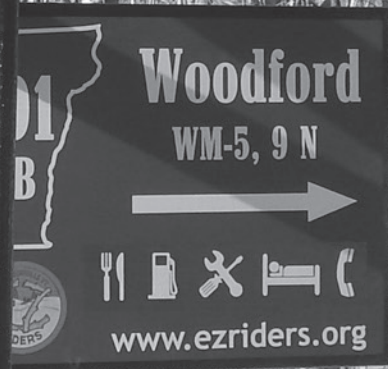


THE VERMONT ASSOCIATION OF SNOW TRAVELERS, INC.



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

WM6



57th Annual Meeting

Hosted By Windham County Snowmobile Clubs

Saturday, September 7, 2024 - Grafton, VT

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VAST DIRECTORS & OFFICERS

FY 2024 Officers

President – Jeff Fay

Vice President - Mark Reaves

Treasurer – Patricia Companik

Secretary – Ruth Halpin

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 – Jeff Porter

Lamoille County – Dustin Turner

Orange County – Juliann Sherman

Orleans County – Roger Gosselin

Rutland County – Mike Stewart

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 Dente

Chittenden County – Dieter Mulac

Essex County – Richard Poulin

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	Dexter Willson	1987-1989
John Hall	1969-1971	Donald Finick	1989-1992
William Oakes	1971-1973	Bryant M. Watson	1992-1994
Norman Hayes	1973-1975	Fred Putnam, Jr.	1994-2001
Darwin Rogers	1975-1977	Ron Bartemy	2001-2003
Mark Hutchins	1977-1979	Ann Shangraw	2003-2007
Patricia Rogers	1979-1982	Pat Poulin	2007-2009
Donald Denko	1982-1985	Jim Hill	2009-2013
William Oakes	1985-1987	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

Office and Programs Manager – Mandy Dwinell

Office and Programs Assistant – Tina Bedard



Saturday, September 7, 2024 | Grafton

AGENDA

10am – Registration of Delegates (ends promptly at 12pm)

Lunch tickets go on sale

10:30-11:30am – VAST Pre-Meeting. All VAST members are welcome to this and ask questions about any topic.

12:30pm - Annual Meeting Begins

- Welcome
- Introduce Color Guard
- Special Guests
- Awards
- Final Delegate Count Announced
- Official Meeting Opens – Call to order
 - Approval of Meeting Agenda
- Approval of 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes
- Approval of VAST President’s Report
- Approval of VAST Executive Director’s Report
 - Approval of VAST Committee Reports
- Approval of VAST Trails Administrator’s Report
- Bylaw Review with Changes (If there are any)
 - Voice Vote
- Stand and Show of Hands (if voice does not work)
 - Ballot (if #2 does not work)
 - 2024 Treasurers Report
- Approval of the Annual Auditors Report
 - 2025 Budget
- Approval Requires 2/3 Majority Vote
 - Election of Officers
 - Meeting Concludes

2023 56th VAST Annual Meeting Minutes

The 2023 VAST Annual Meeting was held at Kenyon's Field at 3337 Main Street in Waitsfield, Vermont. President Jeff Fay welcomed everyone and introduced the American Legion Barre Post #790 to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Acknowledgment of Special Guests

On behalf of the assembly, Jeff Fay welcomed and thanked Past Presidents, Lifetime Members, Iron Dogs, 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 Snowmobile Vermont magazine.

Secretary Jim Hill presented the delegate tally from

registration: Addison 1 director, 2 delegates; Bennington 1 director, 4 delegates; Caledonia 1 director, 17 delegates, ; Chittenden 2 director, 1 officer, 3 delegate; Essex 1 director, 17 delegates; Franklin 9 delegates; Grand Isle 1 delegate; Lamoille 1 director, 12 delegates; Orange 1 director, 12 delegates, 1 lifetime member; Orleans 1 director, 7 delegates; Rutland 1 director, 9 delegates; Washington 1 director, 1 officer, 26 delegates; Windham 1 director, 5 delegates; Windsor 1 officer, 1 director, 39 delegates. Total 13 directors, 4 officers, 1 lifetime member, 161 delegates.

Jeff Fay officially called the meeting to order at 1:40 PM.

Agenda Approval

MOTION: Ed Hebebrand moved and Lewis Barnes seconded that the agenda for the 2023 Annual meeting be approved. Motion carried.

Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting

MOTION: Ed Hebebrand moved and Lewis Barnes seconded that the minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting be approved. Motion carried.

President's Report

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

Executive Director's Report

MOTION: Ed Hebebrand moved and Jeff Porter seconded approval of the Executive Director's Report. Motion carried.

VAST Committee Reports

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

VAST Trails Administrator Report

MOTION: Larry Dwyer moved and Dustin Turner seconded

approval of the Trails Administrator Report. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Data through end of August 2023 - 11 months - 92% of budget season

Membership

- Budget: \$2,767,295
- Actual (season to date): \$2,441,148
- 88.21% of budget

Income through August 2023:

- Budget: \$3,436,342
- Monthly Activity: \$40,742
- Actual (season to date): \$3,083,234
- 89.72% of budget

Expense through August 2023

- Budget: \$2,983,607
- Monthly Activity: \$87,542
- Actual (season to date): \$2,248,691
- 75.37% of budget

MOTION: Doug Jacobs moved and Mike Koehler seconded approval of the Treasurer's report as presented. Motion passed..

Annual Auditor's Report

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

2024 Budgets

Cindy Locke presented the proposed VAST General Fund, Trails, and Scholarship budgets for FY24, beginning on page 15 of the Annual Report, and highlighted changes from last year's budget.

Changes in the FY24 VAST General Fund for \$20k increase due to benefits for health insurance as rates are not released annually until November. Increase with Online Computer Subscriptions for services such as Salesforce and website hosting. Increase with Technical Security, as there was an increase in fees with DominionTech. Reduction in magazine printing, with omitting one edition.

Discussion on Trails Fund and Grooming Fund line items.

Scholarship Fund renamed to Bill & Mitzi Oakes Scholarship, with an increase of two \$1,500 scholarships awarded to two \$2,500 scholarships awarded. Currently there are 40 years in reserves for this account. Annuity \$280k money donated specifically for scholarships.

Discussion on three TMA increase options that were

2023 56th VAST Annual Meeting Minutes

discussed by the VAST BOD during the July 2023 meeting. ALL of the funds from an TMA increase would go to trails exclusively and into line item 8310/2010 in the Trails Fund.

MOTION: Ross Page moved and Gary Lamberton seconded to raise 2024 TMA by \$20 for Early Bird, Regular, Dealer and Commercial TMAs

Discussion on potential effects to quantity of VAST membership with a TMA increase.

Discussion on both Maine and New Hampshire having an trail pass increase for 2024.

Discussion on VAST membership for 2023 season quantity decrease projected due to late season snow.

Discussion of VAST not having a TMA increase since 2019.

Voice vote of a TMA increase of \$20. Voice vote of Nay. Motion Defeated.

Discussion of potential trail availability projected to open for 2024 season as a way to help gauge for a TMA increase. At this time, the exact extent of the amount of damage is unclear as clubs are continuing to evaluate.

Discussion of optional donation when purchasing TMA as a way to support clubs affected storm damage vs. forced TMA increase rate.

Discussion on potential platforms for donations to clubs and trails.

