

Governor's Snowmobile Council

June 4, 2025

Present:

Pat Poulin (Chair)
Claire Polfus – Forest Parks & Recreation
Patty Companik – VAST President
Paul Doucette – Chiefs Assoc. & Southern Vermont
Wilderness Search & Rescue

Gary Nolan – VAST L/E Committee Chair
Cindy Locke, VAST Executive Director
Mike Mutascio – Governor Appointee
Stan Choiniere - Governor Appointee

VAST Staff Present:

Mandy Dwinell, Programs & Trails Manager
Matt Tetreault, VAST Trails Administrator
Tina Bedard, Office Manager

The meeting was convened at 3:06 PM via Zoom by Pat Poulin.

Approval of Minutes

Stan Choiniere moved to approve of the May minutes as presented; Paul Doucette seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

Approval of SSTP Financial Report of April Matt

Paul Doucette moved to approve the SSTP Financial Report for April as presented; Stan Choiniere seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

Agency Reports

Vermont State Police (VSP), Jacob Metayer

Cindy reported for Jacob: 1175 Students in total; 56 students completed the online safety course; 7 in-person courses.

Fish & Wildlife, Jenna Reed

Not present

Sheriff's Association Marc Poulin – VT Sheriff Association & Washington County Sheriff

Not Present

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

Paul is attending the Chief's and Sheriff's Conference.

A state grant submission for a reimbursement request was made.

\$2500.00 out of the \$35,000 is left over. A stats report will be submitted to VAST. There were several violations issued for illegal exhaust. Paul is going to be writing an informative article for the magazine and enews regarding the requirements for exhaust.

A summer meeting for Southern VT Wilderness Search & Rescue, and they are planning on reviewing tickets vs. warnings.

Department of Motor Vehicles, Shannon Fassett

Shannon was not present; Cindy presented the DMV report.

A total of 17,467 snowmobiles were registered with a revenue of \$446,669.

Forest, Parks & Recreation, Claire Polfus

FRP has received Federal authorization for RTP. They are being issued now.

Will be writing a big grant for SSTP and the Gas Tax.

The staff are out in the field, busy training new employees. All state parks are open.

VAST

Update

Cindy has been busy developing the budget for next season. Matt has been working on grants. Mandy has been working on social media. VAST staff and a few others will be going to PEI for congress June 11th through June 16th.

Law Enforcement (LE) Committee, Gary

Nothing to report.

VAST Safety Committee, Stan

The safety committee is taking a break for the summer. The What 3 Words sign has been finalized. It will be ready for the annual meeting.

Fines, Cindy

Waiting to hear about the updating of fines from Frank.

FY26 SSTP Budget Preview

Matt reviewed the budget and answered some questions. Matt will send the budget back out for everyone after it has been reconciled. (Carry forward)

Approval of FY26 SSTP Budget

Stan Choiniere moved to approve of the FY26 Budget as presented; Paul Doucette seconded.

MOTION CARRIED.

SSTP Trail Report, Matt

Equipment grants were due by June 1st. Matt has reviewed some of the grants submitted already.

The construction course was not taken by all the clubs. The clubs that did not take the course will be ineligible for any grants from VAST.

Discussion on plowed parking funds.

2024 Vermont Snowmobile Regulations update

This is being worked on.

Legislative Report

House Report

Not present

Senate Report – Pat Brennan

Not present.

Appointee Reports

Northwest, Jim

Not present.

Northeast, Mike

Picking up signs. There has been wet weather. Concerned about the quality of trails.

Central, Jeff

Not present.

South, Stan

There is damage from ice. With the wet weather, the clubs have not been able to check trail conditions. There have been reports of damage due to the wet weather.

There are new landowners, so they will be working on reroutes.

Motion to Adjourn:

Paul Doucette moved to close the meeting at 3:45 pm; Mike Mutascio seconded. Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Bedard

VAST Office Manager