

THE VERMONT ASSOCIATION OF SNOW TRAVELERS, INC.



2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Hosted By Addison County Snowmobile Clubs

Saturday, September 6, 2025 - New Haven, VT

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VAST DIRECTORS & OFFICERS

FY 2025 Officers

President – Patty Companik
Vice President - Mark Reaves

Treasurer – Steve Conti
Secretary – Ruth Halpin
Past President - Jeff Fay

Board of Directors

Addison County – Jennifer Lucia
Bennington County – Carol DeJohn
Caledonia County – Bruce Carlson
Chittenden County – Pat Poulin
Essex County – John Hull
Franklin County – Michael Burns
Grand Isle County – Wade Lockerby

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 – Gary Lamberton
Chittenden County – Dieter Mulac
Essex County – Richard Poulin
Franklin County – Real Cyr
Grand Isle County – Neil Christopher

Lamoille County – Robert Rodriguez
Orange County – Juliann Sherman
Orleans County – Raymond Rodrigue
Rutland County – Tim Park
Washington County – Jeff Halpin
Windham County – Ivor Stevens
Windsor County – Gregory Fullerton

PAST PRESIDENTS

Wayne Flynn	1967-1969	Donald Finick	1989-1992
John Hall	1969-1971	Bryant M. Watson	1992-1994
William Oakes	1971-1973	Fred Putnam, Jr.	1994-2001
Norman Hayes	1973-1975	Ron Bartemy	2001-2003
Darwin Rogers	1975-1977	Ann Shangraw	2003-2007
Mark Hutchins	1977-1979	Pat Poulin	2007-2009
Patricia Rogers	1979-1982	Jim Hill	2009-2013
Donald Denko	1982-1985	Joe Cicia	2013-2015
William Oakes	1985-1987	Tim Mills	2015-2021
Dexter Willson	1987-1989	Jeff Fay	2021-2024

VAST STAFF

Executive Director – Cindy Locke
Trails Administrator – Matt Tetreault
Technology & Media Manager – Beth Flint

Finance and HR Manager – Sheila Fenoff-Willett
Programs & Trails Manager – Mandy Dwinell
Office Manager – Tina Bedard



Saturday, September 6, 2025 | New Haven, VT

AGENDA

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

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

11:30 - Lunch

12:30 pm - 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 2024 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)
 - 2025 Treasurers Report
- Approval of the Annual Auditors Report
 - 2026 Budget
- Approval Requires 2/3 Majority Vote
 - Election of Officers
 - Meeting Concludes

2024 57th VAST Annual Meeting Minutes

The 2024 VAST Annual Meeting was held at Grafton Trails & Outdoors Center in Grafton, Vermont. President Jeff Fay welcomed everyone and introduced Paul Stoddard 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, Volunteers and Landowners.

Awards

Patty Companik, Chair of the Awards Committee, announced scholarship winners and recipients of this year's VAST awards and Patty, as well as Ruth Halpin, read their write-ups.

Jeff Fay officially called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. Secretary Ruth Halpin presented the delegate tally from registration.

Agenda Approval

MOTION: Windsor county moved, and Caledonia seconded that the agenda for the 2024 Annual meeting be approved. Motion carried.

Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting

MOTION: Caledonia county moved, and Lamoille county seconded that the minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting be approved. Motion carried.

President's Report

MOTION: Rutland county moved, and Washington county seconded that the President's Report be approved.

Motion carried.

Executive Director's Report

MOTION: Caledonia county moved, and Windsor county seconded approval of the Executive Director's Report.

Motion carried.

VAST Committee Reports

MOTION: Caledonia county moved, and Essex county seconded approval of the Committee Reports as printed in the Annual Report. Motion carried.

VAST Trails Administrator Report

MOTION: Windham county moved, and Caledonia county seconded approval of the Trails Administrator Report. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

MOTION: Essex county moved, and Windham county seconded approval of the Treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried.

Annual Auditor's Report

MOTION: Caledonia county moved, and Windsor county 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 FY 2025, beginning on page 21 of the Annual Report, and highlighted changes from last year's budget. The budget for 2024 is based on 2023 TMA sales.



2024 57th VAST Annual Meeting Minutes

Cindy explained the Managers report. Clarified a typo in the annual report for flood relief trail work, this was marked in the original report that it can change, but this a dedicated fund and the money in it is already allocated. Cindy handed out a colored copy for clarification.

MOTION: Windsor county moved, and Addison county seconded approval of the FY 2025 VAST budgets as presented and reviewed. Motion carried unanimously.

Elections

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

MOTION: Rutland county moved, and Addison county seconded that the nominations for the office of President be closed. Motion carried.

MOTION: Chittenden county moved, and Caledonia county seconded that the nominations for the office of Vice President be closed. Motion carried.

MOTION: Chittenden county moved, and Lamoille county seconded that the nominations for the office of Secretary be closed. Motion Carried.

Stephen Conti was nominated by Greg Rouleau for the officer Treasurer position. Stephen accepted.

MOTION: Rutland county moved; Windham county seconded that nominations for the office of treasurer will be closed. Motion carried.

MOTION: Caledonia county moved, and Windham seconded to cast one ballot to approve the slate of officers as nominated:

Vice President, Mark Reeves
Secretary, Ruth Halpin
Treasurer, Stephen Conti

Motion carried.

Both candidates for president, Jeff Fay, and Patty Companik, presented a speech.

Paper ballot voting was held for officer elections for the President. The final counts are below:

Jeff Fay 48
Patty Companik 131

MOTION: Stan Choiniere moved, Ivor Stevens seconded, adjournment of the 2024 Annual Meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Halpin, Secretary

Prepared by Tina Bedard, Office Manager



VAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Submitted by Patty Companik

As another season comes to a close, we can reflect on a successful year for snowmobiling across Vermont. The snow delivered and riders were able to enjoy the exceptional trails from all corners of the state. While we always hope the season could last a bit longer, it was heartening to see so many of you taking advantage of the conditions and experiencing the best of what Vermont has to offer.

As I complete my first year serving as your president, I've had the opportunity to reflect on the progress we've made together. This past year has been about building a strong foundation for the association, one rooted in inclusion, collaboration, communication, and commitment.

We expanded our committee structure to welcome participation from any member of the association, encouraging broader engagement and fresh perspectives. A new social media committee was launched in close partnership with our dedicated staff, further enhancing our outreach and community connection. To enhance communications and engagement, I introduced "president's videos," which were shared on Facebook. These videos highlighted club events, and more recently, showcased club workdays. My goal was to keep all members informed while actively promoting the great work being done across our clubs.