Discussion of economic impact study expenses and if they could be eligible to be reallocated for trail fund reserves.

Discussion that LVRT transitioned to the State of Vermont as of January 2023. LVRT will be available for some FEMA funds. Working on getting updates on conditions from the State of Vermont.

Discussion on encouraging members to volunteer and connect with clubs to both help with trails and with individual TMA cost.

Discussion on RTP grants. RTP grants vary annually. Comes from the State of Vermont and a Federal grant. As a reminder, the State of Vermont fiscal year begins July 1 and VAST begins October 1. VAST usually is notified of available RTP funds in April. RTP is for both motorized and nonmotorized and is usually divided among VAST and VASA. VAST has to match the RTP grant amount.

MOTION: Ed Hebebrand moved to cut the VAST General Fund by 5% per year for 3 years. No second, Motion dies.

MOTION: Ed Hebebrand moved and Lewis Barnes seconded approval of the FY24 VAST budgets as presented and

reviewed. Motion carried

Elections

Jim Hill 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.

Secretary nominations from the floor for Jim Hill, declined and Ruth Halpin, accepted as well as a prior nomination from Carmin Lemery.

Treasurer nomination from the floor for Steve Conti, accepted as well as prior nomination from Patty Companik.

Discussion on the reminder that BOD officers are not eligible to vote. Officers are there to help support BOD and none have a vote at a board level.

MOTION: President and Vice President elected via voice vote and Secretary and Treasurer through a paper vote. Motion Carried.

MOTION: Ed Hebebrand moved and Jeff Halpin seconded that nominations for the office of President be closed. Motion carried.

MOTION: Jeff Porter moved and Michael Garber seconded that nominations for the office of Vice President be closed. Motion carried.

Paper ballot voting was held for officer elections for the Secretary and Treasurer.

Secretary: Ruth Halpin 92, Carmin Lemery 41
Treasurer: Patty Companik 123, Steve Conti 21

MOTION: Lewis Barnes moved and Larry Dwyer seconded that nominations for the office of secretary be closed. Motion carried.

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

MOTION: Ed Hebebrand moved and Lewis Barnes seconded that the Secretary cast one ballot to approve the slate of officers as nominated. President: Jeff Fay, Vice President: Mark Reaves, Secretary: Ruth Halpin, Treasurer: Patty Companik. Motion carried.

MOTION: Ed Hebebrand moved, Linn Mixer seconded, adjournment of the 2023 Annual Meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:08 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jim Hill, Secretary*

VAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Submitted by Jeff Fay

Another season has come and gone. Similar to last year, we had a below average season. Low snow in some areas offered periods of brief riding, if any at all. Relatively decent snow in other areas provided more of a normal riding season. But, still not the type of season that we expected after all the work putting trails back together after flooding. As we wrap up summer and approach fall, we're back in the same position with severe flooding taking out trails, and bridges once again.

The bright spot of the spring and the end of last season, was the Waterbury and Mad River clubs working to see what it would take to re-open the suspension bridge in Waterbury. VAST is in the process of arranging for an engineering study on the bridge to see if it is feasible to repair it or what the options are for possible replacement, or unfortunately, removal.

The board of directors recently had their annual summit. It was a day of brainstorming ideas, and looking at what the future may be like for VAST. Investigating

high elevation parking areas was one of several topics discussed. The new budget was also reviewed and approved by the board. A copy can be found later in this booklet. We are not anticipating a rate increase for this year.

VAST relies on its volunteers and landowners to make the trail system "appear" year after year. I would like to thank the clubs for all of their efforts in getting trails open for the season and thank our landowners for their continued generosity for the use of their property. There is always a need for additional volunteers. So reach out to a club in the area that you ride and offer a few hours of time.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the annual meeting and on the trails this winter. Ride with respect - you are a guest on someone's property. Ride right - it's where you belong. Ride safe - ride with the brain engaged, and ride again another day.

Thank you, for being part of the best snowmobile association in the northeast. You are VAST!

VAST VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Submitted by Mark Reaves



Once again, VAST has faced an incredibly variable and tough year. This year Mother Nature threw everything, including the kitchen sink, at us. It started in July 2023 with devastating statewide floods, more damaging storms in December and a winter season that seemed to operate with a light switch.

Through it all, one trait really stood out to me, resilience. Every time we suffered a setback we managed to get back up, dust ourselves off and keep pushing forward. There was some good riding to be had. You had to have some flexibility with your schedule, but our clubs made sure that if there was snow, it was groomed and ready to go.

I know it gets repetitive, but I'll pull the line from my last two reports: the dedication, perseverance and hard work of our members and employees stands out and is truly exceptional. Without it we would be nowhere. Thank you for all that you do and let's hope for some snow!

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Submitted by Cindy Locke

This past season we were down in snow and TMA membership sales (trail passes). While we are snow dependent and that mostly rules how our TMA sales will be, we are also dependent on people riding legally and being able to afford to snowmobiles. We were down about 2,000 trail passes and Vermont state registrations as well, which can also mean that some folks decided to take their chances since the Vermont DMV is no longer sending out white registration stickers. We did this past season add to all TMAs (if the snowmobile was registered in VT) a VT symbol to add a visual aid to law enforcement. You still need to carry your registration paperwork on your snowmobile, but overall I believe the state not issuing white registration stickers did affect us. It will be interesting to see if that trend transfers to car and truck registrations and inspections.

Vermont had some riding as did New Hampshire and Maine, the snowline stopped at our western border and did not pick up again until the Rocky Mountains. I was at the International Snowmobile Congress in June and heard from Midwest states and provinces that had no snow or only about two weeks of riding including Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Saskatchewan, lower Ontario, Quebec and Manitoba.

With results like last year, we continue to think more about how to attract riders to Vermont. Implementing a give-away program for Early Bird TMA sales is one. Also reevaluating our social media presence will help. We also will be moving to a new online map format this winter. Of course, we will be at the snowmobile events to promote Vermont snowmobiling in NY, NH and MA this fall too.

Since moving online with TMA sales a few years ago, changes have come to the office structure as well. We are much more tech heavy with building and maintaining the annual TMA sales programs and databases, but also building databases and forms to track groomer miles, grants, and many online member and club forms. What many do not know is that VAST is not only a membership association of snowmobilers and volunteers, but we are also a regulated organization. What that means is that we must follow strict laws and structures set by the State of Vermont and federal government. We operate much like a state agency with many legal guidelines, and we must always possess a proven unbiased leadership decision making processes.

While we took a hard look at budgets this year and reduced our operations as much as we can and still operate the association, we all need to understand that funds available are impacted when people do not buy a TMA. This includes trail grooming, trail maintenance, club grants, etc. It will take an effort by everyone to make sure we stay vital and balanced to reserve funds when possible, for unforeseen events.

Recently we had more flooding in Vermont and lost bridges, culverts, trails, etc. This all takes money to repair, and unless these washouts happened on state or federal lands, VAST is not eligible for FEMA funds. Our staff did write grant requests for emergency trail repair funding for some of last year's flood damage from the VT Department of Forest Parks and Recreation in the form of VOREC grants. Clubs do what they can with their volunteers and we do what we can with funding, but we need to make a concerted effort together to spend smartly to save money for the next big rain storm. Buying new groomers when we have a large fleet needs to be balanced with having enough funds for emergency situations.

