followed up by a warm-up and/or rain within three days. There wasn't much planning ahead, and consistency was not a word that could be commonly used in conjunction with the words cold weather or snow. The one constant item that remained the same when comparing this winter to past years was how hastily the snow left as the month of March arrived. Once again, we are left with a long spring and summer to prepare for the season ahead.

A special "thank you" to all the volunteers who created a well maintained and signed trail system in FY 21, doing their best to deliver a quality product with a short supply of the proper ingredients, the great landowners who allow the volunteers and riders access, and the membership for sticking with us for another season!

As we prepare for the winter of 2023, I will leave you with some statistics that recap what happened on the Statewide Snowmobile Trail System (SSTS) during the 2022 season.

Trail Construction & Maintenance

There are approximately 4,140 miles of groomed trails and 230 miles of secondary trails maintained by 114 VAST Snowmobile Clubs. During the 2022 construction season, there were a total of 117 regular construction and 9 emergency construction projects funded at a total cost of \$373,312. There were 14 de-brushing projects funded at a cost of \$26,217. The average cost per mile to construct/maintain the VAST Trail system this past season based on these figures was \$96.51/Mile as opposed to a figure of \$100.37/Mile during the 2021 season.



Trail Construction & Maintenance				
Year	# of Grants	Grant Dollars Budgeted	Average Grant \$	Emergency Funds
2001-02	147	\$400,500	\$2,724	none
2002-03	156	\$433,543	\$2,779	\$28,000
2003-04	178	\$486,098	\$2,731	\$20,000
2004-05	229	\$574,728	\$2,510	\$15,000
2005-06	218	\$570,000	\$2,615	none
2006-07	190	\$614,000	\$3,232	none
2007-08	175	\$524,000	\$2,994	\$25,000
2008-09	164	\$450,236	\$2,745	none
2009-10	163	\$355,237	\$2,179	none
2010-11	156	\$385,500	\$2,471	none
2011-12	135	\$330,000	\$2,444	none
2012-13	128	\$378,000	\$2,953	none
2013-14	146	\$280,000	\$1,918	none
2014-15	158	\$320,144	\$2,026	none
2015-16	159	\$382,000	\$2,403	none
2016-17	111	\$335,000	\$3,018	\$45,000.00
2017-18	145	\$385,984	\$2,662	\$40,968.00
2018-19	180	\$330,000	\$1,833	\$40,000.00
2019-20	178	\$330,000	\$1,854	\$35,000.00
2020-21	141	\$330,000	\$2,340	\$35,000.00
2021-22	140	\$353,973	\$2,528	\$45,556.00
21 Yr Total	3397	\$8,548,943	\$2,522	\$329,524

SSTP (continued)

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Equipment Grants

For FY22 there were a total of 22 Equipment Grant in Aid Applications submitted. The breakdown is as follows; 4 New/Used Power Units, 4 Drags, 13 Capital Repairs and 1 for the purchase of rescue equipment. A total of \$225,820 was spent out of the budget. This is approximately 15% of the total cost requested to purchase/repair equipment (\$1,464,158). 100% of the funding for equipment came out of the SSTP budget.

Grooming

There were 105 grooming contracts during the 2021/22 snowmobile season. There were 100 contracts with VAST clubs and contracts with grooming contractors. The total grooming budget for the 2021/22 season was \$1,350,000.

The VAST clubs and contractors received their grooming start-up funds during the month of December. The start-up payments were equal to 12.5% of the clubs/contractors grooming contract cap, which is calculated by multiplying the club/contractors contract mileage by the contract rate by the contract weeks and multiplying this number by two grooms per week. The total figure for start-up payments

