



Board of Directors
April 28, 2025
Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

OFFICERS PRESENT:

President: Patty Companik
Vice President: Mark Reaves
Secretary: Ruth Halpin
Treasurer: Stephen Conti
Past President: Jeff Fay (not Present)

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Addison: Jennifer Lucia
Bennington: Carol DeJohn (Not present)
Caledonia: Bruce Carlson
Chittenden: Pat Poulin
Essex: John Hull
Franklin: Mike Burns
Grand Isle: Wade Lockerby (Not present)
Lamoille: Dustin Turner
Orange: Juliann Sherman
Orleans: Roger Gosslin
Rutland: Mike Stewart
Washington: Jeff Halpin
Windham: Michael Garber (Not present)
Windsor: Doug Jacobs

STAFF PRESENT:

Executive Director: Cindy Locke
Trails Administrator: Matthew Tetreault
Media Manager: Beth Flint
Programs & Trails Manager: Mandy Dwinell
Office Manager : Tina Bedard
Finance Manager: Sheila Fenoff-Willett

GUESTS:

Ivor Stevens; Windham County Alt. Director, Ed Hebebrand; Caledonia County Alt. Director, Greg Rouleau; Washington County Alt. Director, Lewis Barnes; Addison Alt. Director, Stan Choiniere; Windsor County Alt Director, Lucas Lecuyer, Bennington County Alt. Director, Amber Stevens; Awards Chair, Mike Mutascio; Lunenburg Polar Bears

President Patty Companik called the meeting to order at 6:04.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Lamoille County moved, and Rutland County seconded, to approve the agenda as presented. **MOTION CARRIED**

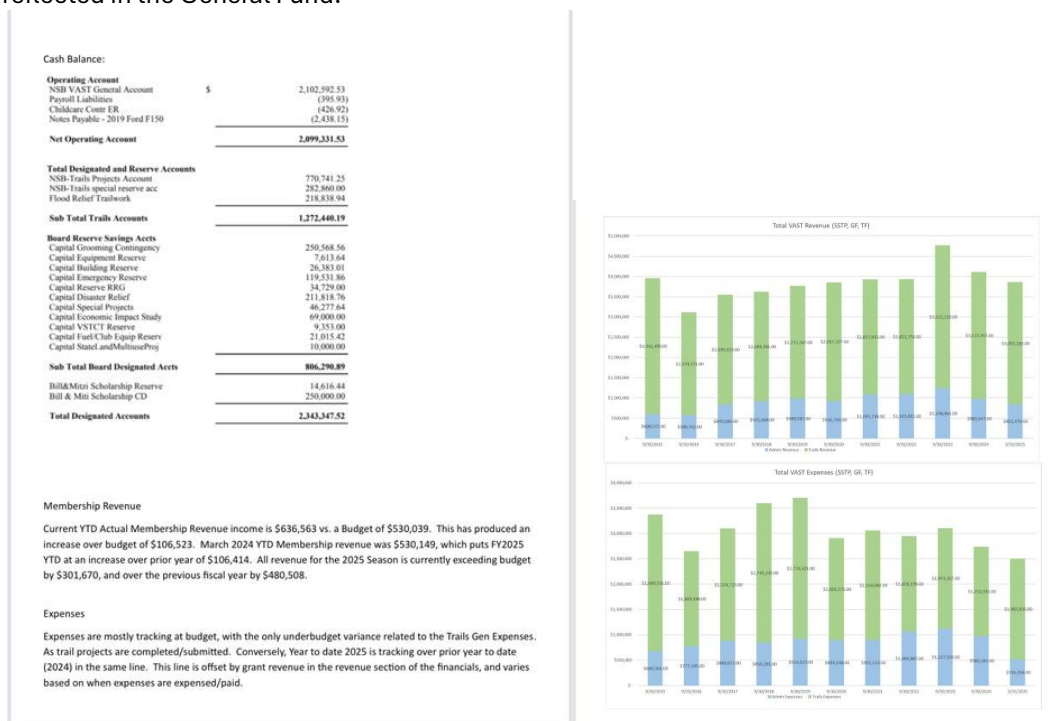
SECRETARY'S REPORT

Essex County motion to approve, Franklin County seconded to approve Secretary's Report as presented. **MOTION CARRIED**

TREASURER'S REPORT

Windsor County, Motion to approve, Essex County seconded Motion to approve Treasurer's report as presented. **MOTION CARRIED**

Summary of Budget activity emailed to Directors from Stephen. Last groomer payments have not gone out, as reflected in the General Fund.



TABLED ITEMS

Nothing Tabled.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Waterbury Suspension Bridge- Jeff H
Numerous Emails and Voicemails sent, waiting on responses.

2. Financial resolution- Stephen
The Finance Committee have decided the resolution will be presented as a policy change. They are working on Language and then will be passed along to the By-Laws and Policy Committee.

3. Map gears App & GPS Units update- Mandy/Matt/Cindy
Working with Mapgears, asking a lot of questions, doing research on other companies as well. Will talk more at congress with others on their GPS usage. Discussion on Paper Maps, i.e. whether to update/print/budget for them. Info to be gathered on cost/etc for the May/June BOD meeting. Time sensitive, as it takes time to gather info from all clubs and print/production time.

4. Volunteer Strong Clothing- On demand Shopping- Cindy/Mandy/Patty
Gathering information on possible customization options, more details to follow.

