

**Board of Directors
February 27, 2023
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present:

OFFICERS PRESENT

President: Jeff Fay

Vice President: Mark Reaves (Not Present)

Secretary: Jim Hill

Treasurer: Patty Companik

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Addison: Lewis Barnes

Bennington: Carol DeJohn

Caledonia: Bruce Carlson

Chittenden: Pat Poulin (Not Present)

Essex: John Hull

Franklin: Mike Burns

Grand Isle: Jeff Porter

Lamoille: Carmin Lemery

Orange: Juliann Sherman

Orleans: Roger Gosselin

Rutland: Mike Stewart

Washington: Jeff Halpin

Windham: Michael Garber (Not present)

Windsor: Doug Jacobs

STAFF PRESENT:

Executive Director, Cindy Locke

LVRT/Trails Manager, Ken Brown

Trails Administrator: Matthew Tetreault

Office & Programs Manager, Mandy Dwinell

Media and Technology Manager, Beth Flint

GUESTS:

Mike O'Hara, Past VAST Vice President; Dustin Turner, Lamoille County Alt. Director; Amber Stevens; Mike Minor, Lunenburg Polar Bears; Doug Todd, Rutland County Alt. Director; Stan Choiniere, Windsor County Alt. Director; Richard Spitzer, Chittenden County Alt. Director; Ed Hebebrand, Caledonia County Alt. Director.

Jeff Fay called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

Approval of Agenda

Grand Isle County: Motion to approve, Windsor County seconded to approve the agenda as amended. MOTION CARRIED.

Approval of the Secretary's Report

Addison County: Motion to approve, Grand Isle County seconded to approve Secretary's Report with the correction of adding Matthew Tetreault as present for January meeting. MOTION CARRIED.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

Membership - As of Jan 31 2023

78% of budget expectations - Jan 2021 we were at 94% and 2022 we were over 100%
\$207,155 monthly activity - \$2,158,184 Season so far

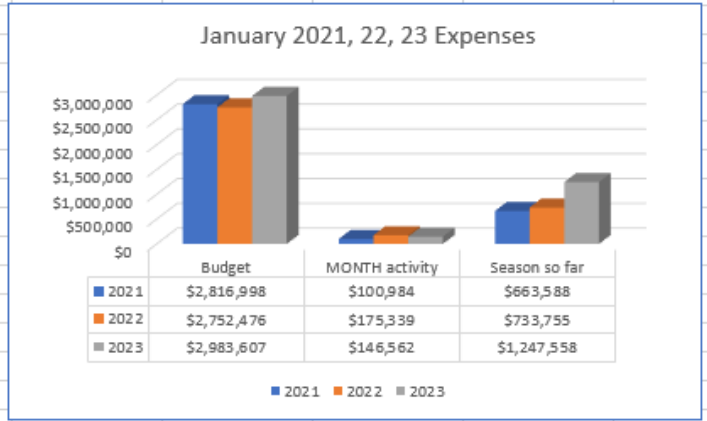
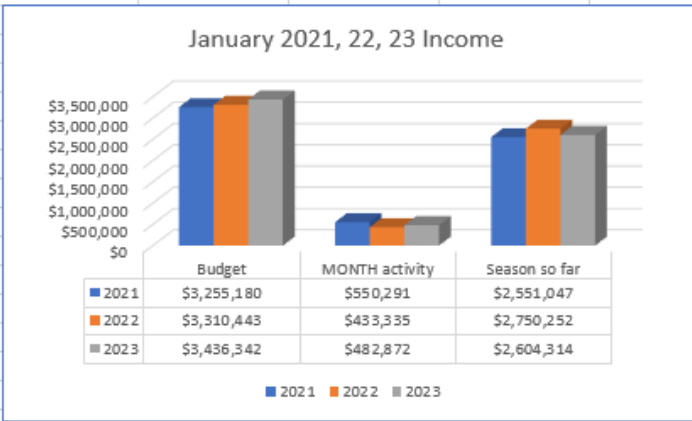
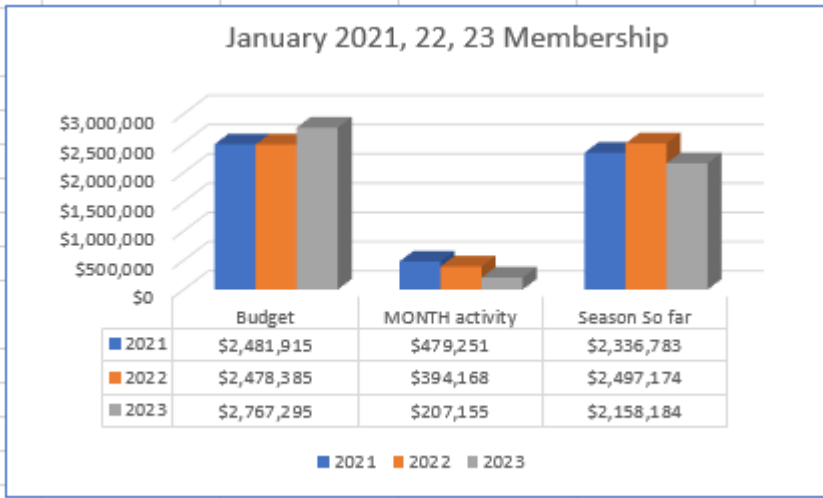
Income - As of Jan 31 2023

