

**Board of Directors  
June 22, 2023  
Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:**

**OFFICERS PRESENT**

President: Jeff Fay  
Vice President: Mark Reaves  
Secretary: Jim Hill  
Treasurer: Patty Companik

**DIRECTORS PRESENT**

Addison: Lewis Barnes  
Bennington: Carol DeJohn (Not Present)  
Caledonia: Bruce Carlson  
Chittenden: Pat Poulin  
Essex: John Hull  
Franklin: Mike Burns  
Grand Isle: Jeff Porter  
Lamoille: Carmin Lemery  
Orange: Juliann Sherman  
Orleans: Roger Gosselin  
Rutland: Mike Stewart  
Washington: Jeff Halpin  
Windham: Michael Garber  
Windsor: Doug Jacobs

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Executive Director, Cindy Locke  
Trails Manager, Ken Brown  
Trails Administrator: Matthew Tetreault  
Office & Programs Manager, Mandy Dwinell  
Technology & Media Manager, Beth Flint

**GUESTS:**

Dustin Turner, Lamoille County Alt. Director; Ivor Stevens, Windham County Alt. Director; Stan Choiniere, Windsor County Alt. Director; Mike Mutascio, Lunenburg Polar Bears; Mike Minor, Lunenburg Polar Bears; Richard Spitzer, Chittenden County Alt. Director; Ed Hebebrand, Caledonia County Alt. Director; Mike Koehler, Orleans Alt. Director; Mike O'Hara, Caledonia County Snow Trail Club, Greg Rouleau; Washington County Alt. Director.

Jeff Fay called the meeting to order at 6:02pm

**Approval of Agenda**

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

**Approval of the Secretary's Report**

Typo page 5, change 4' bridge to 40' bridge.

**Chittenden County: Motion to approve, Washington County seconded to approve Secretary's Report. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Approval of Treasurer's Report**

8 months in the Fiscal Year - Data represents activity through the month of May

**Membership**

\$6900 - represents Paid Volunteer TMA income  
 88% of expected Membership Income for the budget  
 Approximately 300k less than 2022 and 400k less than 2021