The executive committee, comprised of elected officers and the executive director, worked closely to align our goals and ensure our efforts are focused on advancing the association.

Communication remained a key priority throughout the year, with consistent meetings emphasizing teamwork and strategic planning.

We gathered valuable ideas and insights from county representatives, committee meetings, and the annual summit meeting, providing a platform of ideas for the upcoming season.

I was fortunate to attend many club events, meetings, and committee discussions where I witnessed firsthand the dedication and hard work that takes place. It is a true testament to the commitment of our volunteers, whose passion keeps our trails and clubs thriving.

I would like to extend my deepest thanks to the landowners across Vermont who generously allow the use of their private property for our trail system. Your support is the backbone of our sport – without your generosity, the VAST trail system, with its breathtaking scenic network we all enjoy, would not be possible. On behalf of the association and the entire snowmobiling community, thank you for your invaluable contribution.

Thank you, everyone, for your continued support, dedication, and involvement. It truly takes a team to accomplish what we do, and I am extremely grateful to be a part of such a committed and passionate community.

As we look to the future, I'm eager to build upon the momentum we've created together and continue working towards another successful and rewarding season!

VAST VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Submitted by Mark Reaves

As I sit here writing this, the temperature is 86°F and sunny, making snowmobiling feel like a distant memory. However, I understand that the work necessary for the VAST trail system to thrive in winter happens year-round. Preparing for the season requires significant effort, regardless of whether snow is abundant or hard to come by.

No matter your role, whether you're decking a bridge, marking trails, repairing equipment, or attending meetings on warm summer evenings when you'd prefer to be elsewhere, please know that your contributions to this organization are crucial and deeply appreciated. Among all the assets VAST has, volunteers are its most valuable resource. Thank you for all that you do.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Submitted by Cindy Locke

The 2025 snowmobile season in Vermont exceeded our expectations in most regions of the state. This allowed us to benefit from conditions this past season that some other states and provinces, particularly in the Midwest, did not experience. That being said, in recent years, we have witnessed significant changes in weather patterns, leading to increased unpredictability, including floods, ice storms, thaws and wind storms. These challenges are tough for us given the rising costs of materials, services and infrastructure. This is why we continually seek new funding sources and maximize the value of each dollar we have.

Even with those challenges, our success is built on the shoulders of a dedicated army of volunteers. They are the backbone of our organization, preparing trails in the fall, maintaining the trail system during winter and repairing trails in the summer. Their hard work and commitment, along with the support of a small but dedicated staff, more than 9,000 landowners and your membership, are what make our trail system possible. In addition, through partnerships with Vermont state agencies, including the Agency of Natural Resources and the Vermont Agency of Transportation, as well as federal partners like the U.S. Forest Service, we apply for grants to help fund trail work and club projects.

As I mentioned, another vital resource is our membership. Your membership dollars help support our trail system through grants to clubs, enabling them to maintain, groom, sign and build our trails. In Vermont, we operate differently from most states; we are not run by state government. This enables us to make decisions for ourselves to continue to maintain high standards in grooming, trail signage, law enforcement and emergency services aimed at enhancing the riding experience.

This year, we have developed a new online map and a mobile app for your phone and computer. This tool helps you stay informed about your location, trail conditions, plan routes in advance and find services. Additionally, VAST has dedicated more time and resources to social media to engage with our members and the wider community. We have also written grants, streamlined office functions and promoted snowmobiling in Vermont.

Each winter, we spend time at the Vermont Statehouse testifying before the legislature about the importance of outdoor recreation in Vermont, protecting private landowners, increasing funding for outdoor activities and

addressing related issues. This advocacy work is not just a seasonal effort; it is crucial and ongoing, even when the Vermont Legislature is not in session. Much legislative committee work occurs during the summer, which is also when state agencies and the administration (Vermont governor's office) prepare next year's budgets.

Here are some examples of how your membership and snowmobile registrations were allocated to support snowmobile trails this year:

\$1,273,504.00 for grooming

\$450,000.00 for trail maintenance and construction

\$159,515.66 for trail emergency projects and flood repairs

\$258,825.00 for trail liability insurance

\$176,950.00 for grooming equipment

\$62,970.00 for law enforcement

\$19,685.66 for plowing snowmobile access parking lots

I encourage you to review all the reports in this annual report. Each one highlights the essential work done by VAST volunteers and staff members. Thank you for your steadfast support and hard work. It is a pleasure to work alongside you in continuing to make snowmobiling in Vermont the best in the East!



LAW ENFORCEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by Gary Nolan, Chair

We had a decent snowmobile season, and law enforcement patrolling reflected that. We continue to expand our law enforcement program, which includes an annual orientation for our agencies, enhanced reporting, improved communication and improved overall coordination.

Funds spent on law enforcement this season totaled

approximately \$65,000. This funding supports the Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife wardens, Vermont State Troopers and various sheriff departments.

2025 law enforcement statistics:

1,436 patrol hours, 2,268 patrol miles, 3,113 safety inspections, 142 tickets, 462 warnings, 11 accident investigations, 1 search and rescue.

VERMONT SNOW TRAILS CONSERVANCY REPORT

Submitted by Patrick Poulin, Secretary

The VSTC has a meeting set for July of 2025 to discuss a possible easement in the NEK. We have also discussed other possible easements in southern Vermont. At the time of writing this report, we have not closed on any easements in 2025 yet.

VSTC Members:

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

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by Juliann Sherman, Chair

The personnel committee is responsible for the process and implementation of the VAST executive director's (ED) annual performance review. The personnel committee is committed to continue with process improvement of the ED evaluation process. 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 provides oversight to assist in keeping staff policies up to date; for VAST's annual audit review. If a staff situation arises, the committee provides mediation or intervention as required. Works with the bylaw committee regarding implementation of any necessary changes to staff policy and procedures of the bylaws.

The personnel policy committee meetings are held as needed.

POLICY & BYLAWS COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by Mark Reaves, Chair

The committee currently has no recommendations for bylaw changes. Over the past year, the committee focused on documenting the process for tallying election votes at the annual meeting and collaborated with the personnel committee to implement a new procedure for conducting

the executive director's annual review. I would like to express my gratitude to the members of the policy and bylaws committee: Carol DeJohn, Bonnie Holbrook, Jeff Fay, Stephen Conti and Cindy Locke, for their dedicated work.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by Steve Conti, Treasurer

As we approach the close of our fiscal year, this report offers a look at our financial trajectory, based on current projections. We're presenting this to you now so it can be included in the annual report, giving everyone a clearer picture of VAST's financial health.