In addition to how important our volunteers are to VAST, our landowners are equally so. Landowners in Vermont do not have a collective voice. VAST is a voice for them as are other trail organizations or agricultural associations, but landowners have some large decisions to make and hurdles this coming year since the Vermont legislature decided to increase property taxes by double digits.

I want to encourage you to ask your local legislators how they voted to protect landowners. Ask about their track record when working to protect outdoor recreation in Vermont and how they will help VAST and snowmobiling in Vermont when you vote for them.

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 reports in this booklet to get more information about our work in FY2024.

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 was another mediocre year for snow, so law enforcement patrolling reflected that. We have made strides overall though regarding the growth of our law enforcement programs that include orientations for our agencies, better reporting, communication and overall coordination. Since there was hit-and-miss snow in certain regions, we were able to come under budget or law enforcement patrolling by about 2/3 of what was budgeted. Since law enforcement funds are dedicated by state law and VAST receives funding from the State

of Vermont specific for the purpose of patrolling our trails and performing safety inspections, the money not expended this year will sit in their dedicated reserve account.

2024 Law Enforcement Statistics

618 patrol hours, 838 patrol hours, 760 safety inspections, 44 tickets, 248 warnings, 9 accidents.

VERMONT SNOW TRAILS CONSERVANCY REPORT

Submitted by Patrick Poulin, Secretary

The VSTC met during the 2023/2024 season to discuss potential easements. However, we are not currently pursuing any easement opportunities.

Ken Brown of the VAST staff left the team when he resigned from VAST. Cindy Locke rejoined the team as a Trustee. We thank Ken for the time he spent on the conservancy and welcome Cindy back to the team.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize 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

The Long-Range Planning Committee (LRPC) is dedicated to the long-term stability of VAST. All 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.

This year, our work has focused on resiliency and how VAST can continue to provide outstanding riding opportunities across the state in the face of growing expenses and changing weather patterns. At the annual VAST leadership meeting held in July, resiliency was the topic of our attention. In the coming months, expect to hear and be prepared to comment on ideas about expanding access to higher elevation trails, increasing membership and raising the profile of snowmobiling and VAST.

A huge thank you goes out to committee members Jim Hill, Pat Poulin, Mike Burns, Mike Stewart and VAST Executive Director Cindy Locke for all their hard work.



FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by Patricia Companik, Treasurer

This report is based on projections on how we will finish the fiscal year and is done several months before the fiscal year ends in order for it to be included in the annual report.

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) fell below our budget expectations by about 15%. With the \$10.00 TMA cost increase included in membership, we came in (through June data) at 83.57% of budget expectations, representing a membership income shortfall of \$454,636.

The Trails Fund income budget for 2024 is \$2,493,297. The actual TF income through June 2024 is \$2,125,029.

The Expense portion of the Trails Budget for 2024 was set at \$1,939,000 and expenses through June 2024 are \$1,116,305. Approximately \$578k in grooming expenses was not utilized. There is a TF budget balance of \$822,694 remaining. With three more months of TF expenses to occur, we project the TF budget to end in the black around \$640k.

The General Fund Income budget is \$1,090,876. The actual GF income through June 2024 is \$833,679.

The Expense portion of the General Fund budget for 2024 was set at \$1,088,072 and the expenses through June 2024 are \$755,573 and projected to be around \$991,054 at the end of the fiscal season. With three more months of our fiscal season to occur, we project the GF to end in the red. GF Income is at \$863,496 and GF Expenses at \$991,054, representing a shortfall of \$127,558

Our Income this year includes the \$10 per TMA increase voted on by the membership last year reflecting an increase in revenue of \$171,121. Per the membership vote, this can only be utilized for the Trails Budget. This revenue is currently in our Trails Special Reserve account reflected in the Management Report (in addition to the

\$5 increase from 2019 revenue representing \$88,154)

In addition to the 72% of the TMA revenue going to the Trails Fund, is also receives additional revenue from the State of Vermont (formulas associated with VT sled registration, gas tax, and fines/penalties) of approximately \$653,115 in the SSTP budget expectations for FY24. The State of Vermont funding has very specific guidelines on how this money can be utilized. This budget is managed by the Governors Snowmobile Advisory Council in the Statewide Snowmobile Trails Program Budget (SSTP). This is where you see line items like the Equipment Grant funding (from gas tax funds). 2024 had a budget of \$248,000 for this line item.

The 2024 Trails Encumbered report reflects a budget of \$544,170 for regular trail construction, maintenance, debrising and emergency funding. As of June 2024, \$331,571 has been utilized.

The grant from the state for \$750k for flood relief projects helped us tremendously. Through June 2024, \$435,415 has been utilized to repair flood damaged trails and bridges. It has been reported by the VAST trails administrator that the remaining balance of \$314,585 is mostly allocated to projects which need to be completed and paperwork submitted for payment.

Through June 2024, a total of \$766,986 has been spent on trail projects (regular and flood projects).

Regarding the proposed FY25 budget, membership expectations (TMA sales) is set at this past season's actual numbers. The Maine tradeshow is proposed to be dropped, no printing maps this year, and several other line items were reduced. The General Fund represents a proposal to move approximately \$160k from the checking account into the General Fund Income budget in order to balance the budget (GF Income line item 6000/1013). The 2025 proposed budget reflects the General Fund Expenses at \$1,020,717 (approx. \$63k less than 2024 budget) and the Trails Fund Expense budget at \$2,401,015. This is slightly higher than 2024 due to GMNF projects noted in the TF Expense budget under account number 8300/2010c. It is \$462,015 higher.

We should end the 2024 budget year with a surplus. The VAST Board of Directors will vote on where to allocate any surplus funds.

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 to reflect on the Executive Director's performance throughout the year, by providing constructive and/or complementary feedback on that performance.

The Personnel Committee also provides oversight to

assist in keeping staff policies up to date; for VAST's annual audit review.

Working with the By-Law Committee regarding implementation of any necessary changes to staff policy & procedures of the By Laws.

The Personnel Policy Committee Meetings are held as needed.

NOMINATING, SCHOLARSHIP & RECOGNITION COMMITTEE

Submitted by Patty Companik, Chair

Volunteering is one of the most meaningful experiences a person can have. Our association is built on volunteerism, and we are blessed to have so many dedicated individuals who continue to make this association what it is today. This committee focuses on celebrating our volunteers.

This year, we took a moment to say thank you and celebrate some of our volunteers during National Volunteer Week in April. County Directors, County Alternate Directors, County Trails Coordinators and Assistant County Trails Coordinators received a VAST custom challenge coin and thank you note as a small token of our appreciation for the countless volunteer hours they put into this association all year long.

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.

Lydia Gilesie is from Lyndon Center, Vt and is a member of the Lyndon Snow Cruisers. At the time of her application, she was still deciding on which University to attend, but indicated most likely UVM to study Biochemistry (pre-med track).

Vincent Novak is from Piscataway, Nj and is a member of the Chester Club and the Green Mountain Snow Dogs. He plans to attend Vermont State University to study Business.

The committee also oversees the nomination of VAST Officers. The following officers are seeking re-election: Jeff Fay (President), Mark Reaves (Vice President), and Patty Companik (Treasurer), and Ruth Halpin (Secretary). Nominations can also be taken from the floor for any of the officer positions at the Annual Meeting during the election portion of the agenda.



