

**VELA Fall Meeting Minutes**  
**Sat, Sept 6, 2014**  
Oscoda Township Conference Center

BOD Attendees: Ron Mathison, Joe Plunkey, Carole Plunkey, Leonard Brockhahn, Paul Rekowski, Janice Wilber, Greg Cole, Celeste Creger – Tom James absent

The meeting was called to order at 10 AM and board introductions were made, noting the officers roster for this term: President - Ron Mathison, VP - Joe Plunkey, Secretary - Carole Plunkey, Treasurer - Leonard Brockhahn

Reading of Minutes: Joe P read the minutes from the last meeting, July 12,2014 – approved as read

Treasurer's Report: Leonard B reported \$10,757.16 in savings and \$8,338.94 in checking account – membership count to date is 301

Endowment Fund: Carole P reported values to date: \$16, 248.72 Total Fund - \$1,772.23 Spendable Account. Anyone having suggestions for appropriate use of the monies can contact her or Ron.

Watershed Update: Carole P gave a summary of the recent open house to promote current projects within the watershed for 2014-15 and reminded members of opportunities to volunteer for PRVEL programs. The watershed organization prioritizes projects related to reducing sedimentation and unwanted nutrients coming down the river and depositing in the lake, thus promoting weed growth. Another area of interest is monitoring and treatment for invasive plant species and PRVEL member Dan Stock reported that a team has been out to survey an 80 acre site just north of the mouth of the river, identifying approximately 100 locations of such plants. Some areas were not able to be viewed due to poor field conditions and will be added to next year's monitoring plan. The next meeting will be Oct 23, at 10 AM in Greenbush at the township hall.

Annual Picnic: Ron M gave a summary of this year's picnic, now under the direction of the new picnic committee and their suggested plans for next year, including moving the event to the enclosed pavilion at Ratliff Park

Weed Control Report: Ron M reported that this was a good year for weed control attributed to an early attack on Eurasian Milfoil. There will be no further treatment this year, with spending amounting to approximately \$58,000.

He gave an accounting of his recent meeting with the township Superintendent, Mr. Stalker, Ann Richards, Doug Jager, and Jamie Maguire, noting that the township had been informed by their legal advisor that they were incorrectly managing the Special Assessment District by allowing the carry-over of funds to a following year. They recommended a new plan whereby the township would collect funds in arrears up to \$70,000 rather than collect a set amount, and adjust the amount each property owner would pay based on the amount of money used each year. Along with this new plan, the township board would need to approve each recommended treatment before application could be initiated.

Several members had questions and concerns regarding this suggested plan. After a lengthy discussion, it was recommended that members voice their concerns to the township by mail or email and/or attend the next township meeting and speak to the issue at public comment time. Ron M to write a letter to the board reflecting the memberships concerns and give suggestions to ensure weed control is accomplished in a timely manner and in accordance with recommendations by the VELA

weed committee.

No further SAD taxes will be collected this year due to the surplus already in the SAD fund.

Open Q & A : Carole P asked about the status of testing for algae this year? Ron M responded that he talked with the lake management firm and the decision was made not to test since the algae bloom did not appear until very late in the season when the people using the lake for recreation would be minimal and monies spent would not be beneficial. Testing cost is \$350

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM

Respectfully Submitted,

Carole Plunkey