Grooming			
Year	Miles Traveled	Grooming Payments	Special Notes
2001-02	100,100	\$767,568	Subsidy total of \$98,290
2002-03	180,000	\$1,133,076	
2003-04	140,000	\$1,186,700	20% \$/mile increase
2004-05	129,000	\$1,183,131	Subsidy total of \$39,760
2005-06	46,000	\$925,733	Subsidy total of \$765,996
2006-07	120,565	\$1,133,000	Subsidy total of \$55,000
2007-08	177,000	\$1,961,894	Contingency: \$230,282
2008-09	155,000	\$1,465,080	
2009-10	106,000	\$1,160,000	Subsidy total of \$126,000
2010-11	172,763	\$1,764,557	
2011-12	42,418	\$956,367.75	Subsidy total of \$545,711.75
2012-13	113,470	\$1,110,195.00	Subsidy total of \$104,986.53
2013-14	141,264	\$1,372,170.11	Includes \$38,426.98 subsidy & Approx. \$14,354.83 left to pay to 12 clubs missing paperwork
2014-15	167,464	\$1,821,008.75	10 Clubs Paid Over Cap: \$40,917.64
2015-16	9,291	\$1,071,049.72	Subsidies paid to all grooming clubs and contractors. Three clubs/contractors forfeited payment.
2016-17	96,464	\$1,186,905.00	Subsidies paid to 41 clubs and contractors for a total of \$83,342.29. Two clubs/contractors forfeited payment.
2017-18	117,005	\$1,357,437.00	Subsidies paid to 26 clubs and contractors for a total of \$30,186.46. One club forfeited payment
2018-19	148,302	\$1,620,927.00	Subsidies paid to 22 clubs and contractors for a total of \$27,204. One club forfeited payment.
2019-20	82,145	\$1,006,988.59	Subsidies paid to 43 clubs and contractors for a total of \$84,312.31. Four clubs forfeited payment.
2020-21	115,075	\$1,293,116.00	Subsidies paid to 9 clubs and contractors for a total of \$12,855.13. One club forfeited payment and a second has not been paid yet as they have signing issues to remedy.
2021-22	67,387	\$891,071.00	Subsidy paid to 58 clubs totaling \$103,553. Three clubs forfeited final payment.
21 Yr Total	2,426,713	\$26,367,974.92	

SSTP (continued)

for the 2020/21 season was \$245,465.38.

The first-round grooming payment totaled \$7,330.40 and covered grooming between Dec. 13 and Jan.16.

The total for second round grooming payments was \$344,217.29. This payment covered grooming activity for weeks 6-10 (Jan. 17 through Feb. 20).

The third and final grooming payments were mailed out to clubs/contractors that had submitted necessary paperwork beginning in May. The remainder of the clubs were paid in July. Three clubs did not submit the necessary paperwork by the deadline and as a result will not receive their grooming payment this season.

The total amount paid for the third round of grooming payments was \$294,057.71 (Feb. 21 through the end of the grooming season April 3).

A total of \$891,070.78 was paid out in grooming for the winter, with 58 clubs and contractors receiving a grooming subsidy. The subsidy amount paid was \$103,552.82.

The fleet of grooming equipment logged 67,386.90 miles during the winter of 2021/22. This compares to 115,075 during the winter of 2020/21 and 82,145 miles during the winter of 2019/20.

Grooming Budget/Payments				
Year	Grooming Budget	Grooming Payments	Actual/Budget %	Special Notes
2001-02	\$1,200,000	\$767,568	64%	
2002-03	\$1,200,000	\$1,133,076	94%	
2003-04	\$1,500,000	\$1,186,700	79%	
2004-05	\$1,600,000	\$1,183,131	74%	
2005-06	\$1,800,000	\$925,733	51%	
2006-07	\$1,800,000	\$1,133,000	63%	
2007-08	\$1,800,000	\$1,961,894	108%	
2008-09	\$1,585,000	\$1,465,080	92%	
2009-10	\$1,585,000	\$1,160,000	73%	
2010-11	\$1,900,000	\$1,764,557	93%	
2011-12	\$1,639,111	\$956,368	58%	
2012-13	\$1,650,000	\$1,110,195	67%	
2013-14	\$1,650,000	\$1,372,170	83%	Includes \$38,426.98 subsidy & Approx. \$14,354.83 left to pay to 12 clubs missing paperwork
2014-15	\$1,882,445	\$1,821,009	97%	Includes 10 clubs paid over grooming cap for total of \$40,917.64
2015-16	\$1,800,000	\$1,071,050	60%	Subsidies paid to all grooming clubs and contractors. Three clubs/contractors forfeited payment.
2016-17	\$1,750,000	\$1,186,906	68%	Subsidies paid to 41 clubs and contractors for a total of \$83,342.29. Two clubs/contractors forfeited payment.
2017-18	\$1,329,217	\$1,357,437.00	102%	Subsidies paid to 26 clubs and contractors for a total of \$30,186.46. One club forfeited payment.
2018-19	\$1,457,770	\$1,620,927.00	111%	Subsidies paid to 22 clubs and contractors for a total of \$27,204. One club forfeited payment.
2019-20	\$1,341,065	\$1,006,988.59	75%	Subsidies paid to 43 clubs and contractors for a total of \$84,312.31. Four clubs forfeited payment.
2020-21	\$1,300,000	\$1,293,116.00	99%	Subsidies paid to 9 clubs and contractors for a total of \$12,855.13. One club forfeited payment and a second has not been paid yet as they have signing issues to remedy.
2021-22	\$1,350,000	\$891,071.00	66%	Subsidy paid to 58 clubs totaling \$103,553. Three clubs forfeited final payment.
21 Yr Total	\$33,119,608	\$26,367,976	81%	(Average)