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. It is established by Statute statue 23V.S.A. & 3216. This council shall review, advise and consent on 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, 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 reviews 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 report 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 ongoing items from VAST. Representatives from the geographic regions of the state

report on items from their regions that are on going or that may have an impact to the sport.

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

- Monitor Snowmobile Safety Education Program – 882 students certified this season. 799 on line. Working with the Safety committee to review and upgrade the on-line education program.
- Monitor Snowmobile Law Enforcement efforts
- DVM reported 18,217 snowmobile registrations this year. A reduction of almost 2,000 registrations.
- Trail Safety: Off Trail Riding - Law Enforcement focus continues
- Review and approved FY2025 SSTP Budget

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

Northeast: Mike Mustachio

Northwest: Jim Hill

Central: Jeff Halpin

South: Stan Choiniere

VAST Law Enforcement/Multi-use Trails: Gary Nolan



BYLAWS COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by Mark Reaves, Chair

Currently, the committee has no recommendations to make regarding bylaw changes. In the last year the committee worked on creating and implementing an Appeals Policy that clearly defines how the process

of making an appeal works. I would like to thank the members of the Policy and Bylaws Committee Carol DeJohn, Doug Jacobs, Jeff Fay and Cindy Locke for their work.

SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by Stan Choiniere, Chair

Due to another season with low snowfall, we had limited opportunities to hold safety events. The Safety Committee continued to strive to improve the safety of our riders and those that we share the trails with. We continue to promote our safe riding initiatives and support the Safety Ambassador program.

The Safety Class required for all riders born after July 1, 1983 has transitioned to nearly all online and the demand for in person classes has fallen to such low interest very few were scheduled. The classes that were held had limited attendance, unlike years past when classes were filled to the maximum allowed by the program. Totals for this past season were 799 online and 83 in person students. These overall numbers are down significantly from the last few years, especially during the Covid years.

The Trails Committee discussed issues such as off trail riding and reckless operation that has caused some challenges with landowners. They feel this is a product of the departure from the in-person classes where such issues can be discussed in detail, explaining the impact of such actions. They suggested to the board a return to in-person classes only. For several

reasons this is not feasible. In an effort to improve the effectiveness of the program the Safety Committee has started an in-depth review of the online course. As this course is administered by a third party and meets the requirements of multiple states, we are limited in the content that we can modify. Our goal is to make changes to improve the section that pertains specifically to Vermont, the other "general" sections cannot be modified.

The committee has also begun to investigate the implementation of the WHAT THREE WORDS app, this is used in search and rescue operations to pinpoint a persons location. It is a simple to use, free app. Watch for more information in VAST publications and eBlasts.

Additional Helicopter Landing Zones have been established. A special thank you to Roger Gosselin for his expertise and efforts for this program.

I want to thank our committee members for their time and efforts.

Cindy Locke, Pat Poulin, Roger Gosselin, F&W Warden Jenna Reed, VSP Trooper Jacob Metayer, Julianne Sherman, Dave Rouleau, and Lewis Barnes.

TRAILS COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by Curt Marechaux, Chair & John Hull, Co-Chair

The Trails Committee has regained traction this year with a new chair and co-chair, dedicated to running well planned, concise, and efficient meetings on a quarterly basis. The committee has been meeting every couple of months and will meet more frequently as needed. Smaller working groups and/or sub-committees will form as needed to tackle the most intricate and difficult issues as they arise. Trails Committee members are asked for input regularly to provide topics from their individual counties for discussion at each meeting, thus keeping

the members active, involved and a part of the solution. The Trails Committee is committed to reviewing policies and making difficult recommendations to adapt to our changing winters and funding, grooming, equipment, and trail maintenance needs.

Additional modifications will be made to the trail policies, as necessary. Meanwhile we are all looking forward to a spectacular winter of snowmobiling for the 2024/25 season!

STATEWIDE SNOWMOBILE TRAILS PROGRAM (SSTP) REPORT

Submitted by Matt Tetreault, Trails Administrator

FY 2024 was another lazy winter here in Vermont. 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. This trend continued for FY 23, and FY 24. In fact, it is the new norm. There were a couple of decent storms here and there but nothing that would last as long as any of us would have liked. A couple of back-to-back late season dumping had riders frothing at the mouth again, and some complaining because groomers were not out on thawed and muddy ground with wet snow on top! Also, like last year, we were once again left with a long spring and summer to prepare for the season ahead and early July wreaked havoc on our trail system. We can only hope that this trend does not continue.

A special thank you to all the volunteers who created a well maintained and signed trail system in FY 24, doing their best to deliver a quality product, the great landowners who allow the volunteers and riders access, and the membership for sticking with us for another season. None of this was ever easy, but it has sure become more difficult with each passing year. Please maintain your enthusiasm, even though it is difficult.

Trail Construction & Maintenance

There are approximately 4,147 miles of groomed trails and 230 miles of secondary trails maintained by 113 VAST Snowmobile Clubs. During the 2024 construction season,

there were a total of 106 regular construction, maintenance projects, 7 emergency projects, 15 debrushing, and 167 flood repair projects submitted. \$281,482 was used to fund the 106 construction and maintenance projects, \$35,458 was used to fund the 7 regular emergency projects, \$13,395 was used to fund the 15 debrushing projects and \$412,195 to fund the 167 flood repair projects. The average cost per mile to construct/maintain the VAST Trail system this past season based on these figures was \$179.05/Mile as opposed to \$135.98/Mile in 2023 and \$96.51/Mile during the 2022 season.

Equipment Grants

For FY24 there were a total of 40 Equipment Grant in Aid Applications submitted. The breakdown is as follows; 7 new power units, 5 used power units, 12 drags, 15 capital repairs and one rescue equipment. Of the 9 grants that were funded, 5 were for power units (3) new and (2) used, 1 drag, and 3 for capital repairs for a total of \$221,100 spent out of the budget. This is approximately 16% of the total cost requested to purchase/repair equipment (\$1,564,288). 100% of the funding for equipment came from the SSTP budget.

Grooming

There were 106 grooming contracts during the 2023-2024 snowmobile season. There were 100 contracts with VAST clubs and 6 contracts with grooming contractors.

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
2022-23	125	\$563,904	\$4,511	\$50,000.00
2023-24	106	\$460,000.00	\$4,340	\$50,000.00
23 Yr Total	3628	\$9,572,847	\$2,687	\$429,524

SSTP (continued)

Equipment Grants				
Year	# of Grants	Grant Dollars Spent	Average Grant	Acquisition/Repair Total
2001-02	30	\$185,000	\$6,167	\$1,001,070
2002-03	32	\$249,944	\$7,811	\$829,548
2003-04	35	\$267,164	\$7,633	\$727,601
2004-05	39	\$418,893	\$10,741	\$1,128,000
2005-06	35	\$500,000	\$14,286	\$907,085
2006-07	17	\$163,600	\$9,624	\$403,490
2007-08	38	\$320,156	\$8,425	\$751,268
2008-09	24	\$526,775	\$21,949	\$1,170,664
2009-10	23	\$562,093	\$24,439	\$1,417,618
2010-11	25	\$601,744	\$24,070	\$2,129,000
2011-12	24	\$530,720	\$22,113	\$1,477,834
2012-13	12	\$191,316	\$15,943	\$443,852
2013-14	14	\$312,741	\$22,339	\$1,033,400
2014-15	19	\$284,894	\$14,994	\$990,962.52
2015-16	8	\$259,568	\$32,446	\$847,968
2016-17	4	\$19,538	\$4,885	\$52,468
2017-18	23	\$361,882	\$15,734	\$1,276,656
2018-19	18	\$232,240	\$12,902	\$1,464,180
2019-20	22	\$210,079	\$9,549	\$1,676,080
2020-21	18	\$128,554	\$7,142	\$1,102,083
2021-22	22	\$225,820	\$10,265	\$1,464,158
2022-23	22	\$147,968	\$6,726	\$704,750
2023-24	40	\$248,000	\$6,200	\$1,564,288
23 Yr Total	544	\$6,948,689	\$13,756	\$23,573,060

The total grooming budget for the 2023-2024 season was \$1,418,000.

