Governor's Snowmobile Council
September 2, 2026

Present:
Cindy Locke (Chair)
Patty Companik – VAST President
Stan Choiniere - Governor Appointee
Dustin Circe – Fish & Wildlife
Gary Nolan – VAST L/E Committee
Mike Mutascio – Governor Appointee
Matt Tetrealt – VAST Trails Administrator
Claire Polfus – Forest Parks & Recreation
Shannon Fassett – VT DMV
Paul Doucette – Chief's Assoc. & Southern Vermont Wilderness Search & Rescue

VAST Staff Present:
Tina Bedard, Office Manager
Mandy Dwinell, Programs & Trails Manager

The meeting was convened at 3:01 PM via Zoom by Cindy Locke.

Approval of Minutes
Stan Choiniere moved to approve the August minutes with corrections; Mike Mutascio seconded. ***MOTION CARRIED.***

SSTP Financial Report
SSTP will be presented next month for August and September.

Agency Reports

Vermont State Police (VSP), Jacob Metayer
Not Present.

Fish & Wildlife
Nothing to report.

Sheriff's Association Marc Poulin – VT Sheriff Association & Washington County Sheriff
Not present.

Police Chiefs & Southern VT Wilderness Search & Rescue, Paul Doucette
Received a grant today for $35,000 from the state.
There was an audit by the State of VT with some small corrections to be made.
Police Chief's next Annual Meeting will be next Wednesday.

Department of Motor Vehicles, Shannon Fassett
Registrations as of 8/31/25 were 17,313 with a revenue of $442,607.
Registrations as of 8/31/26 were 17,728 with a revenue of $451,096.

Shannon will be working to finish updating the manual with the corrections/updates provided. The DMV Enforcement Division reached out to VAST to help with patrols.
Fines increased as well.
Operating a snowmobile without insurance has a minimum fine of $47.00, a maximum fine of $622.00, and a waiver of $162.00. A fine for riding without a TMA is $622.00 and the fine for being unregistered is $565.00. VAST will be making signs to spread awareness and posting on social media.

Forest, Parks & Recreation, Claire Polfus

Four grant rounds are being prepared for this fall. The RTP grant will have no changes this round. VOREC Community Grant: Focus will be on planning (engagement, permitting, and getting projects ready for larger grants) and marketing/promotion (wayfinding, town maps, events to build the outdoor recreation economy). State funding for this grant allows for more flexibility than federal grants, which do not permit marketing or promotion beyond trail signs. Funding is highly limited for this round, with only $275,000 available compared to $6.5 million in the previous round.

September 15th there is a Webinar scheduled about "What grant you should apply for".

Legislative Report

House Report - Jim Casey
Not present.

Senate Report – Pat Brennan
Not present.

General VAST Updates

The annual meeting was held in Derby with approximately 350 attendees, which is 100 more than previous years. Next year's meeting will be hosted by Orange County around the same time of year.

Patty was re-elected as President of the organization. Secretary Ruth Halpin did not run for re-election, as she and her husband Jeff are moving to Florida for most of the winter. Kim Kolvek from the Burke Drift Skippers was elected as the new Secretary.

Board of Directors and Governor's Council Appointments: Greg Rouleau agreed to join the Governor's Council. A letter has been sent to the governor's office, and his status is currently listed as "pending" on the agenda. Greg is also running to be the director for Washington County on the VAST Board of Directors, a role he previously held years ago. He is a close friend of Governor Phil Scott. Greg will attend future meetings either in the office or remotely via Zoom and is expected to attend next month.

There will be a meeting with Claire and her staff and VASA to discuss trail development best management practices.

Law Enforcement – Gary Nolan

Scheduling a LE training session and sent dates to get a good date everyone can come to.

VAST Safety Committee, Stan
The committee held a meeting this past month. The Adventure Readiness tent was set up at the Annual Meeting. The committee has one confirmed date for the tent and is looking for more.

SSTP Trail Report, Matt
Clubs project inquiries have increased significantly following the Annual Meeting. Mandy is busy managing signs and recently received the annual bulk sign order.
Excavation work and erosion control are being taken care of before winter.

Northwest, Jim
Not present.

Northeast, Mike
Projects are starting.

Central,
Greg Rouleau will be joining GOV Council in this roll.

South, Stan
Projects are underway.

The meeting concluded at 3:51 PM.

Next Meeting: The next Governor's Snowmobile Council scheduled meeting will be on October 7, at 3:00 pm via Zoom.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tina Bedard
VAST Office Manag