



SNOWMOBILE VERMONT

**Board of Directors
April 22, 2024
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present:

OFFICERS PRESENT

President, Jeff Fay

Vice President, Mark Reaves

Secretary, Ruth Halpin

Treasurer, Patty Companik

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Addison: Lewis Barnes

Bennington: Carol DeJohn

Caledonia: Bruce Carlson (Not Present)

Chittenden: Pat Poulin

Essex: John Hull (Not Present)

Franklin: Mike Burns (Not Present)

Grand Isle: Jeff Porter

Lamoille: Dustin Turner

Orange: Juliann Sherman

Orleans: Roger Gosselin (Not Present)

Rutland: Mike Stewart (Not Present)

Washington: Jeff Halpin

Windham: Michael Garber

Windsor: Doug Jacobs

STAFF PRESENT:

Executive Director: Cindy Locke

Trails Administrator: Matthew Tetreault

Office & Programs Manager: Mandy Dwinell

Office & Programs Assistant: Tina Bedard

GUESTS:

Doug Todd, Rutland County Alt. Director; Ivor Stevens, Windham County Alt. Director; Ed Hebebrand, Caledonia County Alt. Director; Greg Rouleau, Washington County Alt. Director; Stan Choiniere, Windsor County Alt. Director; John Bialek, Essex County Alt. Director; Rich Spitzer, Chittenden County Alt. Director; Mike Mutascio, Lunenburg Polar Bears.

President Jeff Fay called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

Approval of Agenda

Grand Isle County: Motion to approve, moved Windsor County seconded to approve the Agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

Adjustment to the Agenda

New Business:

B. Partnership award: Moved to May agenda.

Secretary’s Report

Grand Isle County: Motion to approve, Windsor County seconded to approve Secretary’s Report.

MOTION CARRIED.

Treasurer’s Report

	Mar-21	Mar-22	Mar-23	Mar-24	<i>Mbrshp Income w/o \$10 increase The \$5.00 is included since it is reflected in prior data trackg per yr</i>	<i>\$10 per TMA estimated</i>
					March 2024 w/o	
Membership \$\$						
Budget	\$2,481,915	\$2,478,385	\$2,767,295	\$2,767,295	\$2,767,295	
MONTHLY activity	\$58,440	\$20,773	\$91,200	\$1,694	\$1,480	\$214
Season So far	\$2,816,103	\$2,746,712	\$2,420,342	\$2,294,330	\$2,125,001	\$169,329
				-\$472,965	-\$642,294	
percentage	113.46%	110.83%	87.46%	83%	77%	

Membership - March 2024 - Increase of \$10.00 per TMA implemented this Season.

\$1694 in Membership Income Activity for March/ 83% of budget expectations
(WITH \$10 increase included)

77% year over year comparison (WITHOUT \$10 included) which is about 10% less than last season at this time (or 2,420,243-2,125,001 =295,341 less)

Data Reference: NSB-Trails Special Reserve Acct - \$256,560 (5.00 & 10.00 per TMA sold) x 66% = \$169,329 Season.

	Mar-21	Mar-22	Mar-23	Mar-24	March 2024 w/o \$10
Income \$\$					
Budget	\$3,255,180	\$3,310,443	\$3,436,342	\$3,586,956	\$3,586,956
MONTHLY activity	\$75,270	\$107,122	\$116,497	\$9,600	\$9,386
Season so far	\$3,076,879	\$3,110,119	\$2,920,434	\$2,845,269	\$2,675,940
				-\$741,687	-\$911,016
percentage	94.52%	93.95%	84.99%	79%	75%

Income - March 2024 - Increase of \$10.00 per TMA implemented this Season.

\$9600 in Income Activity for March (WITH \$10 increase) - Income activity represents ~1700 in Membership and ~11.5k in SSTP Mgmt Svcs and ~4300 in Media Sales.