SSTP (continued)

Year	Resident	% of Total	Non-Resident	% of Total
2001-02	28,850	74%	10,222	26%
2002-03	31,016	73%	11,391	27%
2003-04	29,166	73%	10,970	27%
2004-05	27,272	72%	10,457	28%
2005-06	25,129	72%	9,618	28%
2006-07	23,525	71%	9,502	29%
2007-08	25,210	71%	10,133	29%
2008-09	24,128	71%	10,031	29%
2009-10	22,591	70%	9,734	30%
2010-11	21,924	70%	9,472	30%
2011-12	20,407	89%	2,523	11%
2012-13	17,170	68%	8,068	32%
2013-14	16,235	68%	7,663	32%
2014-15	16,072	68%	7,493	32%
2015-16	13,337	67%	6,617	33%
2016-17	14,502	68%	6,960	32%
2017-18	14,119	68%	6,611	32%
2018-19	14,265	69%	6,485	31%
2019-20	14,201	69%	6,259	31%
2020-21	15,538	72%	6,015	28%
2021-22	15,783	73%	5,811	27%
Average	20,497	71%	8,192	29%

Snowmobile Registrations

The funding mechanisms for the Statewide Snowmobile Trails Program (SSTP) are generated through snowmobile registration fees and snowmobile fines and penalties. Through a cooperative agreement with the Department of Forest, Parks, and Recreation, VAST receives 100% of all

snowmobile registration fees and 100% of all snowmobile related fines and penalties. During FY 2022, there were a total of 21,594 registrations, 15,783 resident registrations and 5,811 non-resident registrations. This is based on a report from DMV for registrations as of 7/2/22. This is an increase of 42 registrations from FY 21 and 1,093 registrations as compared to FY 20.

Year	Total Registrations	Resident Registration	Non-Resident Registration	Total TMA's
2001-02	39,072	28,850	10,222	39,203
2002-03	42,407	31,016	11,391	45,239
2003-04	40,136	29,166	10,970	38,534
2004-05	37,729	27,272	10,457	32,176
2005-06	34,747	25,129	9,618	26,001
2006-07	33,027	23,525	9,502	26,896
2007-08	35,343	25,210	10,133	34,549
2008-09	34,159	24,128	10,031	32,464
2009-10	32,325	22,591	9,734	31,992
2010-11	31,396	21,924	9,472	32,080
2011-12	22,930	20,407	2,523	22,930
2012-13	25,238	17,170	8,068	23,776
2013-14	23,898	16,235	7,663	23,304
2014-15	23,565	16,072	7,493	23,402
2015-16	19,778	13,337	6,617	17,992 (not including replacements/transfers)
2016-17	21,462	14,502	6,960	20,215 (not including replacements/transfers or volunteer)
2017-18	20,730	14,119	6,611	19,998 (not including replacements/transfers or volunteer)
2018-19	20,750	14,265	6,485	21,271 (not including replacements/transfers/lost or volunteer)
2019-20	20,460	14,201	6,259	20,584 (not including replacements/transfers/lost or volunteer)
2020-21	21,553	15,538	6,015	21,214 (not including replacements/transfers/lost/military or volunteer)
2021-22	21,594	15,783	5,811	22,490 (not including replacements/transfers/lost/military or volunteer)

SSTP (continued)

