

VASA Board of Director Minutes
May 11, 2026
VASA HQ

Douglas Stone calls the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

Douglas Stone begins the meeting with everyone standing for the Pledge of Alliance.

Roll Call

BOD Present:

Steve Mosher, Ray Blakeney, Lloyd Maccormack, Chuck Lyman, Bob Cruickshank, Brian Benoit, Mike Smith, George Barton, Mike Small, Fred Elliott, Vern Stone

BOD Present Online:

Kurt Girard, Ian MacKenzie, Judy Perdue, Brent Labree, Bartholomew Howes, James Sullivan, Mike Coleman, Laura Champagne, William Faford

E-Board Present: Douglas Stone, Doug Wheeler, Tom Nazzewski, Melissa LaBounty, Bartholomew Howes (online)

Staff (Non-voting) present: Dani Luce, Jeremy Sneed

Lobbyist / Consultant present: Frank Stanley

Secretary's Report:

Are there any additions or corrections to the secretaries report?

-Vern Stone made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Fred Elliott approved by all, none opposed, motion carries

Treasurer's Report:

.Tom points out in the Statement of Activities that we are finally showing a positive number for April. We are, however, still in the negative for the year.

- George asks if there is any chance that we will come out of the negative? Dani does not believe we will come out of it this year. The 2026 / 2027 budget was created to conserve costs and hopefully get us back in the green.

Tom acknowledges that we are down to a couple clubs with missing Club required paperwork / SOS & IRS status requirements.

-A motion to accept the report by George Barton, seconded by Bob Cruickshank approved by all, none opposed, motion carries.

Staff Reports:**Trails Coordinator - Ethan Hill:**

His report is included in the packet but he was unable to attend the meeting.

- **VTMP:** We moved equipment to Billtown Wheelers trailhead on Monday 5/4 and installed a VOREC grant trailhead kiosk. Once the season kicks off we will be in Wheelock working on their VOREC grant project. There will be one more in Billtown to do after that, we are waiting on a wetlands delineation for that project. Ride Command has come out with the new app updates and everyone should take some time to check over the trail systems for accuracy, Everything should be fully up to date at this point.
- **Equipment:** We put new brakes on the Belmont trailer and the trailers are inspected. The dump truck is getting a set of brake canisters and front shocks and will be inspected after that.

With the price of fuel continuing to rise we need to be as efficient as possible with moving equipment so please get your trail projects submitted as soon as possible with signed landowner permissions.

Frank Stanley gave a legislative update report.

Executive Director - Dani Luce:**Financial Stabilization:**

- Draft Budget: The draft budget will need a final vote of approval.
 - Bob Cruickshank made a motion to approve the draft budget, seconded by Steve Mosher, approved by all, motion carries.
- Preparations for fiscal year end are beginning. We have submitted an amendment to our State budget for the current fiscal year and have begun meeting with our accounting firms to begin the transition which includes preparations for the yearly audit and preparations for flipping the accounting software for a new year. This will include the changing of our chart of accounts so that expenses can better reflect budget.
- Yamaha Grant: Previous grant officially closed. The new Yamaha grant has been applied for. We received some feedback from Yamaha regarding our ask amount. We worked with them to remove any red flags from the ask and have gotten Yamaha staff approval and blessings for the review committee. They met April 28th so we are in high hopes of hearing some good news quickly. Again the ask is higher than we have ever seen.

Personnel & Efficiency:

- Restructure / retask: Plan for moving forward. Due to budget cuts we will no longer be using Genesis for accounting support after July 1st and we will no longer be using our cleaning services for the office. Both of these areas will be taken care of in-house.

Program & Operations:

- Membership software = FULLY functional; 1900+ members so far
- Preparations for renewal of “Big Grant” = Budget / work plan / Audit / Reports. The Audit will begin the first week of August. Gordon will be assisting in the office with Customer Service during this time.
- Newsletter: We published a newsletter on 5/1/2026. It was sent out via email to our 12k email list as well as posted on social media. Initial analytics are positive. If clubs have anything they would like to submit to the newsletter, she is open to adding it when available.
- Annual Meeting: we are continuing to work on the logistics for the annual meeting. Hoping to start organizing and advertising the raffle. The sooner the clubs provide their items, the sooner we can start pushing this as a form of advertisement. We are currently drafting the agenda for the meeting and creating presentations. We will be inviting John Rogers as a guest only. We'd like him to enjoy lunch, a ride and a chance to visit with members without the added pressure of having to speak. The RSVP is up on the website so you can register & pay for your \$20 meal ticket. Dani would like to see at least 2 representatives from each club.
- Law Enforcement: The 4/28 meeting with Fish & Wildlife went very positive. We discussed schedule, hot spots, hot dates, new contacts, warnings vs tickets, reports and financial compromise. They will be out starting this weekend, May 15th, which marks the opening of trails for most clubs.
 - Lloyd M asks if VASA will be paying for it all? Will the clubs be paying for it? Dani says there is a budget \$ amount and Vasa will cover it until it runs out (we currently have contracts with 3 different Sheriff Departments and Fish & Wildlife). Clubs are also welcome to pay for their own law enforcement coverage too.
- Donation Program (stickers): This program began showing a profit within 24 hours of implementation. It has since opening shown profits to cover its initial costs, it has paid for itself.
- Resources: we will be making a strong push to create and post additional resources to increase the value of our website. Municipal information, trail sharing information and additional club guides / resources are going to be posted on the website. We will use the website as our “go to” regarding what is the actual version of documents we are using. Many people have different versions.

Government / External Partners:

- VAST
- Trails & Greenways -Dani is officially the chair as of last week
- Horse Council- the shared trails presentation /seminar was given and a huge success.
- FPR
- NOHVCC
- Ride Command - an issue has popped up with apple devices that the software update is not functioning properly with them

Organizational Needs:

- Bylaw Change:
 - Lloyd Maccormack made a motion to remove the mileage reimbursement at this time, seconded by Brian Benoit, approved by all, motion carries.
- Charter Agreements / Code of Ethics / Secretary of State / IRS
 - Most clubs are on track, just a couple that need to get their stuff up to date

Old / New Business:

-Douglas Stone asks that if your club participated in Green up day that you let him or the office know how many bags were collected and how many volunteers from your club

A motion was made to adjourn by Steve Mosher, seconded by Fred Elliott, meeting was adjourned at 7:01 pm.