At its heart, the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST) thrives on the support generated through trail maintenance assessment (TMA) sales. These sales are our primary source of funding, but we're also fortunate to receive revenue from Vermont snowmobile registrations, a portion of the state's gas tax, various grants, and even some sled fines and penalties.

The funds we gather from TMAs are carefully distributed to support several crucial areas. Roughly 24.9% flows into our operating/general fund, keeping our day-to-day operations humming. The lion's share, a substantial 75%, is dedicated to our vital trails fund, ensuring our extensive trail network remains in top condition. A smaller, yet important, portion—less than 1%—goes toward our scholarship fund, investing in the future of snowmobiling. We're thrilled to report that this year, our total paid TMAs actually finished about 12.3% above our budget expectations, a fantastic outcome!

Let's dive a bit deeper into the numbers, starting with our trails fund. For 2025, our income budget for the trails fund was set at \$2,812,267. As of June 2025, we've already brought in \$2,634,960. On the expense side, our trails budget for 2025 was set at \$2,401,015. Through June, we've spent \$1,762,423. Interestingly, we ended up not utilizing approximately \$189k in grooming expenses, which contributed to a healthy trails fund budget balance of \$639k still remaining. With three months left in the fiscal year, we're confidently projecting the trails fund budget to end in the black, with a surplus of around \$184k.

Now, turning our attention to the general fund. Our income budget for the general fund was \$1,021,541. As of June, we've collected \$916,343. For expenses, the general fund budget for 2025 was set at \$1,020,717. Through June, our expenses stand at \$742,419, and we anticipate they'll be around \$990k by the fiscal year's close. Looking ahead for the next three months, we're projecting the general fund to also finish in the black.

With an estimated \$1.05 million in income and \$990k in expenses, we're looking at a slight profit of \$60k.

Beyond the direct TMA revenue, our trails fund also receives significant support from the state of Vermont, amounting to approximately \$766,504 for FY25. This funding comes from formulas tied to Vermont sled registrations, the gas tax and fines/penalties, all managed within the Statewide Snowmobile Trails Program budget (SSTP). It's important to understand that this state funding comes with very specific guidelines for its use. This is where you'll see crucial line items like the equipment grant funding, which is derived from gas tax funds, and for 2025, it had a budget of \$181,487. The 2025 trails encumbered report further details our commitment to maintaining our trails, showing a budget of \$400,000 for regular construction, maintenance, de-brushing and emergency funding. As of June, we've already utilized \$777,783 from this allocation, demonstrating our ongoing dedication to our trail system.

Looking ahead to our proposed FY26 budget, we're setting membership expectations (TMA sales) at the same level as this past season's budget, aiming for continued stability. Tradeshow expenses are proposed at previous budget levels, and we've prudently budgeted \$20,000 for maps. This specific amount is being held as a contingency, as our interactive map vendor begins developing a printable map feature. Additionally, we've made some thoughtful increases in several other line items to account for general inflation and the rising costs we're all experiencing in the market.

The 2026 proposed budget outlines general fund expenses at \$1,069,894, which is about \$49k more than our 2025 budget. Our trails fund expense budget is set at \$2,579,015. This is slightly higher than 2025, by about \$178k, primarily because we are fully funding the trails project for the year directly from operations, rather than drawing from the previous year's reserves.

Overall, we anticipate concluding the 2025 budget year with a healthy surplus of \$243k. The VAST board of directors will, of course, have the important task of voting on where to best allocate these surplus funds to further benefit our organization and its mission.

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by Mark Reaves, Chair

The long-range planning committee (LRPC) is committed to ensuring the long-term stability of VAST. Our discussions and proposals are guided by two key principles: supporting our member clubs in building and maintaining their trail systems to the highest standards and ensuring that VAST remains financially stable during periods of fluctuating revenue.

This year, our overarching theme has been organizational stabilization, with a specific focus on improving aspects within our control. To that end, the annual leadership summit centered on two main areas. The first half of the day was dedicated to governance training, while the

second half focused on generating ideas to enhance and stabilize VAST's operations.

Over 30 ideas were generated during the sessions at the leadership summit. The LRPC is currently reviewing each one to assess its scope and feasibility. Please stay tuned for updates on our progress throughout the year.

A special thank you goes out to committee members Mark Blanchard, Mike Burns, Jim Dwinell, Jeff Fay, Ruth Halpin, James Hill, Cindy Locke, Pat Poulin and Mike Stewart for their hard work and dedication.

SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by Stan Choiniere, Chair

The committee welcomed two new members this year, Aaron Golub and Clay Erwin volunteered last fall when the call went out to membership from VAST President Patty Companik. They both have brought fresh ideas and will lead some new initiatives starting this fall.

As reported last year, the safety class required for all riders born after July 1983 has transitioned to nearly all online, and the demand for in-person classes has fallen to such low interest very few were scheduled. Totals for this past season were 1,119 online and 56 in-person students. This was an increase from last year, which can be attributed to better snow statewide this season.

The committee reviewed the online course that is offered by a third-party provider, and we found that there were several updates needed to the section specific to Vermont as well as the general modules. As we were only allowed to change the Vermont portion, the committee approved the list of revisions and committee member VSP Jacob Metayer worked with the provider to revise the course. This was completed this season.

The What3Words app was thoroughly reviewed and introduced through the VAST magazine and the VAST eNews. Committee members shared this information at the county level, and I'm happy to report that while I don't know if it was used, I do know several people who downloaded the app not just for snowmobile use but for other recreational activities such as mountain biking and hiking. There has been an informational sign created that

will be available to clubs this coming season at no charge for the generic version.

We set up a "safety awareness" tent at a couple of on-snow club events as a pilot program. This will be refined and will hopefully make more appearances next season. We also are creating an "adventure readiness" tent to be used at events such as preseason snowmobile dealer open houses. While this will have a safety theme, the idea is to be more inviting than just a safety topic. This idea came from a new member.

While Mandy Dwinell is not a committee member, she has been incredibly helpful. She always includes a safety message in the biweekly eNews and reaches out to me for content. She also worked with Cindy Locke and recruited some family members to film on-snow video that will be used by this committee in the future.

Roger Gosselin continues to expand the official helicopter landing zones.

On behalf of the committee, I report to the Governor's Council and VAST BOD monthly to keep them abreast of our activities.

I want to thank our committee members for their time and efforts: Cindy Locke, Pat Poulin, Roger Gosselin, Fish & Wildlife Warden Jenna Reed, Vermont State Police Trooper Jacob Metayer, Dave Rouleau, Clay Erwin, Aaron Golub, Lewis Barnes, and our unofficial recording secretary, Joan Choiniere.