There was also a ~13k credit applied to GMNF

We are at 79% of budget expectations (WITH \$10 increase)
compared to 85% last year at this time.

We are at 75% year over year comparison (w/o the \$10 included) -
or 10% less than last season at this time

	Mar-21	Mar-22	Mar-23	Mar-24
Expense				
Budget	\$2,816,998	\$2,752,476	\$2,983,607	\$3,032,072
MONTHLY activity	\$658,988	\$479,058	\$106,573	\$80,136
Season so far	\$1,467,200	\$1,332,503	\$1,448,065	\$1,496,114
percentage	52.08%	48.41%	48.53%	49%

Expense - March 2024

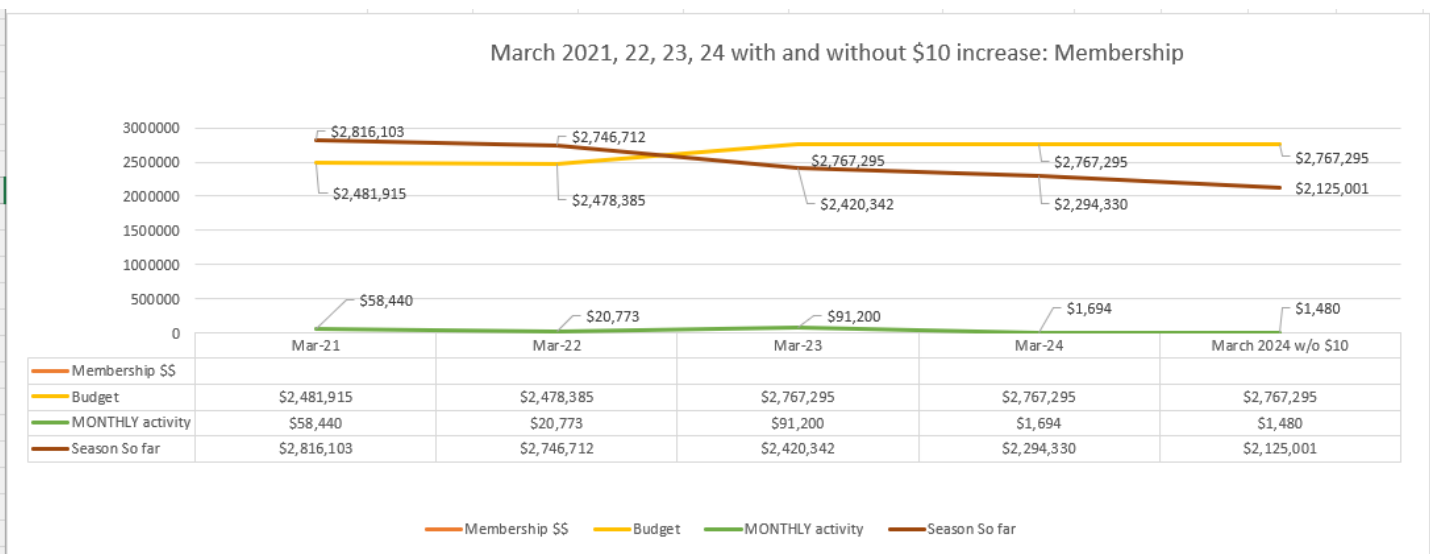
Monthly Expenses of ~\$80k of which ~\$11k is in Trails which ~8700 was in GPS & Contracts and ~2500 in Gov Relations. In General Fund there was ~\$45k in Salaries/Benefits