2021-2022 Summary

- ✓ VAST spent \$178,097 in trail maintenance, \$149,659.27 in trail construction, and \$26,217 in debrising and \$45,555.67 in Emergency repairs on a total of 140 Grant in Aid Projects.
- ✓ The VAST Grooming Fleet logged a total of 67,386.90 miles during the 2021-2022 snowmobile season. *(Class 1: 80 Contracts & 63,967.80 miles Class 2: 5 Contracts & 691 miles Class 3: 4 Contracts & 577.8 miles Class 4: 16 Contracts & 2,150.3 miles).*
- ✓ \$53,872 was spent on Law Enforcement through the Vermont Sheriff's Association, Vermont State Police, Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife, and local law enforcement agencies during the 2021-2022 snowmobile season. There were approximately \$9.895 in fines issued for non-compliance with various Vermont Laws. There were 1,142 hours of patrols, 1,768 inspections, 47 citations issued, 190 warnings issued, 0 search and rescue missions, 8 accident investigations and 1 fatality investigated.
- ✓ The VAST Plowed Parking Area Program was a success once again during the 2021-2022 season. A total of 22 out of 87 parking areas throughout the state were plowed under contract this past winter. Approximately \$9,505 was paid out of the budget for this purpose. Each of these parking areas provided riders with crucial access to the SSTs.
- ✓ The VAST Trails Committee and Board of Directors continued to monitor policies designed to help the clubs and the trail Construction/Maintenance/Debrising/Grooming budgets. Policies will continue to be reviewed, as necessary.
- ✓ \$225,820 was spent in the VAST Equipment Grant in Aid Program and helped clubs/contractors with the purchase of 4 New/Used Power Units, and 4 new/used drags. A total of 13 clubs/contractors were provided grant funding to make necessary capital repairs on their equipment. *(Arctic Cat: 0, Polaris: 0, Ski Doo: 0, John Deer: 0, PistenBully: 1, Prinoth: 0, Tucker: 2, Favero Lorenzo Snow Rabbit: 0, Mogul Master Drag: 2, Mtn. Snow Drag: 1, Maxey Drag: 0, Frenchie Drag: 0, Capital Repairs: 13, Rescue Boggan: 1, Homemade Drag: 1, Can Am: 1)*
- ✓ Average age of the Class 1,2 and 3 grooming fleet on the SSTs is 2006 (16 years old).

- ✓ VAST and the Snow Trails Conservancy/Charitable Trust continue to work with various conservation groups and other entities to obtain permanent easements on private lands.
- ✓ VAST is continuing its efforts to market itself better, and promote volunteerism, safe riding, and snowmobiling in Vermont by attending numerous power sports shows and placing our Snowmobile Vermont Magazine in welcome centers and local businesses. The Travelers Guide continues to be a valuable resource for tourists looking for winter recreation and amenities.
- ✓ VAST has also continued to add new features and improve upon our electronic version of the trail map or interactive map as we are calling it. This map was accessible on the website as well as through the app store for Smart Phone or Android device. Both products were used by over 10,000 users.
- ✓ GPS Fleet Tracking Units are currently installed in all Class 1,2 and 3 power units (112 in total). These units provided up to date grooming information to the VAST office and the membership through the interactive map. We plan to pay for grooming based solely off from these GPS units in FY 22.

Thanks to all of you for making this organization possible!



VAST GENERAL BUDGET 2022

ACCT NO	DESCRIPTION	2022 Budget	EOY 2022 Notes	EOY 2022 Projection	2023 Budget
General FUND					
INCOME					
INTEREST					
5300/1001	General Fund Interest	12,000.00		12,000.00	12,000.00
5300/1003	Capital Reserve Interest	5,000.00		5,000.00	5,000.00
MEMBERSHIPS					
5400/1001b	EB Registered IN VT	290,909.00		313,811.95	313,811.95
5400/1002b	EB Registration OUT-OF-STATE	149,083.00		167,849.17	167,849.17
5400/1008b	Family Reg. IN VT	50,009.00		55,880.10	55,880.10
5400/1009b	Family Reg. OUT-OF-STATE	16,161.00		21,697.51	21,697.51
5400/1018	Three Day Pass	25,752.00		10,491.72	10,491.72
5400/1006b	RS Reg. IN VT	99,919.00		121,180.19	121,180.19
5400/1007b	RS Reg. OUT-OF-STATE	47,253.00		65,549.60	65,549.60
5400/1012	Antique	191.00		38.92	38.92
5400/1013	Vintage	110.00		218.24	218.24
5400/1003	Commercial	4,750.00		5,129.10	5,129.10
5400/1011	Military	282.00		785.84	785.84
5400/1010	Dealer	2,270.00		789.52	789.52
5400/1004	Club Dues-Dealer/Milit./Antique	0.00		35.00	0.00
5400/1019	Replacement, Transfer, Lost & Misc	5,419.00	Combined 5400/1009 and 5400/1019a (Lost TMAs)	2,290.00	2,290.00
5400/2005a	Paid Vol TMAs		New in 2022	5,978.39	5,978.39
PR & MARKETING					
	Sale of VAST Promo Items	3,200.00		2,700.00	3,000.00
MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS					
	Media Sales	75,000.00		50,000.00	47,455.00
ANNUAL MEETING					
	Annual Meeting				
CONTRACTED SERVICES & OTHER					
6000/1001	SSTP Management Services	115,550.00		115,550.00	115,550.00
6000/1001a	SSTP Rental Income	6,000.00		6,000.00	6,000.00
6000/1004	Sale of VAST Equipment	0.00		9,000.00	0.00
6000/1005	General Miscellaneous	1,000.00		1,000.00	1,000.00
6000/1006	On Line TMA Handling Fee	100,000.00		108,060.77	108,060.77
6000/1007	Donations	901.00		400.00	400.00
6000/1009	Finance Charges	293.00		293.00	293.00
					0.00
	TOTAL INCOME FUNDS	1,011,052.00		1,081,729.02	1,070,449.02