The VAST clubs and contractors received their grooming start-up funds during the month of December. The start-up payments were equal to 35% of the clubs/contractors grooming contract cap, which is calculated by multiplying the club/contractors contact mileage (mileage quota) multiplied by the rate of pay per mile. The total figure for start-up payments for the 2023-2024 season was \$763,987. This start up is equal to the club/contractor's subsidy payment.

The mid-season grooming payment totaled \$1,026 and covered grooming between December 11th and February 4th.

The end of season grooming payments were sent to clubs/contractors that had submitted necessary paperwork by April 30th. The total amount paid for the final grooming payment was \$72,958.71 and covered grooming between February 5th and March 31st, the end of the snowmobile season.

A total of \$837,971.71 was paid out in grooming for the winter, with 95 clubs and contractors receiving a grooming subsidy. The subsidy amount paid was \$391,439.

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 \$126,00
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.
2022-23	81,850	\$1,137,611.41	Subsidy paid to 47 clubs totaling \$70,255. One club forfeited final payment. Figure to left does not include \$80,690.50 paid to clubs as a fuel stipend of \$1 per mile groomed at the end of the season.
2023-24	33,942	\$837,971.56	Subsidy paid to 95 clubs totaling \$391,439.
23 Yr Total	2,542,505	\$28,343,557.89	

SSTP (continued)

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.
2022-23	\$1,500,000	\$1,137,611.41	76%	Subsidy paid to 47 clubs totaling \$70,255. One club forfeited final payment. Figure to left does not include \$80,690.50 paid to clubs as a fuel stipend of \$1 per mile groomed at the end of the season.
2023-24	\$1,418,000	\$837,972.00	59%	Subsidy paid to 95 clubs totaling \$391,439.
23 Yr Total	\$36,037,608	\$28,343,559	79%	(Average)

The fleet of grooming equipment logged 33,942 miles during the winter of 2023-2024 as compared to 81,850 miles during the winter of 2022-2023, 67,386.90 miles during the winter of 2021-2022, and 115,075 during the winter of 2020-2021 and 82,145 miles during the winter of 2019-2020.

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 2024, there were a total of 18,228 (20,164 in FY 23), 12,477 resident registrations (14,690 in FY 23) and 5,751 non-resident registrations (5,474 in FY 23). This is based on a report from DMV for registrations as of 6/30/24. This is a significant decrease of 1,936 registrations from FY 23 and another 1,430 registrations down from FY 22. Nonresident registrations climbed a little while we lost a bunch of resident registrations.

2023-2024 Summary

✓ VAST spent \$239,660 in trail maintenance, \$41,822 in trail construction, and \$13,395 in debrushing and \$35,458 in Emergency repairs on a total of 128 Grant

in Aid Projects. In addition, there were 167 Flood related projects that were funded in the amount of \$412,195.

- ✓ The VAST Grooming Fleet logged a total of 33,942 miles during the 2023-2024 snowmobile season. (Class 1: 80 Contracts & 33,164.7 miles, Class 2: 5 Contracts & 24 miles, Class 3: 6 Contracts & 132.7 miles, Class 4: 15 Contracts & 620.6 miles).
- ✓ \$37,905 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 2023-2024 snowmobile season. There was approximately \$6,341 in fines issued for non-compliance with various Vermont Laws. There were 650 hours of patrols, 760 inspections, 44 citations issued, 248 warnings issued, 0 search and rescue missions, 9 accident investigations and 0 fatality investigated.
- ✓ The VAST Plowed Parking Area Program was a success once again during the 2023-2024 season. A total of 24 out of 87 parking areas throughout the state were plowed under contract this past winter. Approximately \$8,915 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/Debrushing/ Grooming budgets. Policies will continue to be reviewed, as necessary.

SSTP (continued)

- ✓ \$221,100 was spent in the VAST Equipment Grant in Aid Program and helped clubs/contractors with the purchase of 5 New/Used Power Units, 1 Drags, and 3 Capital Repairs (Arctic Cat: 0, Polaris: 0, Ski Doo: 0, John Deer: 0, PistenBully: 1, Prinoth: 3, Tucker:1, Favero Lorenzo Snow Rabbit: 1, Mogul Master Drag:0, Mtn. Snow Drag: 0, Maxey Drag: 0, Frenchie Drag: 0, Capital Repairs: 3, Rescue Boggan: 0, Homemade Drag: 1, Can Am: 0)
- ✓ The average age of the Class 1,2, 3 and 4 grooming fleet on the SSTP is 2010 (14 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 (121 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 the future.

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%
2022-23	14,690	73%	5,474	27%
2023-24	12,477	68%	5,751	32%
Average	19,896	71%	7,968	29%

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)
2022-23	20,164	14,690	5,474	22,554 (not including replacements/transfers/lost/military or volunteer)
2023-24	18,228	12,477	5,751	17,244 (not including replacements/transfers(120)/lost/Military(20) or volunteer paid(196)

2025 BUDGETS EXPLAINED

Everything we do here at VAST is all about trails and snowmobiling in Vermont. It's what we promote, what we invest in, what we lobby for so it's hard to cut one area without hurting our efficiency and our product of snowmobiling in Vermont. We have seen mandated increases in costs all over, not just grooming equipment, steel, fuel, etc. that affect clubs and VAST. We also have increases in health insurance, cost of living, taxes, communications, professional services, contractors, etc.

Here are the four options for balancing the VAST budgets:

1. Change the percentage going to the Trails Fund [TF] (which has been operating in the black with excessive left-over funds for the past three years)
2. Raise TMA prices going to the General Fund (GF).
3. Put some items currently in the GF that are trail related and required by state law like TMA production and distribution, safety initiatives and lobbying into the TF.
4. Supplement the GF budget with money VAST already has in checking that has not been dedicated. Note: The SSTP budget has been supplemented by the SSTP Carry Forward (reserve account) for years.

We propose to the VAST Board of Directors that option number four would make the most sense and the amount would be \$161,000. It is always hard to propose an option like this, but we cannot cut the VAST General Fund anymore if we expect to continue to operate the organization. In the past seven years the VAST General Fund budget has ended in the black leaving a total of \$754,589 of funds in checking/savings that were not spent by the General Fund. Much of these funds have gone into reserves for trail related initiatives or stayed in checking.