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 statute 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 – 1175 students certified this season. 1119 on line, 56 in person.
- VSP has submitted updates to the on-line course provider. Some changes have been made. Awaiting suggestions for making the course comply with 6 hour Legislative mandate.
- Monitor Snowmobile Law Enforcement efforts.
- DMV reported 17,467 snowmobile registrations this year. A reduction of about 1,000 registrations from last season
- Exhaust system enforcement.
- Off Trail Riding
- Law Enforcement focus continues

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 committee chair: Gary Nolan



TRAILS COMMITTEE REPORT

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

This year, the committee, with valuable assistance from Matt Tetreault and Mandy Dwinell from the VAST office, has been busy addressing the significant flood damage to our trail system. We made numerous concessions to reopen the state, given the extent of the damage to the VAST trail system.

We engaged in many discussions regarding the GPS system and its necessary improvements. The team at VAST has been diligently working on solutions to help us get back on track, and we appreciate your patience throughout this process.

There were extensive discussions concerning a maintenance documentation program for Class 1 groomers, as well as guidelines for applying for equipment grants for groomers. We also considered offering an operator training course in the future. A subcommittee has been established to continue reviewing policy language, focusing primarily on equipment maintenance requirements. The goal is to

utilize this maintenance information as an additional tool for evaluating grant-in-aid applications.

We passed a motion to recommend a 3.3% increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to the Board of Directors (BOD) for approval. This increase is intended for Grant-in-Aid Programs funding.

The committee continues to work on updating the Trails Policy Manual to reflect current needs and trends. One significant change is the acknowledgment that clubs should be trusted to make decisions based on their specific conditions rather than being subject to strict regulations. This effort will be ongoing as new issues arise that are relevant for the committee to address.

In May, the committee held a meeting to discuss new trail projects and grooming classification requests, and we made a motion to approve the updates and change, which was then sent to the BOD for approval.

The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for September.

NOMINATING, SCHOLARSHIP & RECOGNITION COMMITTEE

Submitted by Amber Stevens, 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 desiccated individuals who continue to make this association what it is today. This committee focuses on celebrating our volunteers.

Again 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 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 application we receive. We utilize a scoring process which

we do independently, and then we total, average, and rank the final scores.

Marianna Merritt from Fairfax, Vt., and is a member of Fletcher Rough Riders. She plans to attend VSU Johnson to study health science/nursing.

Chandler Neveu from Montpelier, Vt., and is a member of Buckaroos of 302. He plans to attend Clarkson University to study engineering/undecided.

The committee also oversees the nomination of VAST officers. The following officers are seeking re-election: Patty Companik (president), Mark Reaves (vice president), and Stephen Conti (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.

STATEWIDE SNOWMOBILE TRAILS PROGRAM (SSTP) REPORT

Submitted by Matt Tetreault, Trails Administrator

FY 2025 was what many have considered a “normal” or “good” season here in Vermont. I always like to take the role of the dissenter (just ask those who know me well) and would ask anyone who claims the above statement “good as compared to what.” If we compare it to the winter of 2024, then yes, 2025 was good. If we compare it to 2007 or winters from the 90’s I would say, no, 2025 was not good, normal or any of these similar words. The idea or definition of a “good” or “normal” winter has significantly changed from what it used to be. The benchmark has fallen, and no, I am not referring to the S&P 500 or the stock exchange. The benchmark I am referring to is the length and/or overall quality of the snowmobile season in particular areas around Vermont. My benchmark is referenced by snowfall stakes in yards and on mountain tops around the State, and overall, how long the riding is decent, without waiting a week here and there for more cold weather or snow. While I agree this winter was not horrible as compared to the past couple of years, it was by no means a banner year in terms of snowfall or otherwise. We did have an abundance of cold temperatures, and while we rode longer in most areas and groomed more mileage in FY 25 than we did in FY 24 or FY 23, the length of season was still not what it used to be in most areas of the state. The data in these tables depicts this very well. All these figures are driven strictly by snowfall and weather. Other factors do impact it to a degree but not as much as the snowfall and/or weather.

We had a slow start to the winter with the snow coming, melting, and then finally arriving for good in late January and early February. We had some “regular” fresh snow in February followed by a decent dumping mid-month, which carried us through the remainder of the season. Most areas did not have a good base that was deep and bullet proof, and once the March sun came out it quickly went away. We did survive a few 2- or 3-day warmups here and there but ultimately the season was 15% -20% shorter in most areas than it has been historically. I base this solely on the number of grooming weeks for areas around the state. These grooming weeks once dictated the overall grooming contracts.

Once again, July 10th provided us with a nice reminder of who is in charge as areas of Caledonia County experienced record flood events once again. Thankfully, the flooding was not as widespread as it has been the past two years on this same date, but it was drastic enough that trails and bridges will require rebuilding once again thanks to Mother Nature’s fury. And more unfortunately, some families lost buildings and property.

A special Thank You! to all the volunteers who created a well maintained and signed trail system in FY 25, 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, even though the weather can be fickle. This

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	\$4,340	\$50,000.00
2024-25	117	\$460,000	\$3,932	\$50,000.00
24 Yr Total	3745	\$10,032,847	\$2,739	\$479,524

SSTP (continued)

recreational activity is not for the faint of heart. This will be easy, said no one ever! Thank you for the continued enthusiasm and commitment you each provide as we piece this puzzle of a trail system together each year and have another go at it.

As we prepare for the winter of 2026, I will leave you with some statistics that recap what happened on the Statewide Snowmobile Trail System (SSTS) during the 2025 season.

Trail Construction & Maintenance

There are approximately 4,245 miles of groomed trails and 230 miles of secondary trails maintained by 113 VAST Snowmobile Clubs. During the 2025 construction season, there were a total of 182 regular construction/maintenance projects, 47 emergency projects, 38 debrushing, and 40 flood repair projects submitted. \$405,860.95 was used to fund the 182 construction and maintenance projects, \$210,260.95 was used to fund the 47 regular emergency projects, \$18,635 was used to fund the 38 debrushing projects and \$159,516 to fund the 40 flood repair projects. The average cost per mile to construct/maintain the VAST Trail system this past season based on these figures was \$187.11/Mile as opposed to \$179.05/Mile in 2024, and \$135.98/Mile in 2023.