76% of budget expectations - Jan 2021 we were at 78% and 2022 we were at 83%
\$482,872 monthly activity (\$207k from membership and approx \$250k in Grants) - \$2,604,314 Season so far

Expenses - As of Jan 31 2023

42% of budget expectations - Jan 2021 we were at 24% and 2022 we were at 27%
The increase in expenses is primarily due to new grooming rates and start up % change across all classes
Example: 2022 - Grooming budget line item \$1,350,000 vs 2023 - Grooming line item increased to \$1,550,000
As of January **2022 we had spent \$237,060** in grooming expenses and in **2023 we have spent \$756,509** in grooming expenses
\$146,562 monthly activity (74k Trails Expenses and 3k in scholarship payments for our 2022 recipients) - \$1,247,558 Season so far

	Jan-21	Jan-22	Jan-23
membership \$\$			
Budget	\$2,481,915	\$2,478,385	\$2,767,295
MONTH activity	\$479,251	\$394,168	\$207,155
Season So far	\$2,336,783	\$2,497,174	\$2,158,184
	-\$145,132	\$18,789	-\$609,111
percentage	94.15%	100.76%	78%
Income \$\$			
Budget	\$3,255,180	\$3,310,443	\$3,436,342
MONTH activity	\$550,291	\$433,335	\$482,872
Season so far	\$2,551,047	\$2,750,252	\$2,604,314
	-\$704,133	-\$560,191	-\$832,028
percentage	78.37%	83%	76%
Expense			
Budget	\$2,816,998	\$2,752,476	\$2,983,607
MONTH activity	\$100,984	\$175,339	\$146,562
Season so far	\$663,588	\$733,755	\$1,247,558
		-\$2,018,721	-\$1,736,049
percentage	23.56%	27%	42%



Discussion regarding grooming start up payments for 2022 in comparison to 2023 season. In 2022, \$237k start up grooming expense, \$756k for the 2023 season, with \$250k in grants. Matt shared a half-million dollars is from paying 35% of club grooming contracts upfront.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

Rutland County: Motion to approve, Grand Isle County seconded to approve as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

TMA Report – Cindy

To date; 21, 216 TMAs for 2023 vs for 2022 . Over 400 TMAs sold during the last 2 weeks.