More information:

- Clubs get nearly the same amount of funds from TMA sales as VAST does to run our entire organization's General Fund. Going online has also freed up their volunteer time, while costing the VAST General Fund more and adding work to the staff. This is just membership sales, and does not include grants given to clubs, or grooming funding.

FY23

VAST GF received \$679,981

Clubs were given \$626,725

FY24

VAST GF received \$534,734

Clubs were given \$548,620

- VAST Bylaws state that the Trails Fund should never be funded less than 40% from TMA sales. It is currently operating at 76.71% (See the bottom of the budget for all percentages)

Its not all bad news:

- We have been able to fix trails damaged by floods utilizing \$750,000 from the State of Vermont.
- We may have enough in reserves to invest more to help more clubs with equipment grants and trail work grants, which may be needed due to flooding and or an aging fleet. (See the bottom of the budget to see how much is in reserve accounts and how much I am recommending when investing more in this year).
- We have a staff that works tirelessly alongside a force of trail and club volunteers.
- We have an amazing product and there is a cost of having a supreme snowmobile experience in Vermont.



VAST MANAGEMENT RECAP REPORT

A1:D32 represents funds that are already allocated to be spent, or being held by the bank for our insurance.	* represents funds that are either in our checking account and operating money, or reserve accounts (savings accounts that the BOD can decide to use for specific things. Usually to supplement programs and help more clubs during a grant period, or for disasters. Keep in mind that VAST needs at least one full year of operating funds in reserves to protect the organization and our clubs. VAST's operating funds are about \$3 million dollars a year, not including the SSTP funds from the State of Vermont. But with the SSTP registration money and gas tax that is about another 1 million of costs.	**** represents non-liquid assets that VAST owns.
Operating Account		
NSB VAST General Account	1,501,209.57	This is our general checking account.
Payroll Liabilities	(107.39)	
ROTH IRA	(104.80)	
401K	565.37	
Notes Payable - 2019 Ford F150	(8,697.75)	
Net Operating Account	1,492,865.00	***Minus liabilities this is the total we have in the checking account.
Designated Accounts		
NSB-Trails Projects Account	645,704.88	**This is money that is already dedicated to trail projects that are already planned.
NSB-Trails special reserve acc	258,300.00	**This is money that is already dedicated to trail projects or just trails in general.
Flood Relief Trail work	319,584.52	***Dedicated reserve savings account.
Capital Grooming Contingency	235,440.75	***Dedicated reserve savings account.
Capital Equipment Reserve	16,358.44	***Dedicated reserve savings account.
Capital Building Reserve	28,236.21	***Dedicated reserve savings account.
Capital Emergency Reserve	119,531.86	***Dedicated reserve savings account.
Capital Reserve RRG	34,729.00	***Dedicated reserve savings account.
Capital Disaster Relief	211,818.76	***Dedicated reserve savings account.
Capital Special Projects	52,077.64	***Dedicated reserve savings account.
Capital Economic Impact Study	69,000.00	***Dedicated reserve savings account.
Capital VSTCT Reserve	9,353.00	***Dedicated reserve savings account.
Capital Fuel/Club Equip Reserve	21,015.42	***Dedicated reserve savings account.
Capital StateLandMultiuseProj	10,000.00	***Dedicated reserve savings account.
Bill&Mitzi Scholarship Reserve	3,206.27	**Dedicated reserve savings account.
Total Designated Accounts	2,034,356.75	Dedicated reserve savings account total.
Property and Equipment		
VEHICLES	89,749.15	****These are assets VAST owns
Land	56,000.00	****These are assets VAST owns
Building	207,127.83	****These are assets VAST owns
Furniture/Equip.	120,686.96	****These are assets VAST owns
Software	56,980.21	****These are assets VAST owns
Total Property and Equipment	530,544.15	****These are assets VAST owns
Accumulated Depreciation	(376,773.02)	Depreciation of owned assets.
Net Property and Equipment	153,771.13	****Total of assets VAST owns.
Other Assets		
Stock	29,909.00	***This is a stock that was donated to the LVRT that VAST purchased a few years ago.
Investment in AORRG	1,257,736.75	****This is what VAST has that is being held at the bank to guarantee VAST would have the funds to represent ourselves, volunteers and landowner should their be a claim against our liability insurance.
Total Other Assets	1,287,645.75	
Total Assets	4,968,638.63	
Long-Term Liabilities		
Notes Payable - 2019 Ford F150	8,697.75	
Total Long-term Liabilities	8,697.75	
Total	4,959,940.88	

VAST GENERAL BUDGET

GENERAL FUND						
ACCT NO	DESCRIPTION	BUDGET	YEAR TO DATE	Projected EOY24	Projected budget for 2025	
INCOME						2025 GF Budget TMA income is based on last year's TMA sales.
INTEREST						
5300/1001	General Fund Interest	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 14,485.49	15,000.00	15,000.00	
5300/1004	Dividend Income	3,200.00	12,745.71	14,000.00	16,000.00	Combined 1003 and 1004
MEMBERSHIPS						
5400/1001b	EB Registered IN VT	313,811.95	237,341.08	237,341.08	237,341.08	
5400/1002b	EB Registration OUT-OF-STATE	167,849.17	137,164.80	137,164.80	137,164.80	
5400/1008b	Family Reg. IN VT	55,880.10	40,982.29	40,982.29	40,982.29	
5400/1009b	Family Reg. OUT-OF-STATE	21,697.51	17,765.42	17,765.42	17,765.42	
5400/1018	Three Day Pass	10,491.72	7,202.01	7,202.01	7,202.01	
5400/1006b	RS Reg. IN VT	121,180.19	35,170.98	35,170.98	35,170.98	
5400/1007b	RS Reg. OUT-OF-STATE	65,549.60	47,037.76	47,037.76	47,037.76	
5400/1012	Antique	38.92	91.92	91.92	91.92	
5400/1013	Vintage	218.24	41.80	41.80	41.80	
5400/1003	Commercial	5,129.10	4,794.70	4,794.70	4,794.70	
5400/1011	Military	785.84	188.82	188.82	188.82	
5400/1010	Dealer	789.52	1,078.02	1,078.02	1,078.02	
5400/1005a	Paid Vol TMAs	5,978.39	3,407.69	3,407.69	3,407.69	
5400/1019	Replace, Transfer, Lost & Misc	2,290.00	1,180.00	1,180.00	1,180.00	
PR & MARKETING						
	Sale of VAST Promo Items	4,500.00	2,436.05	4,500.00	4,500.00	
MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS						
	Media Sales	37,000.00	34,363.75	37,000.00	37,000.00	
ANNUAL MEETING						
CONTRACTED SERVICES & OTHER						
6000/1001	SSTP Management Services	138,732.00	85,586.80	138,732.00	138,732.00	
6000/1001a	SSTP Rental Income	6,000.00	3,500.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	
6000/1005	General Miscellaneous	1,000.00	601.34	1,000.00	1,000.00	
6000/1006	On Line TMA Handling Fee	108,060.77	84,477.00	108,060.77	108,060.77	
6000/1007	Donations	400.00	5,463.84	5,463.84	400.00	
6000/1009	Finance Charges	293.00	0.00	293.00	400.00	
6000/1013	General VAST Services				161,000.00	This is the funding to supplement the GF. Note: In the past seven years the VAST General Fund budget has ended in the black leaving a total of \$754,589 of funds in checking/savings that were not spent by the General Fund.
TOTAL INCOME FUNDS		\$ 1,085,876.02	\$ 777,107.27	863,496.90	1,021,540.06	