Equipment Grants

For FY25 there were a total of 15 Equipment Grant in Aid Applications submitted. The breakdown is as follows; 2 New Power Units, 2 Used Power Units, 1 Drag, 8 Capital Repairs and 2 Rescue Equipment. Of the 12 grants that were funded, 2 were for power units (1) new and (1) used, 1 drag, 2 rescue equipment and 7 for capital repairs for a total of \$181,487 spent out of the budget. This is approximately 31% of the total cost requested to purchase/repair equipment (\$591,216). 100% of the funding for equipment came from the SSTP budget.

Grooming

There were 105 grooming contracts during the 2024-2025 snowmobile season. There were 100 contracts with VAST clubs and 5 contracts with grooming contractors. The total grooming budget for the 2024-2025 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 2024-2025 season was

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
2024-25	15	\$181,487	\$12,099	\$591,216
24 Yr Total	559	\$7,130,176	\$13,687	\$24,164,276

SSTP (continued)

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.
2024-25	92,685	\$1,237,153.36	Subsidy paid to 34 clubs/contractors totaling \$80,724.11. 6 clubs/contractors exceeded grooming cap by \$26,728.20 which they were not paid for. 3 clubs/contractors did not submit their grooming financial analysis and forfeited their final grooming payment.
24 Yr Total	2,542,598	\$29,580,711.25	

\$764,158.16. This start up is equal to the club/contractor's subsidy payment.

The mid-season grooming payment totaled \$35,697.35 and covered grooming between December 16th and February 9th.

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 \$437,297.85 and covered grooming between February 10th and April 6th, the end of the 16 week grooming contracts.

A total of \$1,237,153.36 was paid out in grooming for the winter, with 34 clubs and contractors receiving a grooming subsidy. The subsidy amount paid was \$80,724.11.

The fleet of grooming equipment logged 92,685.2 miles during the winter of 2024-2025 as compared to 33,942 during the winter of 2023-24 and 81,850 miles during the winter of 2022-2023.

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 2025, there were a total of 17,471 Snowmobile Registrations as compared to 18,228 in FY 2024. In FY 2025 there were 11,583 resident registrations and 5,618 non-resident registrations. This compares to 12,477 resident registrations and 5,751 non-resident registrations in FY 2024. This is based on a report from DMV for registrations as of 7/01/25. This is yet again a significant decrease of 757 registrations from FY 24, continuing the downward trend for the past three seasons. We lost both resident and non-resident registrations in FY 2025.

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.
2024-25	\$1,418,000	\$1,237,153.36	87%	Subsidy paid to 34 clubs/contractors totaling \$80,724.11. 6 clubs/contractors exceeded grooming cap by \$26,728.20 which they were not paid for. 3 clubs/contractors did not submit their grooming financial analysis and forfeited their final grooming payment.
24 Yr Total	\$37,455,608	\$29,580,713	79%	(Average)

2023-2024 Summary

- VAST spent \$303,196.25 in trail maintenance, \$102,664.70 in trail construction, and \$18,635 in debrushing and \$210,260.79 in Emergency repairs on a total of 267 Grant in Aid Projects. In addition, there were 40 Flood related projects that were funded in the amount of \$159,516.66.
- The VAST Grooming Fleet logged a total of 92,685.2 miles during the 2024-2025 snowmobile season. (Class 1: 78 Contracts & 83,123.5 miles, Class 2: 5 Contracts & 2,111.9 miles, Class 3: 6 Contracts & 1,885.6 miles, Class 4: 16 Contracts & 5,564.2 miles).
- 62,471.93 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 2024-2025 snowmobile season. There was approximately \$10,691 in fines issued for non-compliance with various Vermont Laws. There were 1,028 hours of patrols, 1,772 inspections, 92 citations issued, 403 warnings issued, 1 search and rescue missions, 8 accident investigations and 0 fatal accidents investigated.
- The VAST Plowed Parking Area Program was a success once again during the 2024-2025 season. A total of 25 out of 88 parking areas throughout the state were plowed under contract this past winter. Approximately \$19,685 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.
- \$181,487 was spent in the VAST Equipment Grant in Aid Program and helped clubs/contractors with the purchase of 2 New/Used Power Units, 1 Drag, 7 Capital Repairs, and 2 Pieces of Rescue Equipment (Arctic Cat: 0, Polaris: 0, Ski-Doo: 0, John Deer: 0, PistenBully: 0, Prinoth: 2, Tucker: 0, Favero Lorenzo Snow Rabbit: 0, Mogul Master Drag: 1, Mtn. Snow Drag: 0, Maxey Drag: 0, Frenchie Drag: 0, Capital Repairs: 7, Rescue Equipment: 2, Homemade Drag: 0, Can-Am: 0)

SSTP (continued)

Registrations				
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%
2024-25	11,853	68%	5,618	32%
Average	19,561	71%	7,870	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/lost/military(20) or volunteer paid(196))
2024-25	17,471	11,853	5,618	20,925 (not including replacements/transfer/lost,military, or volunteer paid)

- The average age of the Class 1,2, 3 and 4 grooming fleet on the SSTS is 2008. The age of the grooming fleet is increasing due to the high cost of equipment and the shorter winters. Clubs keep machines much longer than they did before.
- 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 (114 in total). However, we are considering other options for GPS units currently due to complications with our current provider. We strive to provide our membership with the most up to date information possible.

Thanks to all of you for making this organization possible!

BUDGET SUMMARY - Q & A

Summary

We have merged checking accounts to streamline accounts payable. By merging checking accounts and preserving individual line items (incomes and expenses), the Finance Committee and VAST Board of Directors provides an attached balanced budget that should be easier to read and understand.

Explanations, Questions and Answers

* All TMA income has always been in the same account for administration and trails.

* Moved the old “Encumbered Trails Account” to actual line items for income and expenses. We would still utilize some revenue/savings from past years to supplement what was once called Trails Encumbered, but less is needed. Eventually, we may be able to move away from this program (started decades ago) of borrowing from future years to pay for past years, thanks to the savings work we initiated 10 years ago by establishing dedicated reserve accounts.

* Added in EOY projections and scholarship budget to the newest draft (6/23/25).

1. Q: For FY26 — we are moving the Trails Spec Res account funds into the actual budget. For FY26, where will the new TMA sales 5 and 10 trail fees go? Back into reserves and moved again next year, like you did this year?

A: We are not changing where the funds go; we are simply showing how they are distributed in detail now. So yes, just like we did this year, but now we show it to you with the account line-item numbers.

2. Q: Is the 191,175 coming from the checking account to balance the two to reflect the “historical” 450K encumbered? If not, where is it coming from?

