

**VAST BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
FINAL August 23, 2021 Minutes**



SNOWMOBILE VERMONT

**OFFICERS PRESENT**

President, Tim Mills  
Vice President, Jeff Fay  
Secretary, Jim Hill  
Treasurer, Patty Companik

**DIRECTORS PRESENT**

Addison: Lewis Barnes  
Bennington: Vacant  
Caledonia: Bruce Carlson  
Chittenden: Pat Poulin  
Essex: Mike Daley  
Franklin: Mike Burns  
Grand Isle: Damien Henry  
Lamoille: Carmin Lemery  
Orange: Juliann Sherman  
Orleans: Roger Gosselin  
Rutland: Curt Marecheaux  
Washington: Mark Reaves  
Windham: Michael Garber  
Windsor: Doug Jacobs

**ALTERNATE DIRECTORS PRESENT:**

Windham: Ivor Stevens  
Windsor: Stan Choiniere

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Executive Director: Cindy Locke  
Trails Administrator: Matthew Tetreault  
Trails Manager: Ken Brown  
Technology & Media Manager: Beth Flint  
Office and Program Manager: Katie-Ann Thompson

**GUESTS:**

North Country Mountaineers, Mike Mustachio, Larry Dwyer, Mike Kohler, Ed Hebebrand

**MEETING**

*Before the meeting started President Mills, reminded the board of directors (BOD) and guests that VAST BOD meetings are official meetings of the BOD themselves. While they are open meetings, guests need to use the Zoom chat function if they have questions. BOD members should raise their hand and please avoid side conversations or getting off track.*

**Tim Mills called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM.**

**Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION:**

Rutland County moved and Chittenden County seconded approval of the agenda as updated.

Jim Hill mentioned that Juliann should be listed as present, he sent corrections of the minutes to Cyndy Brown that didn't get made. Cindy Locke said she had seen the changes and not sure why they did not make it in the final packet, but that Cyndy Brown had been transitioning out, so it was just a mistake. Approval of the bylaw changes were corrected stating that the motion was made by Orleans County and seconded by Rutland County. Lastly the minutes should state that the VAST 2022 budgets were approved to go to the annual meeting.

***Motion carried.***

**Secretary's Report**

**MOTION:**

Rutland County moved and Windham County seconded that the Secretary's report be approved as corrected.

***Motion carried.***

**Treasurer's Report**

Summary of Financial Report, General budget, Trails budget, and Scholarship budget:

July - 10 months into the budget utilized or we are at 83% of the budget season.

Income thru July 2021:

Budget: \$3,255,180

Monthly Activity: \$24,752 - sale of maps, signs and 13k from SSTP

Actual: 3,157,351

\$97,829 short of budget or we are standing at 97% of expected income for the budget year.

Expense thru July 2021:

Budget: \$2,816,998

Monthly Activity: \$140,771 - 1/2 of which was in trail expenses (40k in grooming - GMNF/construction in NTL Forest 32k)

Actual: \$2,244,726

\$572,272 of expense budget remains or at 80% of expense budget has been utilized.

**MOTION:**

Chittenden County moved and Washington County seconded that the Treasurer's report be approved as presented.

***Motion carried.***

**Tabled Items** - nothing

**Consent Calendar** – nothing

**Old Business** - nothing

## **New Business**

### **RRG Formation:**

Mark Reaves – Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) Chair opened the conversation. Currently we are in the beginning stages of corporate formation. Mark and Cindy spoke about the process; State of Vermont approval, timelines, hiring a law firm with expertise in starting a Risk Retention Group (RRG), hiring a law firm to represent us in the future in case there is litigation, etc.

As a part of the formation, Cindy brought up that a committee/board of directors needed to be chosen. While the LRPC members were fine with being those members, especially since at this point, they have been the ones involved in learning the most about RRGs, but that it needed to be voted on by the BOD. The BOD was asked if anyone else wanted to be a part of this new leadership team. No one did and Tim thanked the LRPC and liked the idea the committee had decided to lead in this way.

### **MOTION:**

Washington County moved and Orleans County seconded that the board of directors for the new RRG would include Mark Reaves, Cindy Locke, Jeff Fay, Pat Poulin and Jim Hill.

***Motion carried.***

### **Ice Crossings**

After a long debate regarding where to end trails on maps near crossings, the effects of which on snowmobile culture, and VAST liability, Cindy Locke suggested that we further investigate through the NY attorneys how they are handling ice crossing issues in NY.

### **MOTION:**

Lamoille County moved and Rutland County seconded to table the conversation until the October BOD meeting.

***Motion carried.***

### **Staff Reports**

President Mills asked if anyone had any questions about the submitted reports. There were no questions.

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

- *Northeast Chapter and USA - Pat Poulin & Jeff Fay:* The Northeast Chapter did not meet but the USA Chapter did. Pat Poulin notes that federal funds cannot be used to buy grooming equipment not manufactured in the US.
- *VT Snow Trails Conservancy - Jim Hill:* Nothing to report.
- *Law Enforcement Committee - Gary Nolan:* Nothing to report.

- *Lamoille Valley Rail Trail Committee - Ken Brown:* We are moving quickly to VAST managing the trail in the winter and are wrapping up some big maintenance projects.
- *Awards and Nominating - Patty Companik:* Picked up fiscal awards on August 12<sup>th</sup> and the speeches are being finalized.
- *By-laws and Policy - Jeff Fay:* Nothing to report.
- *Annual Meeting - Pat Poulin & Jeff Fay:* We are in good shape.
- *Executive Committee - Tim Mills:* Nothing to report.
- *Finance Committee - Patty Companik:* Immediately following the July BOD meeting, Patty sent Audit power point presentation to Cyndy Jones to distribute to all Directors. Audit Notification Patty and Cindy Locke to meet and distribute Audit notification letters to 8 selected.
- *Long Range Planning and Organizational Goals - Mark Reaves, Chair:* Nothing to add.
- *Resource Committee - Ivor Stevens:* Nothing to report.
- *Personnel - Jeff Fay:* Revamping processes for review.
- *Trails - Jeff Fay:* Nothing to report.
- *Safety - Stan Choiniere:* Committee does not meet in the summer.
- *Governor's Council - Pat Poulin, Chair:* Council has their first meeting after summer break coming up on September 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **Adjournment**

### **MOTION**

There being no further business, Rutland County moved, and Windham County seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

***Motion carried.***

**Tim Mills adjourned the meeting at 7:47 PM.**