

## **Governor's Snowmobile Council**

**March 5, 2025**

### **Present:**

Pat Poulin (Chair)

Jacob Metayer, VSP

Claire Polfus – Forest Parks & Recreation

Stan Choiniere - Governor Appointee

Mike Mutascio – Governor Appointee

Jim Hill – Governor Appointee

Gary Nolan – VAST L/E Committee Chair

Cindy Locke, VAST Executive Director

Patty Companik – VAST President

Shannon Fassett – Vermont DMV

Pat Brennan – VT State Senator

### **VAST Staff Present:**

Mandy Dwinell, Programs & Trails Manager

Matt Tetreault, VAST Trails Administrator

Tina Bedard, Office Manager

The meeting was convened at 3:02 PM via Zoom by Pat Poulin.

### **Approval of Minutes**

**Stan Choiniere moved to approve the February minutes as presented; Mike Mutascio seconded.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

### **Approval of SSTEP Financial Report of January Matt**

**Jim Hill Moved to approve the SSTEP Financial Report for January as presented; Stan Choiniere seconded. MOTION CARRIED.**

### **Agency Reports**

Vermont State Police (VSP), Jacob Metayer

Education numbers: 2 people did the in-person snowmobile safety course in February. The total for in-person this season is 56. The total for online participation is 979 for a grand total of 1035. The 2022-2023 season had a combined total of 1160.

Jacob reports that there have been patrols everywhere.

Fish & Wildlife, Jenna Reed

The wardens have patrolled for about 520 hours so far this season. There have been over 1000 inspections done with over 2400 contacts. Warnings and tickets have been given out.

A BOL was put out on a snowmobiler that failed to stop. Jenna reports that the wardens dealing with the situation handled it properly and after a small investigation identified the subject. They were contacted.

1 warden is currently in the academy and 1 warden is in training.

Wardens have been appearing at club events to give 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, Shannon Fassett  
Not Present.

- Forest, Parks & Recreation, Claire Polfus  
Move Forward Together Vermont, a strategic vision and priorities for outdoor recreation in Vermont was launched at Outdoor Recreation Day in February. The report is online and there are also resources for sharing information (including a social media tile with a snowmobiler)
  - o <https://fpr.vermont.gov/move-forward-together-vermont>
  - o <https://fpr.vermont.gov/move-forward-together-vermont-communication-tools>
- The RTP grant program is moving forward as expected. We have not heard of any funding freezes from the Federal Highway Administration in regards to this grant program.

## **VAST**

### Update

Total transactions to date: 20,710. 19 TMAs sold today. The total Revenue is 270,000 over 2024. We are officially over the revenue for last year. 56,000 over the revenue for 2023. 2020, 2019, and 2018 over by about 400,000-600,000.

Friday was a ride with the Governor. The ride went from Wolcott to Morrisville. Matt Tetreault, Dustin Turner, Mark Reaves, the governor's daughter and Cindy Locke participated in this ride. The ride went to Sterling Sno Riders groomer barn for a meal prepared by the club. Cindy made sure to cover the costs and will make a donation to the club to show appreciation.

Cindy participated in the RTP ranking committee.

### Law Enforcement (LE) Committee, Gary

Gary reached out to Hardwick as they have been patrolling. They had nothing to report.

### VAST Safety Committee, Stan

Met last month and discussed the "What 3 words app." Cindy is checking on suppliers to see about making a "what 3 words" sign. Stan reported this will be ready for next season.

Discussion on child driver size limitations. May have parental guidance made.

### SSTP Trail Report, Matt

It has been a good season so far. Some areas all season was good. Everywhere has snow since February. There might still be trails open after this next warm up.

## **Legislative Report**

### House Report

Not available.

### Senate Report – Pat Brennan

Nothing to report.

Pat states there is a bill for noise ordinance in his committee right now. He is going to keep us informed.

## **Appointee Reports**

### Northwest, Jim

Higher elevations might remain good. Lower elevations probably won't. Rumors of off trail riding and not stopping for stop signs.

### Northeast, Mike

Canaan opened a new trail.

Reports of groomers getting stuck.

Reports of no TMAs. LE will be needed.

A lot of club events.

### Central, Jeff

Not available

### South, Stan

Rutland county might continue to have snow.

Reports of no TMAs in Pittsford, as well as a lot of 4 wheelers

Discussion on Cindy going to the judicial board for request to raise fines. She is speaking with the AOT as well to discuss signs.

## **Motion to Adjourn:**

**Mike Mustachio moved to close the meeting at 3:55 pm; Cindy seconded. Motion carried.**

**Next Meeting:** The next Governor's Snowmobile Council scheduled meeting will be April 2, at 3:00 pm via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tina Bedard  
VAST Office Manager