A: It comes out of the VAST checking. The \$400K–\$450K has always been taken out of the checking account without regard to the actual annual income of the current year. Now we are tracking it. This indicates that instead of \$450K directly from our checking account, we will transfer \$191,175 into trails to supplement. We are trying to get away from using savings to pay for next year’s projects. Our goal is to pay for projects in the same year we receive the revenue. Now, if the board wants, we can move \$450K instead of \$191K out of the VAST checking to dedicate directly to trails and use those funds to pay for more trail projects or needed equipment down

the road. As we have discussed, the costs of everything have increased and will continue to do so. For example, we could also allocate part of the \$191,175, such as \$100,000, \$200,000, or \$258,825. Or, we could level-fund trail work expenses and reduce the \$191K to \$63K.

3. Q: Reserves — Trails Projects Account — May balance 748,784** — Assuming some of this could potentially be moved to Trails for other needs.

A: That amount is dedicated to current and ongoing projects. That is the Trails Checking Account.

4. Q: Reserves historically have been allocated at the end of each FY — from any additional revenue not utilized in the prior FY — usually % are decided (since we don’t have our final FY numbers yet) as to where the excess funds are to be assigned are set at by the board post the annual meeting — at the BOD meeting immediately following.

A: Not every year has the board allocated reserve account funding. You are correct that they do that at the end of the year, if they are going to do it at all. It depends on the actual outcome of revenue for the current fiscal year.

5. Q: The management report reflects 218,838 in the state flood relief grant. It has been reported that this money has been allocated. What is the deadline for clubs to finish these projects? I know the FY25 construction grants have to be finalized by Sept. 1. How are we addressing the grant fund projects?

A: There is no deadline from the SOV or VAST.

6. Q: The overall income budget is reduced for 2026** — 3,704,948 to 3,649,076 (55,872).

A: That is because of the grants link GMNF.

7. Q: GMNF — Income expectation is reduced from 815,000 to 542,000 (273K)** — Grant money from the Green Mtn Ntl Forest — are we submitting fewer grant requests or expecting the budget to be reduced, and we will be receiving less?

A: Yes, because there are fewer projects needed.

BUDGET SUMMARY - Q&A

8. Q: Trail Map — 20K FY25 and 25K for FY26 — I am assuming this has to do with a new printed map, but 45K total seems high?

A: It is because we do not know which fiscal year we will begin the map work and incur expenses.

9. Q: GPS: 30K for next year — We are planning to do a pilot — is the 30K the last year of the lease contract?

A: No, we do not owe Atlas Trax. We do not know the costs yet if we move to another company for GPS. If we are only testing next season, we won't spend much. So we just left the \$30K in there in case something comes up between Oct. 1 and Sept. 30, 2026.

10. Q: We have the encumbered income reflecting \$450,000. These four line items (expense side of reserve money movement) add up to \$578,000. A 128K difference. What am I missing?

A: That is additional TMA revenue to help pay for more trail work. We could simply reduce the \$191,000 on the income side by \$128K and level-fund trail projects at \$63,000. Another word, it is encumbered plus additional TMA revenue (addressed above as well).

11. Q: The expense budget is reduced YOY — 3,871,732 vs. 3,648,909 (222,823)** — Keeping in mind that 273K was reduced in expenses for GMNF.

A: Correct.

Real grooming expenses for past five years:

FY20 — \$901,730

FY21 — \$1,260,759

FY22 — \$893,120

FY23 — \$1,140,883

FY24 — \$839,590

FY25 — \$1,273,504

The funds listed above are only for grooming operations and do not include grooming equipment, repairs, drags, etc. That comes from the SSTP budget. Additionally, we have a grooming contingency (savings account) that we can draw on if needed, which currently amounts to \$252,192. As a reminder, we can also add to this contingency when grooming comes under budget.

Budget Line Item Changes:

* TMA income is based on the 2025 budget, not actuals, because we had a better-than-expected season last winter, and we are not sure what next season will be like, so we are being conservative.

* Green Mountain National Forest income and expenses are lower due to less work needed in the GMNF. Remember, these funds are a wash, but there is a significant difference which you will notice on the bottom line for income and expenses from this year to next year (like \$500K). Lines: (income) 5500/2003 and (expenses) 8300/2010c.

* Trail map expenses over this year and next, depending on whether we print paper maps. We have not printed them in four years. It will be a two-year map again.

* More funding for club trail maintenance and debrushing projects: 8310/2010. These additional funds are coming from VAST checking account or savings.

* Staff salary and benefit increases.

* GPS funding is limited, but we plan to pilot some ideas this summer and next winter with clubs. We will be selecting clubs regionally for the pilot project. 8300/2015.

% Funding for Administration & Trails

		% Of Expenses Without TF Dedicated
VAST Income	3,197,076.50	
Dedicated TF Income (5400/2015 & line 22)	450,000.00	
Tot Income	3,647,076.50	
All Expenses Admin	1,069,894.10	29.32%
All Expenses Trails	2,579,015.00	70.68%
Total Expenses	3,648,909.10	100.00%

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.
NSB VAST General Account	1,441,926.43	This is our general checking account.
EastRise Membership Savings	34.32	
Payroll Liabilities	(556.78)	
ROTH IRA	(163.50)	
401K	(1,964.33)	
Childcare Contr ER	(154.40)	
ROTH 401K	(646.52)	
Net Operating Account	1,438,475.22	***Minus liabilities this is the total we have in the checking account.
Total Designated and Reserve Accounts		
NSB-Trails Projects Account	715,846.76	**This is money that is already dedicated to trail projects or just trails in general.
NSB-Trails special reserve acc	282,860.00	**This is money that is already dedicated to trail projects or just trails in general.
Flood Relief Trailwork	178,024.60	**This is money that is already dedicated to trail projects or just trails in general.
Sub Total Trails Accounts	1,176,731.36	
Board Reserve Savings Accts		
Capital Grooming Contingency	255,501.12	***Dedicated reserve savings account.
Capital Equipment Reserve	5,128.89	***Dedicated reserve savings account.
Capital Building Reserve	26,043.01	***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	46,277.64	***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 Reserv	21,015.42	***Dedicated reserve savings account.
Capital StateLandMultiuseProj	10,000.00	***Dedicated reserve savings account.
Sub Total Board Designated Accts	808,398.70	
Bill&Mitzi Scholarship Reserve	14,625.56	***Dedicated reserve savings account.
Bill & Miti Scholarship CD	250,000.00	***Dedicated reserve savings account.
Total Designated Accounts	2,249,755.62	Dedicated reserve savings 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.	165,204.40	****These are assets VAST owns.
Software	56,980.21	****These are assets VAST owns.
Total Property and Equipment	575,061.59	
Accumulated Depreciation	(401,669.73)	Deprecation of owned assets.
Net Property and Equipment	173,391.86	****Total of assets VAST owns.
Other Assets		
Stock	35,804.12	****This is a stock that was donated to the LVRT that VAST purchased a few years ago.
Annuity	237,376.00	****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 there be a claim against our liability insurance.
Investment in AORRG	1,490,714.74	Investment Secured Line of Credit for our insurance company.
Total Other Assets	1,763,894.86	
Total Assets	5,625,517.56	
Total Long-term Liabilities	0.00	
Total	\$ 5,625,517.56	