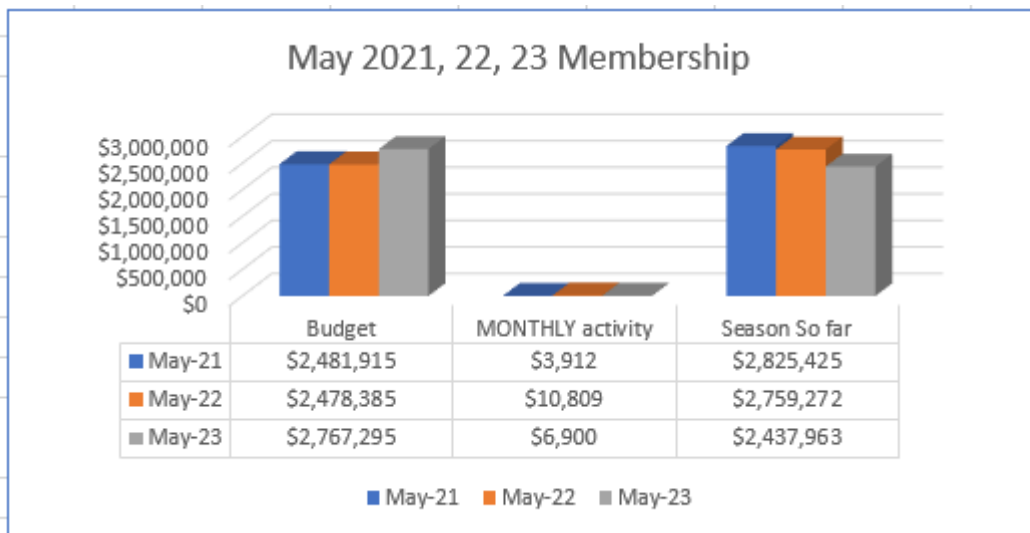
**Income**

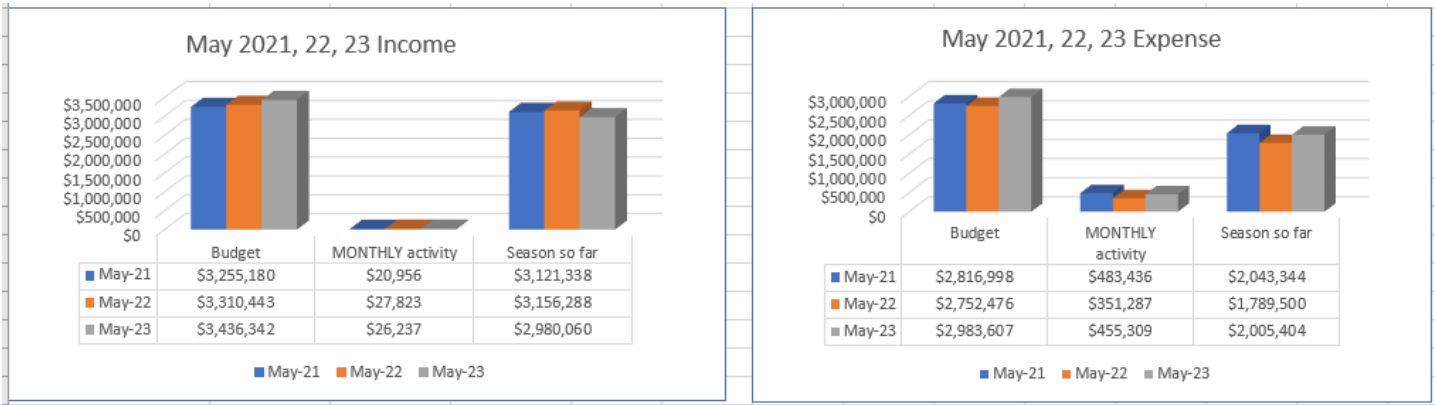
\$26,237 - mostly represents Membership and Trails Misc Funds Income  
 86-87% of expected Income for the budget - last 2 seasons we were at 95-96% of expected Income for the budget at this time

**Expense**

\$455,309 - Trails Expenses represent \$379,543 of which \$376,852 was in Grooming Payments  
 67% of expected Expenses of the budget - which is pretty much the average of the past two years combined

	May-21	May-22	May-23
<b>Membership \$\$</b>			
<b>Budget</b>	\$2,481,915	\$2,478,385	\$2,767,295
<b>MONTHLY activity</b>	\$3,912	\$10,809	\$6,900
<b>Season So far</b>	\$2,825,425	\$2,759,272	\$2,437,963
<b>percentage</b>	113.84%	111.33%	88.10%





Discussion on TMA sales over last few years and it's connection to lack of early snow.

**Approval of Treasurer's Report**

**Windsor County: Motion to approve, Orleans County seconded to approve as presented. MOTION CARRIED.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

a. Leadership Summit & July BOD Meeting - Cindy

VAST BOD Leadership Summit July 21-23 at the Robert Frost Mountain Cabins in Ripton, VT. Friday: Arrive after 4pm, dinner at 6:30pm. Saturday: Breakfast 8-9am, Meeting 9am-4:30pm, Sunday: Breakfast 8-9am followed by VAST July BOD meeting at 9am.

b. Awards and Nominating Committee – Scholarship Amount Change – Patty

Recipient scholarship dollar increase request presented from \$1500 to \$2500  
Mandy updated the VAST website scholarship information to proper preapproved name: Bill & Mitzi Oakes Scholarship.

**Essex County: Motion to approve the Bill & Mitzi Oakes scholarship recipient amount from \$1500 to \$2500, Addison County seconded to approve as presented. MOTION CARRIED.**

c. LVRT Update – Mike O'Hara

Governor Phil Scott and Senator Bernie Sanders to celebrate the newly completed LVRT on Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup>.

7:00 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.: Swanton (location TBD), Kick Off Event (with brief remarks)

- 7:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.: Ride from Swanton to Morrisville (schedule of brief stops to come)
- 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.: Morrisville (location TBD), Main Event and Celebration
- 2:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.: Ride from Morrisville to St. Johnsbury (schedule of brief stops to come)
- 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. St. Johnsbury (location TBD), End of Ride Celebration

Discussion on the importance of having a VAST presence at each town throughout the LVRT trail to show positive snowmobile representation.

Discussion of positive relationship between VAST and VTrans and with VAST developing LVRT to help establish trail prior to the transition to VTrans.

Discussion on the Governor's Snowmobile Council and reminder to VAST on the contribution of efforts with the LVRT. Would like to continue to build on a relationship with Governor Scott regarding LVRT.

Discussion on the Twin State Rail Trail, with a tentative similar setup as the LVRT.