VAST GENERAL BUDGET

EXPENSES						
SALARIES						
	Staff Salaries	\$ 390,059.46	\$ 249,008.34	390,059.46	390,059.46	35.57%
BENEFITS						
	Employer Taxes and mandated responsibilities	161,589.00	119,962.11	161,589.00	36,177.46	Mandated Employer Taxes, etc.
	EE Benefits				159,247.00	Due to changes in insurances costs are \$7,000 less a year now. That being said, Blue Cross has increased 27% in the past two years.
PERSONAL/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE EXPENSES						
EXPENSES						
7200/1002	Executive Director	2,000.00	113.59	250.00	0.00	No more. Now all out of employee travel or expenses.
7200/1003	President	1,500.00	120.00	250.00	0.00	No more. Now all out of employee travel or expenses.
ACCT NO	DESCRIPTION	BUDGET	YEAR TO DATE 5/23/24	EOY 5/23/24		
7200/1004	Vice President	1,500.00	61.80	250.00	0.00	No more. Now all out of employee travel or expenses.
7200/1005	Recording Secretary	1,000.00	0.00	250.00	0.00	No more. Now all out of employee travel or expenses.
7200/1006	Treasurer	1,500.00	0.00	250.00	0.00	No more. Now all out of employee travel or expenses.
STAFF & OTHER EXPENSES						
7210/1009	Employee Travel	3,500.00	165.44	400.00	2,000.00	Down to low snow. May go over if we have a good winter. Updated from budget sent on 6/18
7210/1010	Employee Mileage / Fuel	4,000.00	1,063.19	2,000.00	3,000.00	Down to low snow. May go over if we have a good winter.
7210/1011	No EE Authorized Travel	3,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	3,500.00	Made more since getting rid of individual Expense accounts
7210/1013	Staff Trainings	1,600.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	
OPERATING EXPENSES						
7300/1002	Telephone	7,500.00	5,994.86	7,500.00	7,500.00	
7300/1003	Maint. Contracts-Office Equip	7,000.00	6,066.38	7,000.00	7,000.00	
7300/1004	Property Tax	8,000.00	6,299.13	8,000.00	8,000.00	
7300/1005	Equipment - Computers	600.00	1,881.43	1,881.43	600.00	
7300/1006	Office Maintenance	600.00	0.00	600.00	600.00	
7300/1007	Miscellaneous	500.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	
7300/1008	Bank, CC, Dir Dep, Misc. Fees	5,600.00	1,861.15	2,500.00	2,500.00	Down due to less TMA sales
7300/1008a	Online TMA CC Fees	105,867.90	86,433.93	86,433.93	86,433.93	May go over if we sell more TMAs
7300/1009	Electricity	2,000.00	1,145.81	2,000.00	2,000.00	
7300/1010	Fuel	2,000.00	938.92	2,000.00	2,000.00	
7300/1011	Exterior Maintenance/plow/mow	7,000.00	3,590.00	7,000.00	7,000.00	
7300/1013	Trash Removal	1,200.00	930.64	1,200.00	1,200.00	
7300/1015	Sewer Tax	200.00	159.48	200.00	200.00	
7300/1020	Vehicle Maint., Reg & Accessor	3,500.00	2,488.93	3,500.00	3,500.00	
OFFICE SUPPLIES						
7400/1001	Supplies Expenses	5,000.00	4,859.97	5,500.00	5,500.00	Significantly down from two years ago.
7400/1001a	Copying Expenses	400.00	0.00	400.00	400.00	
7400/1002	Postage	5,000.00	1,070.83	2,000.00	2,000.00	
7400/1003	Membership Forms/Decals	40,000.00	13,480.25	40,000.00	40,000.00	
7400/1003a	Membership Postage	19,000.00	11,940.78	11,940.78	12,000.00	
7400/1005	Computer Software	16,000.00	2,445.55	16,000.00	16,000.00	
9700/1001	Bad Debts	300.00	0.00	300.00	300.00	
INSURANCE						
7500/1001	General Insurance	28,000.00	18,054.72	23,000.00	18,100.00	
PROFESSIONAL						
7600/1001	Audit GF & TF	13,000.00	9,695.00	13,000.00	13,000.00	
7600/1002	Legal	7,000.00	2,017.05	5,000.00	4,000.00	
7600/1003	Technical	24,000.00	24,685.34	25,000.00	25,000.00	
7600/1009	Internet/Website Database/Support	11,000.00	8,713.93	11,000.00	10,000.00	
7600/1010	IRS Filings-Cnty Club Complain	7,000.00	1,825.00	7,000.00	7,000.00	
7600/1011	Other Professional	2,000.00	0.00	200.00	200.00	

VAST GENERAL BUDGET

ACCT NO	DESCRIPTION	BUDGET	YEAR TO DATE 5/23/24	EOY 5/23/24		
ANNUAL MEETING						
7700/1001	Annual Meeting	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	
7700/1001a	Annual Meeting Prior Year	10,000.00	2,075.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	
7700/1001b	Annual Meeting (Assist clubs)	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	
7700/1002	Awards Trophies	5,500.00	541.85	5,500.00	5,500.00	
MEDIA & COMMUNICATION						
7800/1003	Travel Expenses	1,600.00	0.00	400.00	400.00	
7800/1004	Supplies	900.00	0.00	400.00	400.00	
7800/1005a	Printing	30,000.00	26,550.05	30,000.00	30,000.00	
7800/1005b	Mailing	20,000.00	9,303.11	10,000.00	10,000.00	
7800/1005c	Rest Area Placement	1,700.00	540.00	700.00	700.00	
GENERAL EXPENSES						
7810/1001	Recruitment	500.00	270.00	300.00	300.00	
7810/1002	Donations	3,000.00	726.93	1,500.00	3,000.00	
7810/1003	Economic Impact Study	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
ASSOCIATION TRAVEL						
7900/1002	Other Association Travel	5,400.00	0.00	1,000.00	3,500.00	
7900/1003	Congress Meetings	9,000.00	3,448.99	6,000.00	6,000.00	
COMMITTEES/BOARD						
8000/1001	Misc. Meeting Exp- Incl Gov Cou	500.00	0.00	100.00	250.00	
	All Other Comm./Meetings	7,000.00	1,325.39	2,500.00	2,000.00	
8000/1014	Staff Meetings	750.00	438.10	750.00	750.00	
PR & MARKETING						
8100/1004	VAST Promo Items	3,000.00	6,010.20	6,010.20	3,000.00	
8100/1005	PR Travel Expenses	1,500.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	
8100/1006	General Promotions	2,000.00	0.00	1,500.00	2,000.00	
8100/1007	Advertising	5,000.00	4,014.20	5,000.00	5,000.00	
8100/1008	Tradeshows & Events	17,000.00	5,594.85	14,000.00	14,000.00	Dropping Maine Show
8100/1009	Credit Card - Online Sales Fee	500.00	152.99	500.00	500.00	
8100/1010	Website Shipping Charges	2,000.00	105.36	900.00	900.00	
8100/1011	Memberships & Subscriptions	4,000.00	1,818.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	
8100/1012	PR & Marketing Supplies	3,500.00	2,502.08	2,502.08	1,000.00	
8100/1013	Safety Program	2,000.00	3,037.96	3,037.96	3,000.00	
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS						
8200/1001	Lobbyist Registration etc.	30,000.00	21,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	
8200/1005	Legislative Events	500.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	
EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS						
	TOTAL EXPENSES	1,083,866.36	676,528.61	991,054.84	1,020,717.85	FY24 Expenses Budget \$63,148 lower than FY23
	NET INCOME (LOSS) BEFORE EXTRAORD ITEMS	\$ 2,009.66	\$ 100,578.66	(127,557.94)	822.21	
	NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$ 2,009.66	\$ 100,578.66	(127,557.94)	822.21	