VAST GENERAL BUDGET

ACCT NO	DESCRIPTION	FY25 BUDGET	YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL 5/31	EOY Projected 2025	FY26 BUDGET
INCOME					
INTEREST					
5300/1001 5300/2001	Interest	42,000.00	23,560.00	35,000.00	55,000.00
5300/1004	Dividend Income	16,000.00	9,954.48	16,000.00	16,000.00
MEMBERSHIPS					
5400/1001b	EB Registered IN VT	851,392.13	702,658.01	702,658.01	851,392.13
5400/1002b	EB Registration OUT-OF-STATE	492,005.76	433,067.54	433,067.54	492,005.76
5400/1008b	Family Reg. IN VT	146,844.41	123,051.40	123,051.40	146,844.41
5400/1009b	Family Reg. OUT-OF-STATE	63,553.51	54,154.76	54,154.76	63,553.51
5400/1018	Three Day Pass	23,893.01	68,870.80	68,870.80	23,893.01
5400/1006b	RS Reg. IN VT	254,936.00	522,184.25	522,184.25	254,936.00
5400/1007b	RS Reg. OUT-OF-STATE	168,731.53	347,437.69	347,437.69	168,731.53
5400/1012	Antique	329.70	329.70	329.70	329.70
5400/1013	Vintage	149.90	444.70	444.70	149.90
5400/1003	Commercial	17,213.90	17,833.34	17,833.34	17,213.90
5400/1011	Military	599.60	659.58	659.58	599.60
5400/1010	Dealer	6,724.18	3,935.92	3,935.92	6,724.18
5400/1005a	Paid Vol TMAs	12,223.85	14,177.10	14,177.10	14,177.10
5400/2015	Trails Special Res Acct 5 and 10 trail fees.	258,825.00	276,570.00	276,570.00	258,825.00
	Trails Reserved Income (Used to be Encombered) Reserved from FY25 Operations - Come from VAST Gen Checking				191,175.00
5400/2019	Trails Maint Donations - TMAs	1,000.00	6,565.00	6,565.00	7,000.00
5500/2003	GMNF / Cost Share	815,000.00	317,443.09	815,000.00	542,000.00
5500/2004	Comm. TMA Club Dues Reimb	3,450.00	3,570.00	3,570.00	3,450.00
5500/2005	Comm. TMA County Dues Reimb	19,550.00	20,230.00	20,230.00	19,550.00
5500/2011	RTP Grooming Grants	167,869.00	172,167.00	172,167.00	167,869.00
5500/2012	SOV-VAST Network Flood Recover		14,824.00	14,824.00	0.00
SALE & MISC ITEMS					
5600/2001	Maps	0.00	1,125.00	1,125.00	5,000.00
5600/2002	Signs	20,000.00	13,640.35	20,000.00	20,000.00
5600/2004	Misc Trail Income	100.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	100.00
PR & MARKETING					
	Sale of VAST Promo Items	4,500.00	1,812.21	2,300.00	4,500.00
MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS					
	Media Sales	37,000.00	14,351.25	37,000.00	37,000.00
ANNUAL MEETING					
CONTRACTED SERVICES & OTHER					
6000/1001	SSTP Management Services	165,196.00	80,726.40	165,196.00	165,196.00
6000/1001a	SSTP Rental Income	6,000.00	3,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
6000/1005	General Miscellaneous	1,000.00	518.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
6000/1006	On Line TMA Handling Fee	108,060.77	87,359.44	87,359.44	108,060.77
6000/1007	General Donations	400.00	100.00	400.00	400.00
6000/1009	Finance Charges	400.00	0.00	400.00	400.00
	TOTAL INCOME FUNDS	3,704,948.25	3,339,821.01	3,973,011.23	3,649,076.50
EXPENSES					
SALARIES					
	Staff Salaries	390,059.46	236,457.01	390,059.46	423,100.09
BENEFITS- ER Taxes & Fed Programs					
	Benefits	195,424.46	123,020.98	195,424.46	209,790.08