ACCT NO	DESCRIPTION	2022 Budget	EOY 2022 Notes	EOY 2022 Projection	2023 Budget
Expenses					
SALARIES					
	Staff Salaries	389,000.00		389,000.00	394,266.00
BENEFITS					
	Benefits	139,000.00		139,000.00	142,627.00
PERSONAL/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE EXPENSES					
EXPENSES					
7200/1002	Executive Director	2,250.00		2,000.00	2,250.00
7200/1003	President	1,500.00		500.00	1,500.00
7200/1004	Vice President	1,500.00		500.00	1,500.00
7200/1005	Recording Secretary	1,000.00		500.00	1,000.00
7200/1006	Treasurer	1,500.00		1,000.00	1,500.00
STAFF & OTHER EXPENSES					
7210/1009	Employee Travel	4,000.00		4,000.00	4,000.00
7210/1010	Employee Mileage / Fuel	4,800.00		4,300.00	4,800.00
7210/1011	No EE Authorized Travel	3,000.00		2,000.00	3,000.00
7210/1013	Staff Trainings	1,500.00		300.00	1,500.00
OPERATING EXPENSES					
7300/1002	Telephone	7,500.00		7,500.00	7,500.00
7300/1003	Maint. Contracts-Office Equip	5,000.00		6,500.00	5,000.00
7300/1004	Property Tax	8,000.00		8,000.00	8,000.00
7300/1005	Office Equipment - Computers	600.00	Will go up. Have to order a new firewall.	6,000.00	600.00
7300/1006	Office Maintenance	600.00		400.00	600.00
7300/1007	Miscellaneous	500.00		300.00	500.00
7300/1008	Bank, CC, Dir Dep, Misc. Fees	2,600.00		2,600.00	2,600.00
7300/1008a	Online TMA CC Fees	107,000.00		105,867.90	105,867.90
7300/1009	Electricity	2,000.00		2,000.00	2,500.00
7300/1010	Fuel	1,600.00		1,700.00	2,000.00
7300/1011	Exterior Maintenance and Plowing/Mowing	7,000.00		5,500.00	7,000.00
7300/1013	Trash Removal	700.00		1,200.00	1,200.00
7300/1015	Sewer Tax	200.00		200.00	200.00
7300/1020	Vehicle Maint., Reg & Accessor	3,500.00		3,500.00	3,500.00
7300/1021	Interest Expense (Truck)	1,500.00		1,500.00	3,000.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES					
7400/1001	Supplies Expenses	7,000.00		7,000.00	7,000.00
7400/1001a	Copying Expenses	700.00		700.00	700.00
7400/1002	Postage	14,000.00	TMA Mailing now out of 7400/1003a	3,000.00	4,000.00
7400/1003	Membership Forms/Decals	7,000.00	Moved to different forms, printer and mailing serve	28,732.10	42,312.00
7400/1003a	TMA Postage		New line item	15,203.00	15,500.00
7400/1005	Computer and Online System Software	8,000.00	Sales Force and Sage	12,000.00	12,000.00
9700/1001	Bad Debts	300.00		300.00	300.00