TMAS

	2021	2022	2023
YOY TMAs	23,635	24,002	21,210
YOY TMAs – Paid Types No CO	22,142	22,546	19,828
Total TMAs Amount to Date 22 vs 23	\$3,550,661	\$3,524,474	\$3,034,949
Total TMAs Amount to Date 22 vs 23 – Paid Types No CO	\$3,542,831	\$3,516,544	\$3,028,359

Cindy shared anticipates 2023 TMA is related to snow and weather conditions.

Discussion regarding Law Enforcement (LE) and safety checks. VAST has encouraged to issue tickets after January.

LVRT Updates, Mike O'Hara

Discussion on St Johnsbury bike path and progress with Twin State Rail Trail (TSRL). More details to come.

Mike shared there have been favorable comments from Caledonian County with the exception of Hardwick on the LVRT usage. Recently Mike has noticed there was some pushback on social media from Hardwick regarding motorized usage on the rail trail.

Discussion regarding set up of the other two sections of the rail trail which opened in the Fall vs. Hardwick trail opening in the winter.

Discussion on the recommendation of the continued presence of LE on the rail trail.

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

Roger shared feedback on struggles with GPS unit mapping.

Discussion on groomer GPS unit malfunctions. Mention of a recommendation to not continue to use cell service units and the possibility of atlas or satellite units.

Discussion on the language in the Bill and clarification of club's 60 miles.

Committee and Other Meeting Reports

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

Question on a certificate of insurance for a club's vintage show event. Cindy shared that the AORRG is similar to the prior insurance regarding liability insurance. If a club is holding an event please have the club contact VAST with the address of the event and club name for a certificate of insurance to be sent to the club.

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

Recently attended the Northeast Chapter spring ride. The event had good attendance with a group of 27 people and had good snow. There were evening meetings held on Wednesday and Thursday.

NY has offered to host next year, more information to come.

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

Continuing to work on easements.

Law Enforcement (LE) Committee – Cindy

LE has been out on the trails performing safety checks.

Hardwick PD has 2 snowmobiles and was patrolling over the weekend, especially near the LVRT

Awards & Nominating – Patty Companik, Chair

- Scholarship applications due March 1, reminder shared on VAST Facebook page.
- Award nominations due May 1, reminder these can be submitted year-round.

By-Laws & Policy – Mark Reaves, Chair

N/A

Discussion on the Ride for \$25 fee breakdown. Discussion on when payments would be issued and if they would be issued to specific clubs or to the county. When a Ride for \$25 TMA was purchased a club was selected.

Annual Meeting – Jeff Haplin and Mark Reaves

Hoping by May meeting to have more details situated. Following a similar format and structure from the 2022 Annual Meeting.

Financial – Patty Companik, Chair

N/A

Personnel – Juliann Sherman, Chair

Next meeting date pending/

Trails – Matt

Next meeting is tentatively in May. If more information is available regarding GPS units may reconnect sooner for a meeting.

Safety – Stan Choiniere, Chair

Most efforts this season were focused on the January Military & First Responders event during safety week which was canceled due to weather.

Article featured in the upcoming Snowmobile Vermont magazine urging people to contact the safety committee with ideas and suggestions. Jenna Reed has reached and shared some ideas.

No March meeting.

Governor's Council – Pat Poulin, Chair

Next meeting Wednesday 3/1

Discussion on LE Judiciary dept fine structure. Cindy shared the Judiciary Dept meets annually in August. A letter can be submitted to them requesting an increase with fines and reasons.

Discussion regarding commercial TMAs, regulations and what are VAST potential responsibilities. Regulated by the State of VT, commercial operators carry their own insurance and have an agreement with VAST and the local club. Little River is a state property owner and grooms their own trails. VAST isn't liable as VAST has an open and closed season.

Discussion regarding connecting with the Governor's Council regarding safety training videos for commercial operators.

Motion to adjourn by Windsor County: Motion to approve, Washington County seconded to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED. The meeting was adjourned at 7:09p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Hill, Secretary