VAST GENERAL BUDGET

ACCT NO	DESCRIPTION	BUDGET	YEAR TO DATE	EOY Projected 2025	
STAFF & OTHER EXPENSES					
7210/1009	Employee Travel	2,000.00	329.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
7210/1010	Employee Mileage / Fuel	3,000.00	1,337.01	3,000.00	3,000.00
7210/1011	No EE Authorized Travel	3,500.00	1,574.79	3,500.00	3,500.00
7210/1013	Staff Trainings	500.00	768.92	1,000.00	1,000.00
OPERATING EXPENSES					
7300/1002	Telephone	7,500.00	6,345.59	7,500.00	7,500.00
7300/1003	Maint. Contracts-Office Equip	7,000.00	5,552.08	7,000.00	8,000.00
7300/1004	Property Tax	8,000.00	0.00	8,000.00	8,000.00
7300/1005	Equipment - Computers	600.00	0.00	600.00	600.00
7300/1006	Office Maintenance	600.00	438.96	600.00	600.00
7300/1007	Miscellaneous	500.00	-106.12	300.00	500.00
7300/1008	Bank, CC, Dir Dep, Misc. Fees	2,500.00	1,417.67	2,500.00	2,500.00
7300/1008a	Online TMA CC Fees	86,433.93	96,393.51	96,393.51	86,433.93
7300/1009	Electricity	2,000.00	2,713.34	3,200.00	3,200.00
7300/1010	Fuel	2,000.00	1,097.40	2,000.00	2,000.00
7300/1011	Exterior Maintenance/plow/mow	7,000.00	4,250.00	5,500.00	5,000.00
7300/1013	Trash Removal	1,200.00	1,220.04	1,500.00	1,500.00
7300/1015	Sewer Tax	200.00	202.98	202.98	220.00
7300/1020	Vehicle Maint., Reg & Accessor	3,500.00	4,701.87	5,000.00	5,000.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES					
7400/1001	Supplies Expenses	5,500.00	4,525.91	5,500.00	5,500.00
7400/1001a	Copying Expenses	400.00	0.00	100.00	400.00
7400/1002	Postage	2,000.00	903.63	1,500.00	2,000.00
7400/1003	Membership Forms/Decals	40,000.00	10,577.37	40,000.00	40,000.00
7400/1003a	Membership Postage	12,000.00	19,733.27	19,733.27	12,000.00
7400/1005	Computer Software	16,000.00	13,356.47	16,000.00	16,000.00
9700/1001	Bad Debts	300.00	0.00	300.00	300.00
INSURANCE					
7500/1001	General Insurance	18,100.00	12,203.00	16,000.00	16,000.00
PROFESSIONAL					
7600/1001	Audit GF & TF	13,000.00	0.00	13,000.00	13,000.00
7600/1002	Legal	4,000.00	1,973.31	4,000.00	4,000.00
7600/1003	Technical	25,000.00	10,152.76	25,000.00	25,000.00
7600/1009	Internet/Website Database/Suppo	10,000.00	6,108.57	10,000.00	10,000.00
7600/1010	IRS Filings-Cnty Club Complian	7,000.00	0.00	7,000.00	7,000.00
7600/1011	Other Professional	200.00	552.00	552.00	200.00
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	642.22	642.22	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	481.23	5,500.00	5,500.00
MEDIA & COMMUNICATION					
7800/1003	Travel Expenses	400.00	0.00	200.00	400.00
7800/1004	Supplies	400.00	0.00	400.00	400.00
7800/1005a	Printing	30,000.00	19,064.43	30,000.00	30,000.00
7800/1005b	Mailing	10,000.00	9,517.23	10,000.00	12,000.00
7800/1005c	Rest Area Placement	700.00	1,563.25	1,563.25	1,600.00
7800/1005e	Flip Book	0.00	374.72	500.00	500.00
GENERAL EXPENSES					
7810/1001	Recruitment	300.00	0.00	300.00	300.00
7810/1002	Donations	3,000.00	600.00	1,000.00	2,500.00
ASSOCIATION TRAVEL					
7900/1002	Other Association Travel	3,500.00	1,127.80	3,500.00	3,500.00
7900/1003	Congress Meetings	6,000.00	1,804.46	6,000.00	7,500.00
COMMITTEES/BOARD					
8000/1001	Misc. Meeting Exp-Incl Gov Cou	250.00	119.22	250.00	250.00
	All Other Comm./Meetings	2,000.00	3,490.52	3,700.00	3,700.00
8000/1014	Staff Meetings/Events	750.00	131.34	500.00	500.00

VAST GENERAL BUDGET

ACCT NO	DESCRIPTION	FY25 BUDGET	YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL 5/31	EOY Projected 2025	FY26 BUDGET
PR & MARKETING					
8100/1004	VAST Promo Items	3,000.00	950.36	1,200.00	1,500.00
8100/1005	PR Travel Expenses	500.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
8100/1006	General Promotions	2,000.00	556.82	1,500.00	1,500.00
8100/1007	Advertising	5,000.00	2,528.00	3,500.00	3,500.00
8100/1008	Tradeshows & Events	14,000.00	6,628.94	14,000.00	14,000.00
8100/1009	Credit Card - Online Sales Fee	500.00	106.10	500.00	500.00
8100/1010	Website Shipping Charges	900.00	100.95	300.00	900.00
8100/1011	Memberships & Subscriptions	4,000.00	2,393.22	4,000.00	4,000.00
8100/1012	PR & Marketing Supplies	1,000.00	161.89	1,000.00	1,000.00
8100/1013	Safety Program	3,000.00	762.71	3,000.00	2,500.00
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS					
8200/1001	Lobbyist Registration etc.	30,000.00	18,500.00	30,000.00	30,000.00
8200/1005	Legislative Events	500.00	201.63	500.00	500.00
TRAILS RELATED					
8300/2003	Gov't Relations	30,000.00	18,500.00	30,000.00	30,000.00
8300/2004	Public Relations/Extmal Image	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
8300/2006	Trail Signs	40,000.00	53,521.85	65,000.00	55,000.00
8300/2007	Trail Map	0.00	0.00	20,000.00	25,000.00
8300/2009	Trails Committee	500.00			250.00
8300/2010c	GMNF / Cost Share	815,000.00	328,741.96	815,000.00	542,000.00
8300/2011	Grooming	1,418,000.00	1,273,504.00	1,273,504.00	1,290,000.00
8300/2013	Sign/Map postage	3,000.00	1,544.75	1,750.00	1,750.00
8300/2014	Trails Miscellaneous	2,500.00	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
8300/2015	GPS Equip & Contracts	65,000.00	52,331.52	55,000.00	30,000.00
8300/2024	Commer.TMA Reimburse Cty.	19,465.00	20,230.00	20,230.00	19,465.00
8300/2025	Comm.TMA Reimb.Clubs	3,450.00	3,570.00	3,570.00	3,450.00
8300/2035	Staff Safety Equip & Tools	2,500.00	0.00	500.00	1,000.00
8300/2037	Insurance Policies - Trails	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
8310/2010	Trails Construction (Was TMA Increase and Encumbered) + Additional TMA Rev.	125,000.00	0.00	125,000.00	173,000.00
8310/2010	Trails Construction (Was TMA Increase and Encumbered) + Additional TMA Rev.	245,000.00	0.00	245,000.00	325,000.00
8310/2021	Trails Emergency (Was TMA Increase and Encumbered) + Additional TMA Rev.	40,000.00	0.00	40,000.00	40,000.00
8310/2027	Trails Debrushing (Was TMA Increase and Encumbered) + Additional TMA Rev.	40,000.00	0.00	40,000.00	40,000.00
	TOTAL EXPENSES	3,871,732.85	2,391,552.44	3,761,675.15	3,648,909.10
	Total Expenses & Etraordinary	3,871,732.85	2,391,552.44	3,761,675.15	3,648,909.10
	Net Income (loss)	-166,784.60	948,268.57	211,336.08	167.40
Scholarship Budget					
ACCT NO	DESCRIPTION	2026 BUDGET			
INCOME					
INTEREST					
5300/3001	BILL & MITZI OAKS Interest	\$ 17.40			
MEMBERSHIPS					
5400/3001	BILL&MITZI OAK TMA CONTR(.10%)	2,078.49			
PROMOTION					
CONTRACTED SERVICE & OTHER					
	Saved Funds	2904.11			
	TOTAL INCOME	5,000.00			
EXPENSES					
SCHOLARSHIP EXPENSES					
8200/3002	Bill & Mitzi Scholarship Award	5,000.00			
	TOTAL EXPENSES	5,000.00			
	NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$ 0.00			