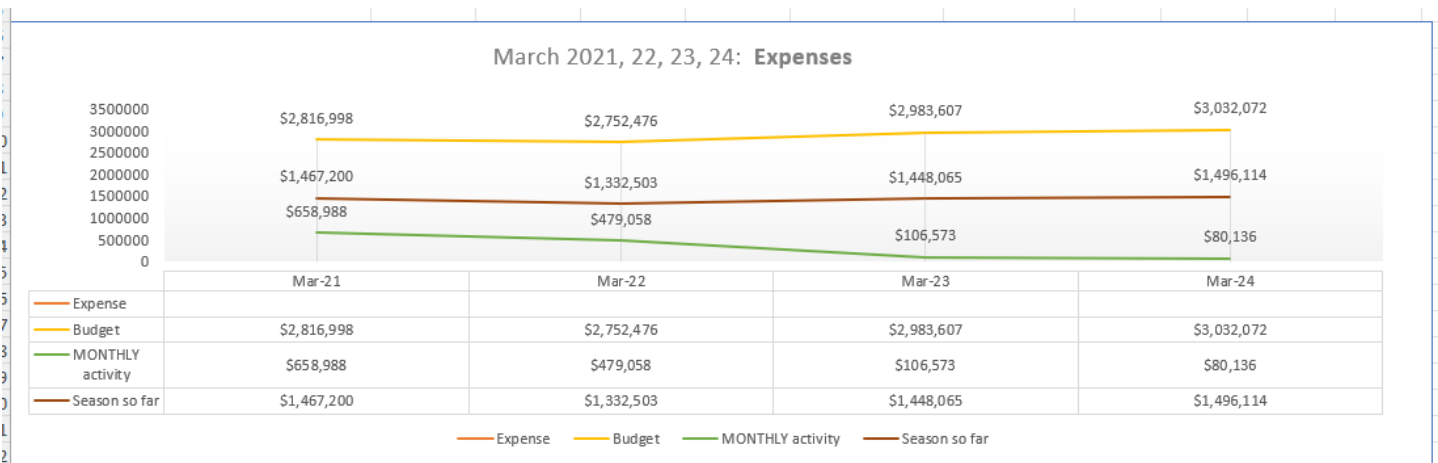
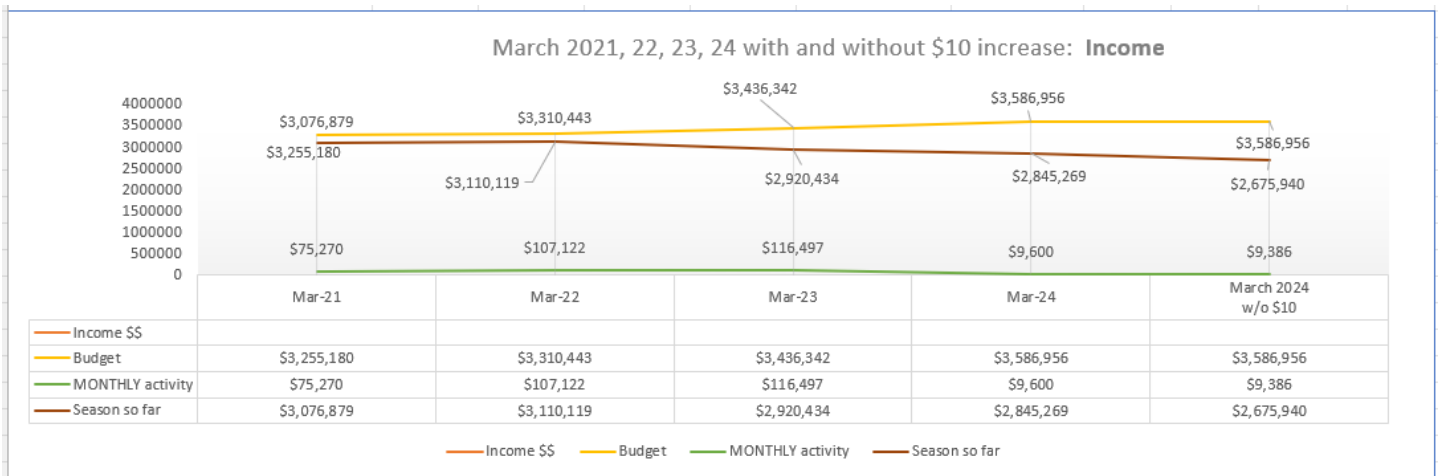
We are at 50% of our fiscal year and 49% of Expense Budget has been utilized