VAST GENERAL BUDGET

TRAILS FUND						
ACCT NO	DESCRIPTION	BUDGET	YEAR TO DATE 5/23/24	EOY 5/23/24	Projected budget for 2025	
INCOME						
INTEREST						
5300/2001	Trails Checking Interest	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 14,258.31	15,000.00	22,000.00	
MEMBERSHIPS						
5400/2001b	EB Registered IN VT	813,879.22	614,051.05	614,051.05	614,051.05	
5400/2002b	EB Registered OUT-OF-STATE	435,321.04	354,840.96	354,840.96	354,840.96	
5400/2003	Commercial TMA	13,302.60	12,419.20	12,419.20	12,419.20	
5400/2004	Military	758.67	410.78	410.78	410.78	
5400/2005a	Paid Vol TMAs Trails	14,500.00	8,816.16	8,816.16	8,816.16	
5400/2006b	RS Reg. IN VT	314,283.88	219,765.02	219,765.02	219,765.02	
5400/2007b	RS Reg OUT-OF-STATE	170,004.59	121,693.77	121,693.77	121,693.77	
5400/2008b	Family Reg. IN VT	145,159.80	105,862.12	105,862.12	105,862.12	
5400/2009b	Family Reg. OUT-OF-STATE	56,268.13	45,788.09	45,788.09	45,788.09	
5400/2010	Dealer TMA's	1,492.47	2,788.26	2,788.26	2,788.26	
5400/2012	Antique	100.94	237.78	237.78	237.78	
5400/2013	Vintage Trails	565.99	108.10	108.10	108.10	
5400/2015	\$5 and \$20 Increase	0.00	258,825.00	258,825.00	258,825.00	This is the \$5 increase and \$10 increase from years past.
5400/2018	Three Day Pass Trails	27,210.54	18,632.13	18,632.13	16,691.43	
5400/2019	Trails Maint Donations - TMAs	0.00	7,495.00	7,495.00	2,000.00	
GRANTS						
5500/2003	GMNF / Cost Share	288,100.00	131,665.70	288,100.00	815,000.00	This is a wash with expenses.
5500/2004	Comm. TMA Club Dues Reimb	3,690.00	3,450.00	3,450.00	3,450.00	
5500/2005	Comm. TMA County Dues Reimb	20,910.00	19,550.00	19,550.00	19,550.00	
5500/2011	RTP Grooming Grants	157,000.00	155,827.00	155,827.00	167,869.00	
SALE & MISC ITEMS						
5600/2001	Maps	6,000.00	2,154.75	2,154.75	0.00	No printed maps this year.
5600/2002	Signs	20,000.00	10,889.41	15,000.00	20,000.00	
MISC ITEMS						
5700/2001	Misc Trail Income	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	
	TOTAL INCOME	\$ 2,493,297.87	\$ 2,109,528.59	2,270,915.17	2,812,266.72	

VAST GENERAL BUDGET

EXPENSES						
TRAILS FUND						
8300/2003	Gov't Relations	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 18,500.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	
8300/2004	Public Relations/External Image	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	
8300/2006	Trail Signs	50,000.00	25,953.76	37,000.00	40,000.00	
8300/2007	Trail Maps	18,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	No printed maps this year.
8300/2009	Trails Committee	3,000.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	
8300/2010e	GMNF / Cost Share	288,100.00	126,728.30	288,100.00	815,000.00	
8300/2011	Grooming	1,418,000.00	763,041.85	850,000.00	1,418,000.00	
8300/2013	Sign postage	3,000.00	937.69	1,500.00	3,000.00	
8300/2014	Trails Miscellaneous	2,700.00	0.00	2,700.00	2,500.00	
8300/2015	GPS Equip & Contracts	65,000.00	47,559.22	65,000.00	65,000.00	
8300/2024	Commer.TMA Reimburse Cty.	18,530.00	0.00	19,465.00	19,465.00	
8300/2025	Comm.TMA Reimb.Clubs	3,570.00	0.00	3,450.00	3,450.00	
8300/2035	Staff Safety Equip & Tools	2,500.00	0.00	0.00	2,500.00	
8300/2037	Insurance Policies - Trails	35,000.00	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	RRG Trails Liability Ins. comes from SSTP
	TOTAL EXPENSES	1,939,000.00	982,720.82	1,299,315.00	2,401,015.00	FY24 Expense increase mostly due to the GMNF projects.
EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS						
	TOTAL EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS					
8710/2021-27	Encumbered Trails		400,000.00	400,000.00	400,000.00	
	Total Expenses & Extraordinary	1,939,000.00	1,382,720.82	1,699,315.00	2,801,015.00	
	Net Income (loss)	554,297.87	726,807.77	571,600.17	11,251.72	The difference from the EOY for 2024 and FY2024 budget is the lower grooming this past winter and the budget staying the same.
SCOLORSHIP						
ACCT NO	DESCRIPTION	BUDGET	YEAR TO DATE 5/23/24	EOY 5/23/24		
INCOME						
INTEREST						
5300/3001	BILL & MITZI OAKS Interest	\$ 25.00	\$ 17.40	25.00	17.40	
MEMBERSHIPS						
5400/3001	BILL&MITZI OAK TMA CONTR(.10%)	2,755.27	2,078.49	2,078.49	2,078.49	
NEW	From SF Reserve Account		2,904.11	2,904.11	2,904.11	
PROMOTION						
CONTRACTED SERVICE & OTHER						
	TOTAL INCOME	2,780.27	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	
EXPENSES						
SCHOLARSHIP EXPENSES						
8200/3002	Bill & Mitzi Scholarship Award	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	
	TOTAL EXPENSES	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	
	NET INCOME (LOSS)	(\$ 2,219.73)	\$ 0.00	0.00	0.00	
Recommendations for Reserve Accounts		Current Balance (6/1)	Amount to Move	New Total		
	Capital Grooming Contingency	232,019.53	100,000.00	332,019.53		
	Capital VAST Equipment Reserve	16,358.44	10,000.00	26,358.44		
	Capital VAST Building Reserve	28,236.21	20,000.00	48,236.21		
	Capital Emergency Reserve	119,531.86	125,000.00	244,531.86		
	Capital Disaster Relief	211,818.76	125,000.00	336,818.76		
	Capital Special Projects	52,077.64	10,000.00	62,077.64		
	Capital Fuel/Club Equip Reserve	21,015.42	100,000.00	121,015.42		
	Capital StateLandMultiuseProj	10,000.00	10,000.00	20,000.00		
		691,057.86	500,000.00	1,191,057.86		

Thank you, VAST Volunteers!