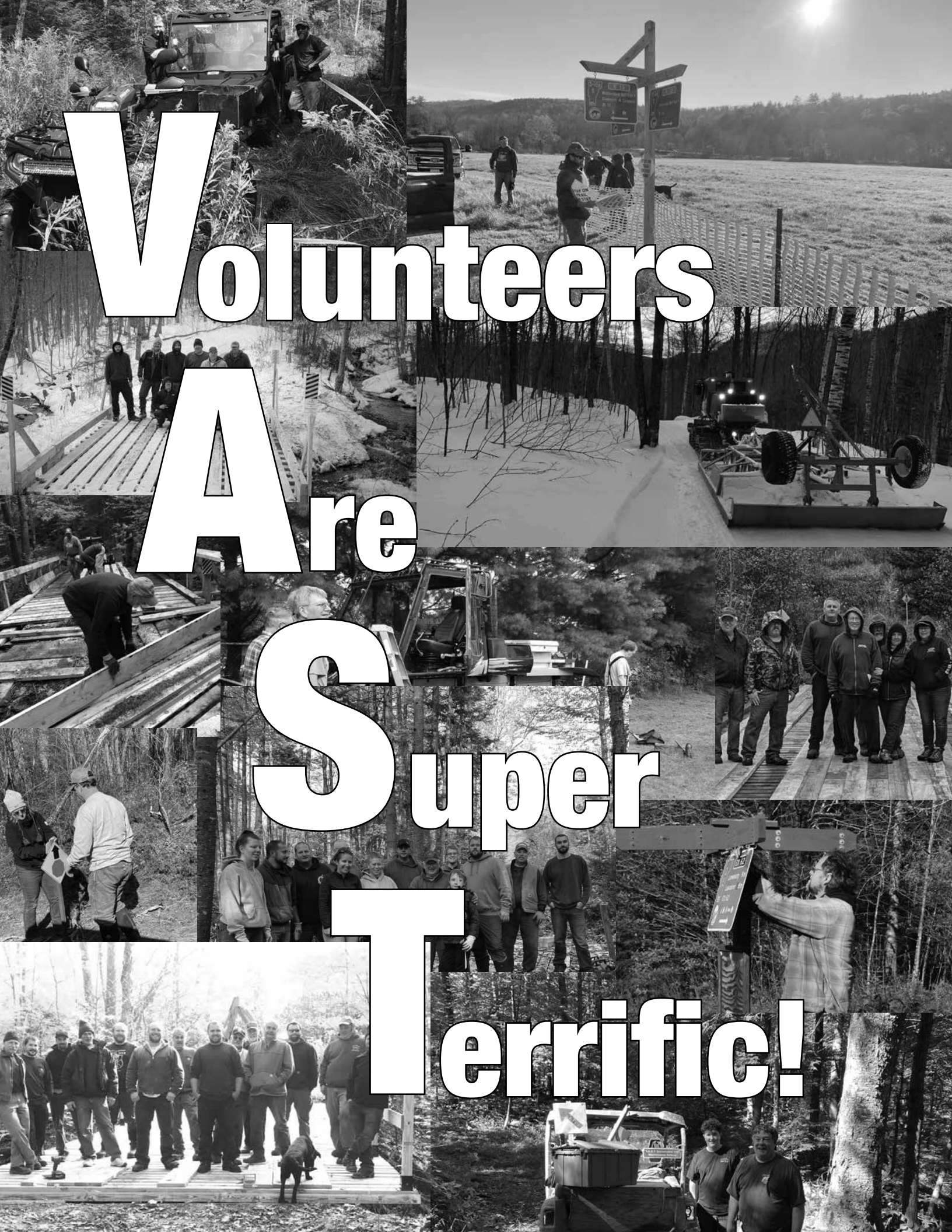
ACCT NO	DESCRIPTION	2022 Budget	EOY 2022 Notes	EOY 2022 Projection	2023 Budget
Expenses					
INSURANCE					
7500/1001	General Insurance	47,000.00	Moved D&O to here from TF (8300/2005) because it did not belong in TF.	30,000.00	53,900.00
PROFESSIONAL					
7600/1001	Audit GF & TF	13,000.00		13,000.00	13,000.00
7600/1002	Legal	7,000.00	RRG Costs included	26,000.00	7,000.00
7600/1003	Technical	5,000.00		25,000.00	5,000.00
7600/1009	Internet/Website Database/Suppo	5,500.00		5,500.00	7,500.00
7600/1010	IRS Filings-Cnty Club Compliant	7,000.00		3,000.00	7,000.00
7600/1011	Other Professional	2,000.00		1,000.00	2,000.00
ANNUAL MEETING					
7700/1001	Annual Meeting (VAST Expenses)	1,500.00		1,500.00	1,500.00
7700/1001a	Annual Meeting Prior Year	500.00		991.85	500.00
7700/1001b	Annual Meeting (Assist clubs)	15,000.00		15,000.00	15,000.00
7700/1002	Awards Trophies	5,500.00		5,500.00	5,500.00
MEDIA & COMMUNICATION					
7800/1003	Travel Expenses	1,600.00		500.00	1,600.00
7800/1004	Supplies	900.00		900.00	900.00
	Snowmobile VT Printing/Handlin	60,000.00	Going to 3 issues in 2023 from 5 because of low advertising and printing and sourcing costs going up.	70,000.00	46,347.00
GENERAL EXPENSES					
7810/1001	Recruitment	500.00		347.00	500.00
7810/1002	Donations	3,000.00		3,505.45	3,000.00
7810/1003	Economic Impact Study	15,000.00	This goes into reserves	15,000.00	15,000.00
ASSOCIATION TRAVEL					
7900/1001	Dues / Sponsorships	1,000.00		1,000.00	1,000.00
7900/1002	Other Association Travel	5,400.00		5,400.00	5,400.00
7900/1003	Congress Meetings	9,000.00		7,000.00	9,000.00
COMMITTEES/BOARD					
8000/1001	Misc. Meeting Exp-Incl Gov Cou	500.00		500.00	500.00
	All Other BOD and Comm./Meetings	10,000.00		7,000.00	7,000.00
8000/1014	Staff Meetings	750.00		400.00	750.00
PR & MARKETING					
8100/1004	VAST Promo Items	3,000.00		10,000.00	3,000.00
8100/1005	PR Travel Expenses	2,500.00		2,500.00	2,500.00
8100/1006	General Promotions	2,000.00		1,000.00	2,000.00
8100/1007	Advertising	5,000.00		3,000.00	5,000.00
8100/1008	Tradeshows & Events	17,000.00		15,000.00	17,000.00
8100/1009	Credit Card - Online Sales Fee	500.00		500.00	500.00
8100/1011	Memberships & Subscriptions	4,000.00		4,000.00	4,000.00
8100/1012	PR & Marketing Supplies	3,500.00		2,500.00	3,500.00
8100/1013	Safety Program	2,000.00		1,500.00	2,000.00
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS					
8200/1001	Lobbyist Registration etc.	30,000.00		30,000.00	30,000.00
8200/1005	Legislative Events	500.00		0.00	500.00
EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS					
	TOTAL EXPENSES	1,021,000.00	EOY should end closer to budget, because we suspect some of the expenses will be lower than expected. This will become more clear as we go through the summer.	1,070,847.30	1,068,719.90
	NET INCOME (LOSS) BEFORE EXTRAORD ITEMS	-9,948.00		10,881.72	1,729.12
	NET INCOME (LOSS)	(\$ 9,948.00)		10,881.72	1,729.12