Trails Encumbered	2020 Season Final	2021 Season Final	2022 Season Final	2023 Season Final	Feb-24
Budget	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$550,000	\$554,170	\$554,170
MONTHLY ACTIVITY					\$0
Season so far	\$363,721	\$434,560	\$501,293	\$583,721	\$318,535
8310/2010 Trail Construction		\$100,764	\$157,804	\$223,860	\$0
8310/2010a Trail Maintenance		\$283,450	\$268,248	\$303,654	\$0
8310/2021 Trails Emergency Fund		\$24,895	\$45,556	\$26,499	\$0
8310/2027 Trail Debrushing		\$26,942	\$29,686	\$29,708	\$0
8310/2030 Next Year's Trails Projects		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Flood Relief Trail Work	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24
Budget	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000
MONTHLY Project Expenses 8310/2010b	\$16,044	\$91,518	\$150,784	\$109,968	\$9,003	\$6,725
Season So Far	\$16,044	\$107,563	\$258,348	\$368,316	\$377,319	\$379,406
Percentage of Budget Utilized	2.14%	14.34%	34.45%	49.11%	50.31%	50.59%
BALANCE	\$733,956	\$642,437	\$491,652	\$381,684	\$372,681	\$370,594

Trails
 Trails Construction/Projects YTD - \$318,535
 Flood Relief Construction/Projects YTD - \$379,406
 Total paid to clubs for Construction/Projects YTD = \$695,854





Grand Isle County: Motion to approve, Lamoille County seconded to approve Treasurer's Report. MOTION CARRIED.

TABLED ITEMS

Nothing new to report.

Old Business

Waterbury Suspension Bridge; Jeff Halpin

Julie Moore was contacted at ANR. Jeff Halpin and the Working Group are waiting for a return call. Cindy to share alternate contacts at ANR with Jeff.

Corey Hathaway with Lamoille Treescapes bid \$1500 - \$3500 to remove the trees. He is fully insured and licensed.

The FARR's Tree Service is a landowner on one side of the bridge, a suggestion for the Working Group to contact them for a bid.

Received 3 bids pending ANR feedback and would like to move forward with Lamoille Treescapes.

Would like this section of the bridge project to be taken care of by Memorial Day.

Discussion on approved dates for river work in Vermont.

NEW BUSINESS

National Volunteer Week; Patty

Presentation to VAST Board - Monday April 22

Challenge Coin - mailed to VAST officers, County Directors, County Alt Directors, County Trails Coordinators and Asst County Trails Coordinators.

VAST eNews highlighting National Volunteer Week - will be distributed tomorrow Tuesday April 23.

Club Merger Document; Cindy & Juliann

Cindy and Juliann have created a new document with directions on best practices to assist clubs with merges.

This document is located on the VAST website on the Forms tab and titled VAST Guidance Club Consolidation/Merge.

Trails Committee John & Matt

Reminder to directors to share with clubs of upcoming deadlines of June 1 for Equipment Grant-In Aid applications and June 30 for Construction & Debrushing Grant-In Aid applications.

A special May Trails Committee meeting will be held to review trail mileage agreements and new trails.

Trails Administrator's / ED Report – Cindy

Discussion about grants. VOREC grants are in the works.

VOREC Grant: Looking for funds for projects connected to flood relief. Estimated \$100,000 in funds available. This has been a challenging grant application and requires 5-year history of landowner permission. Awaiting approval from two. These funds will replace funding spent from the \$750,000 Trails Grant.

Eight projects were submitted for this grant, waiting for two landowner forms.

Committee and Other Meeting Reports

American Outdoor Risk Retention Group (AORRG) Insurance – Mark

Met last week.

