

## **Governor's Snowmobile Council**

**March 6, 2024**

### **Present:**

Pat Poulin, Chairman  
Jenna Reed, Fish & Wildlife  
Jane Kitchel, Vermont State Senator  
Claire Polfus, Forest Parks & Recreation  
Michael Smith, Vermont DMV  
Mike Mutascio, Governor Appointee  
Jeff Halpin, Governor Appointee  
Stan Choiniere, Governor Appointee  
Jim Hill, Pending Governor Appointee

### **VAST Staff Present:**

Cindy Locke, VAST Executive Director  
Mandy Dwinell, Office & Programs Manager  
Matt Tetreault, VAST Trails Administrator  
Tina Bedard, Office & Programs Assistant

The meeting was convened at 3:04PM via Zoom by Pat Poulin.

### **Approval of Minutes**

**Cindy Locke moved to approve the February minutes as presented; Stan Choiniere seconded. MOTION CARRIED.**

Discussion on clarification on the 3 crashes Jenna Reed mentioned in the February meeting, 2 were on a VAST trail and 1 on the ice (lake).

### **Approval of SSTP Financial Report of January, Matt**

**Stan Choiniere moved to approve the January SSTP Financial Reports as presented; Mike Mutascio seconded. MOTION CARRIED.**

### **Agency Reports**

Vermont State Police (VSP), Jacob Metayer

Not Present.

Fish & Wildlife, Jenna Reed

Some wardens tried coordinating for weather-permitted patrols with limited success.

1 minor crash reported since the last meeting.

Wardens have attended a few club events and performed safety checks.

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

Not Present.

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

Not Present.

Department of Motor Vehicles, Michael Smith

DMV Registrations:

2024: 18,165

2023: 19,693

2022: 21,343

2021: 20,452

2020: 20,236

Forest, Parks & Recreation, Claire Polfus

Currently in grant review and planning.

RTP Ranking Committee meeting next week.

VOREEC grants are currently being reviewed with announcements to be made in a couple of weeks.

## **VAST**

TMA Sales

To date, TMAs processed are 19,122 with 2 TMAs processed last week.

VAST BOD Annual Leadership Meeting will be tentatively held on Saturday, 7/13 at the Waterbury Fire House. The meeting will include an open invitation to BOD, Alt Directors, and County Trail Coordinators to discuss such topics as trails, grooming, and parking lots. Discussions and information to be shared at the Annual Meeting. The July BOD meeting may follow in the afternoon. The Long-Range Planning Committee is working on the agenda.

VAST has reached out to clubs to proactively close gates in preparation for the eclipse on April 8.

Law Enforcement (LE) Committee, Cindy

No recent meeting.

Have heard from a Southern VT Warden to check on rider TMAs. This warden attended the NY training and shared it went well.

VAST Safety Committee, Stan

No quorum for last meeting.

The committee is reviewing upcoming impactful projects.

Sharing safety reminders in bi-weekly VAST eNews.

Discussion on NH riding and trail access reports.

Discussion on NH and VT safety training.

## **SSTP Trail Report, Matt**

All VAST trails are officially closed as of 3/6/24 reflected on the VAST trail map.

Many clubs have closed and locked gates.

## **Legislative Report**

House Report, Matt Walker

Not Present.

Senate Report, Jane Kitchel

Nothing new to report.

Tough year for outdoor recreation.

## **Appointee Reports**

Northwest, Jim

No one in the Northwest have groomed.

St Albans canceled their April meeting.

Northeast, Mike

Trails are closed.

Clubs working on closing gates in preparation for the eclipse.

Central, Jeff

Washington County meeting held 3/4.

Clubs have been discussing plans to begin collecting signs.

South, Stan

Low snow season, had some decent riding.

Some clubs were able to still hold events. The kids Ride Event was very successful with 114 kids.

Windsor County meeting 3/7.

Clubs are working on closing gates and a timeline for collecting signs.

Discussion on rental operations and tours RE: safety training for operations.

Next meeting is Wednesday, April 3, at 3pm via Zoom.

**Motion to Adjourn:**

**Stan Choiniere moved to close the meeting at 3:34pm; Mike Smith seconded. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Mandy Dwinell,

VAST Office & Programs Manager