Mandy emailed the LVRT grand opening press release to the BOD.

d. Trails Committee Recommended Changes (See Matt's Report) – Cindy, Matt and Ken  
Outlined in Matt's report based on the Trails Committee recommendations for the following:

1. Equipment Grant In Aid Policy Changes, Trails Committee motion to the BOD for approval of a 5.5% increase to the maximum grant amounts based on the Consumer Price Index.
2. Grooming Financial Analysis Policy Change, Trails Committee motion to the BOD for approval of the addition of "an accurately completed" into the Trail Policy surrounding the Grooming Financial Analysis.
3. Plowed Parking Area Contract Policy Changes, Trails Committee motion to the BOD for approval of removing the option for grooming equipment to be used for the plowing of parking areas through the VAST Plowed Parking Area Program.

Discussion on Plowed Parking Lots program. Matt shared the Trails Committee is reviewing options and will reconnect with the BOD with more information.

Suggestion on including this topic on the BOD Summit agenda.

Discussion on Grooming Financial Analysis and completion of form. The form should be filled out completely to allow for accurate processing. If there are questions on information requested or the form, contact Matt prior to the Grooming Financial Analysis deadline.

**Essex County: Motion to approve, Addison County seconded to approve trail changes and upgrades as recommended by the Trails Committee. MOTION CARRIED.**

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

A draft of the FY24 budget was included in the June BOD packet.

Sheila, Patty and Cindy reviewed the proposed budget and followed a similar format as last year. If the 2024 season is the same as FY23 regarding TMA sales, we may need to adjust accordingly moving forward. There will be a vote on the FY24 budget at the July BOD meeting.

Discussion on GPS units. VAST is researching potential alternate GPS unit options and will reconnect with more information.

#### **Committee and Other Meeting Reports**

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

Slow time of year. Received the preliminary results for the first-year audit and currently evaluating.

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

Northeast Chapter: Meeting held in Illinois. Elected Jon Winterton from New York, as the prior person moved to Ohio. Throughout the Northeast, states have experienced similar snowmobile seasons and issues such as off trail riding.

USA: Not in attendance at the last meeting.

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

Nothing to report.

Law Enforcement (LE) Committee – Cindy

A meeting was held last week to discuss LE equipment funding and changing rates for LE grants.

The LE Committee has updated the equipment grant funding to 30/70 ratio for all LE agencies. A survey has been created and will be sent to LE agencies soon regarding questions such as current resources, "cost of burden" to patrol VAST trails.

Awards & Nominating – Patty Companik, Chair

Recipient selections have been completed  
Awards, Signs and Groomer Jacket have been ordered  
Next step: email notifications and to write the speeches

Mandy is working on adding to the VAST eBlast a section to briefly highlight Landowners and Volunteers.

By-Laws & Policy – Mark Reaves, Chair

Cindy and Mark having an annual meeting soon to review.

Annual Meeting – Jeff Halpin

Last meeting was in May, planning is on track. Event will be a similar setup as the 2022 Annual Meeting.

Clubs, Countys and vendors are welcome to attend.

Email [vastwashington@gmail.com](mailto:vastwashington@gmail.com) for questions or more information.

Executive Committee, Jeff Fay

Nothing new to report.

Financial – Patty Companik, Chair

Nothing new to report.

Long Range Planning & Organizational, Mark Reaves

Planning BOD Summit in July.

Resource Committee, N/A

Not Active.

Personnel – Juliann Sherman, Chair

Updated Personnel Policy was emailed to the BOD for review at the July BOD meeting.

Trails – Brian Currier, Chair

Covered earlier in the meeting.

Safety – Stan Choiniere, Chair

No June meeting. Cindy shared some ideas from the Snowmobile Congress and will be shared with the Safety Committee at the next meeting.

Governor's Council – Pat Poulin

Last meeting for the summer was on Wednesday 6/7, next meeting is Wednesday 9/6.

At the June meeting, the FY23 SSTP budget was approved, with the only change being an increase to LE funding.

Discussion on DMV omitting all motor vehicle registration stickers, with the registration certificates continuing.

Discussion on that the TMA process remains the same. When TMAs purchased that are registered in Vermont, the TMA number will include VT at the end. VAST will continue to share more information as it becomes available.

**Motion to adjourn by Addison County: Motion to approve, Essex County seconded to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED.** The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Hill, Secretary