

## **Governor's Snowmobile Council**

**November 6, 2024**

### **Present:**

Pat Poulin, Chairman  
Paul Doucette, Chief's Assoc. & Southern  
Vermont Wilderness Search & Rescue  
Mike Mutascio, Governor Appointee  
Stan Choiniere, Governor Appointee  
Gary Nolan, VAST L/E Committee Chair  
Jim Hill, Governor Appointee

Michael Smith, Vermont DMV  
Matt Walker, Vermont State Representative  
Jeff Halpin, Governor Appointee  
Patty Companik, VAST President  
Claire Polfus – Forest Parks & Recreation

### **VAST Staff Present:**

Cindy Locke, VAST Executive Director  
Mandy Dwinell, Office & Programs Manager  
Matt Tetreault, VAST Trails Administrator  
Tina Bedard, Office & Programs Assistant

The meeting was convened at 3:05 PM via Zoom by Pat Poulin.

### **Approval of Minutes**

**Stan Choiniere moved to approve the September minutes as presented; Gary Nolan seconded. MOTION CARRIED.**

### **Approval of SSTP Financial Report of September Matt**

**Stan Choiniere Moved to approve the SSTP Financial Report for July as presented; Paul Doucette seconded. MOTION CARRIED.**

### **Agency Reports**

Vermont State Police (VSP), Jacob Metayer  
Not Available.

Fish & Wildlife, Jenna Reed  
Not Available.

Sheriff's Association, Marc Poulin –VT Sheriff Association & Washington County Sheriff  
Not Available.

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

A meeting is being held on 11/7/24 at the Bennington Police Department at 3:00 pm. The VAST orientation last week was productive. A discussion about setting up an on snow training this winter. The location and curriculum need to be set up.

Department of Motor Vehicles, Michael Smith

As of now for 2025 season: 8,705  
October 2024: 10,290  
October 2023: 10,643  
2022 October: 11,381

Forest, Parks & Recreation, Claire Polfus

RTP grant pre applications are due in December. LWCF municipalities that are looking for funding to protect or preserve land the FPR does a 50/50 match for funding. This is for land that already has recreation in place such as trails.

Cindy is joining the RTP ranking committee again this year.

**VAST**

Update, Cindy

1. TMA sales

As of now for 2025 season: 1,267

October 2024: 1,611

October 2023: 1,076

Law Enforcement (LE) Committee, Gary

1. FY25L/E Contract Status

Contracts received by Morrisville, Franklin, Hardwick, F&W, Essex and Windsor.

Six out of ten have been received.

2. L/E Orientation

A 2-day training is planned for in person on snow. The purpose of this training is to teach newcomers how to utilize a snowmobile properly, as well as loading and unloading on and off a trailer. Jenna, Jake and Paul are heading this training.

Discussion on Law enforcement getting out on the trails during nights and weekdays.

Discussion regarding whether LE is giving out warnings or tickets.

VAST Safety Committee, Stan

The last meeting there was not a quorum. They discussed updating the online snowmobile safety course. Jeff gained input from other council members on projects. There are two new members joining the committee.

**SSTP Trail Report, Matt**

A lot of trail work has been done, and some work is in progress. Signs are going up, trails closed are being updated. Grooming contracts went out. Paved parking contracts went out. Water agreements also went out. The interactive maps are being worked on. The information on the map will be sent to clubs.

**2024 Vermont Snowmobile Regulations Update – Pat/Cindy**

There has been a lot of input back, which is being looked over.

**Legislative Report**

House Report, Matt Walker

Not available.

Senate Report, Jane Kitchel

Not available.

## **Appointee Reports**

### Northwest, Jim

Nothing to report.

### Northeast, Mike

Essex County has a meeting on 11/6/24. They plan to discuss and reviewing sign standards.

### Central, Jeff

Washington County's meeting was 11/4/24. A Washington County Sherriff was present and was able to answer questions. Signs are going up. Groomer repairs and maintenance are being done as well. About 90% of Washington County trails are open.

### South, Stan

Signs are going up. A County meeting is 11/6/24.

Discussion on blizzard training.

## **Motion to Adjourn:**

**Paul Doucette moved to close the meeting at 4:03 pm; Mike Smith seconded. Motion carried.**

**Next Meeting:** The next Governor's Snowmobile Council scheduled meeting will be December 4, at 3:00 pm via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Bedard

VAST Office & Programs Assistant