TRAILS FUND					
ACCT NO	DESCRIPTION	2022 Budget	Notes	EOY 2022 Projection	2023 Budget
INCOME					
INTEREST					
5300/2001	Trails Checking Interest	500.00		500.00	500.00
MEMBERSHIPS					
5400/2001b	EB Registered IN VT	782,579.00		813,879.22	813,879.22
5400/2002b	EB Registered OUT-OF-STATE	395,490.00		435,321.04	435,321.04
5400/2003	Commercial TMA	11,514.00		13,302.60	13,302.60
5400/2004	Military	910.00		758.67	758.67
5400/2005a	Paid VOL TMAs		New in 2022	15,506.04	14,500.00
5400/2006b	RS Reg. IN VT	263,972.00		314,283.88	314,283.88
5400/2007b	RS Reg OUT-OF-STATE	123,537.00		170,004.59	170,004.59
5400/2008b	Family Reg. IN VT	136,023.00		145,159.80	145,159.80
5400/2009b	Family Reg. OUT-OF-STATE	43,303.00		56,268.13	56,268.13
5400/2010	Dealer TMA's	6,084.00		1,492.47	1,492.47
5400/2012	Antique	506.00		100.94	100.94
5400/2013	Vintage Trails	298.00		565.99	565.99
5400/2018	Three Day Pass Trails	19,855.00		27,210.54	27,210.54
GRANTS					
5500/2003	GMNF / Cost Share	235,797.00		235,797.00	190,988.00
5500/2004	Comm. TMA Club Dues Reimb	1,700.00		3,690.00	3,690.00
5500/2005	Comm. TMA County Dues Reimb	18,530.00		20,910.00	20,910.00
5500/2011	RTP Grooming Grants	228,237.00		228,237.00	130,000.00
5500/2019	Club Loan Repayment	1,650.00		1,650.00	0.00
SALE & MISC ITEMS					
5600/2001	Maps	5,000.00		8,214.46	3,000.00
5600/2002	Signs	20,000.00		20,000.00	20,000.00
5600/2007	Micro SD Cards	1,500.00		1,500.00	1,500.00
MISC ITEMS					
5700/2001	Misc Trail Income	100.00		100.00	100.00
Need to Assign	Reserve Funds Funding - Fuel Increase for Grooming instead of a TMA increase		May not need it. If we do, we will pull from the reserve account in the spring.		104,000.00
TOTAL INCOME		\$ 2,217,792.00		2,514,452.37	2,467,535.87