5. Director/Alt Director Meetings Progress- Patty
Patty is working to connect with Mark.

6. TMA Sales- Cindy
TMA totals are pretty much the same, with just a few last minutes ones. County Reports went out.

7. \$25 Promotional Weekend- Cindy
Data being gathered, will stay on agenda for updates.

NEW BUSINESS

1. East Montpelier Gully Jumpers loan guarantee- Matt/Sheila
Gully Jumpers came to the board with a request for a guarantee of \$15,000 to pay off their previous loan and start-up diesel. They want to extend/refinance their loan, as the last payment on the existing loan was used for a large equipment failure.

Lamoille County, Motion to approve, and Essex County seconded Motion to approve the loan guarantee of request of \$15,000 to the East Montpelier Gully Jumpers for their loan with NSB. MOTION CARRIED.

2. VAST Construction and Safety Training- Mandy and Mark
VAST Construction Course continues online this year, with Closed Caption added. It is available online May 1- May 31. Certificates to be awarded upon successfully completing the course. Chainsaw Safety is a separate certificate. Chainsaw Safety Course is held online May1- September 1. RRG is donating \$5,000 to purchase gift certificate prizes from Vendors of safety equipment. When logging in, participants will be asked to choose a club, upon successfully completing training, they will get an entry into a drawing for the club chosen. Prizes to be awarded at the Annual Meeting held September 6th.

3. Summit Meeting- Mark & Cindy
Mark working to complete the power point presentation for the Summit. Summit to be held May 17th starting at 8:30 at the Firehouse in Waterbury. The May BOD meeting to follow the Summit.

4. CPI- Matt
Consumer Price Index affects the maximum amount we give for Groomer Equipment Grants. This years inflation rate is 3.3%. All the new numbers were outlined in Matts Report.
Windsor County, Motion to approve, and Lamoille County seconded Motion to approve increasing the cap maximum grant amounts by 3.3% based on the 2024 CPI table and the recommendation of the Trails Committee. MOTION CARRIED.

5. Thank You, Volunteers and Staff- Riding Season 2025- Patty
Patty took a minute to thank all Volunteers and staff for a great Season, recognizing all that the organization does.

TRAIL ADMINISTRATOR'S & ED REPORT- Cindy and Matt
Some items were previously covered. Reports were sent in Packets. Please pay attention to upcoming dates and deadlines that are listed on the second page of the agenda.

COMMITTEE & OTHER MEETING REPORTS

A. American Outdoor Risk Retention Group (AORRG) Insurance- Mark Reave
Had a meeting in April, Dustin Turner named as Secretary. Looking for possibly one more member for the committee. Exploring possible expansion with other organizations.

B. Northeast Chapter & USA- Pat Poulin, Jeff Fay as VT Representatives.
Nothing new from NE Chapter. USA- April was Pat Poulin's last meeting. A lot of Associations are dealing with insurance issues. ISMA is initiating discussions with USA/CCSO & ACSA to get everyone on the same page. It has been a work in progress and may open up possibilities for VAST to get grants through ISMA. Next month will be nominating for Chair and Treasurer. Annual meeting to be held in Prince Edward Island. Thank You Pat Poulin for all your years of service.

C. VT Snow Trails Conservancy VSTC President- Jim Hill
Meeting scheduled for Thursday.

D. Law Enforcement (LE) Committee- Cindy
Reports are in and being submitted to Sheila. Cindy to share Reports soon. Jenna Reed received a promotion to Major.

E. Awards & Nominating- Amber Steven, Chair

The 2 scholarships were awarded to Chandler Neveu and Marianna Merritt. The deadline for nominations for awards is May 1. Volunteer's recognition cards were sent out, and coins to be presented at Summit.

F. By- Laws & Policy- Mark Reaves, Chair

Waiting on the policy draft from Finance Committee.

G. Annual Meeting- Jennifer Lucia & Amber Steven

Everything looking great and possibly coming in under budget. Meeting to have a Vintage theme and there are tables available to clubs if they would like to set up at Annual meeting.

H. Executive Committee- Patty Companik, Chair

Met last week, firmed up the agenda for BOD meeting. Went over Summit power point from Mark.

I. Personnel Committee- Juliann Sherman, Chair

ED's annual report sent out. Please return them by May 7th with any questions. Survey to be sent out by May 16th, Targeted completion date of May 28th.

J. Finance- Steve Conti, Chair

Starting to work on Budget and policy on use of reserve funds.

K. Long Range Planning & Organizational Committee- Mark Reaves, Chair

Met a couple times to plan Summit.

L. Resource Committee

Not Active

M. Trails Committee- John Hull, Chair, Mike Burns, Vice Chair

Next meeting May 19th. Went over all the deadline dates for Matt. Mandy to send out minutes to all. Dates are also listed on the back of the agenda.

N. Safety Committee- Stan Choiniere, Chair

No meeting for a couple months. Finish up the What Three Words signs over the summer. Working on events with the Adventure Tent for Winter. Will use some of the video clips that was taken from Mandy and Cindy to produce some safety videos.

O. Social Media Committee- Lee Whiting, Chair

Looking into an influencer or an intern & reviewing advertising and costs on social media.

P. Governor's Council- Pat Poulin, Chair

Met in April. 1075 Safety class students for the season. Fish and Game and State Police are busy now with boating season. Department of Motor Vehicles reported 17,429 registrations, which was down a little bit. End of the season data and wrap up.

Next Month's BOD meeting is scheduled to follow the Summit on May 17th.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Windsor County moved to approve; Chittenden County seconded to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED.

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:18 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Halpin, Secretary.