

VELA Spring Meeting Minutes
Saturday June 2, 2018 – 10 AM
Robert J Parks Library

BOD Attendees: Joe Plunkey, Carole Plunkey, Doug Jager, Celeste Creger, Rick Copland, Frank Rainey, Leif Lindblom, Leonard Brockhahn. Absent: Dave Swenson
Guests Pete Filpansick (Lake Pro), Cathy Wusterbarth (NOW group), Arnie Leriche (Wurtsmith RAB board), Fred Strauer (Drain Commissioner)

Call to Order: 10 AM with pledge of allegiance followed by introductions of guests

Reading of Minutes: Minutes from Sept/2017 meeting read and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Leonard B reported current balances - checking \$14,485 savings \$10,793

Membership: Shirley Brockhahn reported current membership at 271, noting that more addresses were coming in as full-time residents. She also reported additional donations of over \$600. The boat launch survey sent out with the dues invoices resulted in less than half of lake residents returning the survey and those returned were almost split on whether to pursue the waiver issue or not. Since the number received is not a majority, the boat launch issue to waive the fee will not be addressed with the township.

Weed Committee Report: Doug J and Pete F from Lake Pro gave overview of plans for weed management this season, noting that no Eurasian Milfoil has resurfaced and that they are always watching for new invasives. Surveys and treatment to begin in early June. As always, contact Doug if residents are having any weed problems and they will follow up.

Water Quality: Dan S reported water sampling has already begun – clarity readings averaging 5 ft. Spring phosphorus results for 2017 were at 28 ppb and summer at 23 ppb – this is compared to a 10 year average of 34 ppb. Phosphorus is one of the main nutrients that promote weed growth.

Floating Dock: Joe P announced that a wooden dock section was washed up on his property and is there for pick-up by owner.

Dam Update: Dam operator Greg Cole introduced new drain commissioner, Fred Strauer. Any questions regarding dam operations may be directed to either of them. Many logs have been observed in the lake coming from the river and residents were advised to watch for them when boating. No logs have been a problem by the dam at this time, but will be handled if/when occur. Excessive woody debris has been noted throughout the county and property owners are ultimately responsible for clean up – can either work the debris into their shoreline or bring on-shore to dry out and use for firewood.

Watershed Report: Carole P reported that the PRVEL watershed's goals are aimed at reducing the amount of sedimentation coming down the river and depositing in the lake, restoration of road/stream crossings to avoid unwanted materials from entering the waterways, locate and treat any invasives plant species, and improve water quality and fish/wildlife habitat. Their main projects this season will be on the south branch of the Pine working with Huron Pines on bank stabilization at several sites. Doug J is also continuing inventories and treatment of IS on state land north of the lake and is seeking volunteers to assist along with a small boat to help in getting to the area from the Pine River. Survey to begin in June. She also gave info on a Water Ways Event to be held in Harrisville this coming Nov/Dec, which

will feature all the ways that water is beneficial to Michigan and our own local counties. PRVEL will be participating in at least one of the programs and watch for more details in newspapers.

Endowment Fund: Carole P reported \$23,211.19 in the Total Fund - \$4,615.58 Spendable Account. These funds may be used for any upcoming improvements to Ken Ratliff Park as proposed by the township, if they meet the criteria for distribution. Brochures outlining the fund were made available for members.

Picnic Plans: The committee will be meeting soon to plan the picnic for Saturday, Aug 4 at 5 PM. Anyone wanting to help either plan or set up/take down, please contact her.

PFC Issues/NOW organization – Cathy W and Greg C gave an overview of the newly formed community action group NOW which stands for Need Our Water. They meet every third Thursday at the library and strongly encouraged everyone to get involved in learning the facts about the contamination of surface and ground water as a result of PFC use on the old Wurtsmith AFB site. A training program is being investigated to teach interested parties in collecting samples of lake foam – watch for more info to come. Rick C noted that pictures of observable foam can be seen online at Mlive website. NOW handouts were made available. Arnie L presented a brief summary of what the Restoration Advisory Board does and encouraged everyone to stay informed and attend the meetings for ongoing updates – next meeting Wed, June 6 at the library. Additional info available on several websites – handout given listing these.

Elections: Joe P reminded members of upcoming board elections at July meeting – 4 positions will be open for nominations – 2 existing members willing to be re-nominated.

Other Issues:

- Board member, Carole P reported that VELA website temporarily off line due to legal issue
- Doug J reported that proposed free fishing tournament on VE lake has been scratched due to lack of interested event planners and also in view of concerns about any effects of PFC contamination in resident fish – may be re-visited in the future.
- Member Bob Tasior asked attendees to contact him if they have any info on long term residents of VanEtten Lake who are now having health problems

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am

Respectfully Submitted, Carole Plunkey, Secretary