EXPENSES					
TRAILS FUND					
8300/2003	Gov't Relations	\$ 30,000.00		\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
8300/2004	Public Relations/External Image	100.00		100.00	100.00
8300/2005	Director and Officer Policies	0.00	Moved to Gen Ins in GF. \$17,000. Did not belong in TF.	0.00	0.00
8300/2006	Trail Signs	50,000.00		37,000.00	50,000.00
8300/2007	Trail Maps	12,000.00		15,000.00	2,000.00
8300/2008	Trails Micro SC Cards	1,500.00		250.00	1,500.00
8300/2009	Trails Committee	3,000.00		500.00	3,000.00
8300/2010c	GMNF / Cost Share	227,146.00		227,146.00	190,988.00
8300/2011	Grooming	1,350,000.00		900,209.00	1,550,000.00
8300/2013	Sign/Map Postage		New line item	1,000.00	1,000.00
8300/2014	Trails Miscellaneous	2,700.00		1,000.00	2,700.00
8300/2015	GPS Equip & Contracts for FY22 \$21K	21,000.00		21,000.00	21,000.00
8300/2024	Commer.TMA Reimburse Cty Dues	18,530.00		18,530.00	18,530.00
8300/2025	Comm.TMA Reimb.Club Dues	2,000.00		3,570.00	3,570.00
8300/2035	Staff Safety Equipment	2,500.00		1,000.00	2,500.00
8300/2037	Insurance Policies - Trails including some of RRG Start-up	1,000.00		22,000.00	35,000.00
	TOTAL EXPENSES	1,721,476.00		1,278,305.00	1,911,888.00
	Trail Fund Encumbered	550,000.00	This includes the \$5 per TMA voted on in 2019. FY22 sold 20,834 TMAs \$5 each = \$104,170. Add that to the usual amount to be encumbered (\$450K) Total is	554,170.00	554,170.00
EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS					
	TOTAL EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS	2,271,476.00		1,832,475.00	2,466,058.00
	Total Expenses & Extraordinary	1,780,837.00		1,832,475.00	2,466,058.00
	Net Income (loss)	\$ 436,955.00		681,977.37	1,477.87

Scholarship Fund					
ACCT NO	DESCRIPTION	2022 Budget	EOY 2022 Notes	EOY 2022 Projection	2023 Budget
INCOME					
INTEREST					
5300/3001	CD Interest	\$ 100.00		\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
MEMBERSHIPS					
5400/3001	TMA Contribution (.10%)	2,206.00		2,755.27	2,755.27
PROMOTION					
CONTRACTED SERVICE & OTHER					
	TOTAL INCOME	2,306.00		2,855.27	2,855.27
EXPENSES					
SCHOLARSHIP EXPENSES					
8200/3002	Scholarships	3,000.00		3,000.00	3,000.00
	TOTAL EXPENSES	3,000.00		3,000.00	3,000.00
	NET INCOME (LOSS)	(\$ 694.00)		(\$ 144.73)	(\$ 144.73)



Volunteers

Are

Super

Terrific!