FPR is implementing new regulations for the use of chainsaws to have new training policies. They will be satisfied with video training, one being 38 minutes long, and the other being 12 minutes long, this was added to the Spring Construction Course.

AORRG is sponsoring this new training by providing chainsaw PPE (up to \$25,000 worth) to those clubs that complete the training required by not just clubs with trails on state land, but to all clubs. It is encouraged for volunteers to take this training seriously to reduce and address risk management.

They would like to distribute the chainsaw PPE at the July Leadership meeting. It was suggested that we offer chainsaw PPE at our cost to encourage clubs to have the proper PPE.

Other associations and states have expressed interest in the AORRG. Looking into what may be involved to expand to others.

Discussion on looking for a replacement for Pat Poulin.

Northeast Chapter and USA – Pat Poulin, Jeff Fay as VT Representatives

USA: Nothing to report.

Northeast Chapter: Meet in July in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

VT Snow Trails Conservancy (VSTC) – Cindy

No recent meeting.

Law Enforcement (LE) Committee – Cindy

Sent out notifications for reports and invoices to be sent in for the SSTP report.

Awards & Nominating – Patty Companik, Chair

Scholarships:

Applications were reviewed by committee members individually - scores were averaged and then ranked.

The top two scoring applicants were 1 point apart from each other.

Mandy and Beth were notified. VAST sent out a letter signed by Patty letting them know on April 3rd and Beth cares for the magazine (essay publications)/December publication.

Sheila was also notified - she cares for paying the schools (once requirements have been met)

- Lydia Gillespie
- Vincent Novak

The top 2 recipients were also sent to the NEC for an opportunity to be selected for a \$500 scholarship.

Awards:

Reminder that the deadline is May 1

eNews with Awards as the only topic was sent out April 2.

June meeting scheduled- Committee Meeting - review and determine award recipients.

By-Laws & Policy – Mark Reaves, Chair

Nothing to report.

Annual Meeting – Ivor Stevens

Planning is going well; everything is on track.

Executive Committee – Jeff Fay, President

Nothing to report.

Finance - Patty Companik, Chair

A meeting with Sheila, Cindy and Jeff was held on - Friday April 19th where we reviewed Cindy's expense projections for the remaining budget season - Management Report and discussed how interest is handled. Projections is a moving target - Cindy will continue to monitor.

Meeting scheduled for May 22 - VAST 2025 Budget discussion.

Looking into creating a Financial Dashboard with Mike Burns (his idea). Patty has been collecting data for review and researching software. Some of the data collected comes from Matt and Beth.

Long Range Planning & Organizational Committee – Mark Reaves, Chair

Getting ready to finalize the agenda for the July BOD summit.

Next meeting April 28.

Resource Committee

Not active.

Trails Committee – Curt Marechaux & John Hull, Co-Chairs

Met in March, and a special meeting in May.

Emailing CTCs so they can connect with clubs the week prior regarding trail changes.

Safety Committee – Stan Choiniere

Met a week ago and discussed the online safety course.

Safety Instructors are planning on taking the full online safety course, including tests, and then will do a review. Jacob with VSP filled them in on the restrictions to making changes.

Checked out the "What 3 Words" app. This is an app that if you are lost you enter 3 words that have to do with your location, and a rescuer enters the 3 words on their end, and it gives a close location to where you are. Safety Committee continuing discussion on app.

Not meeting for a few months, will resume in August.

Governor's Council – Pat Poulin

Discussed online safety class.

799 people have taken the course online, 83 have taken it in person.

The SSTP budget is started and being worked on. Will be reviewed next month and approved in June.

Discussion on May Trails Committee and BOD meeting. The Trails Committee meeting is on May 13 and BOD meeting moved to May 20 due to Memorial Day.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Halpin, Secretary

Prepared by Tina Bedard, VAST Office & Programs Assistant

***Addendum to Meeting Minutes: The Long-Range Committee will be meeting on April 25th.**