

VELA Spring Meeting Minutes
Sat, May 30, 2015
Oscoda Township Conference Center

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

Call to Order: 10 AM

Board Introductions: Joe P conducted the meeting as VP and announced that Ron Mathison has officially resigned due to health issues - Doug Jager was appointed to board position until elections in July. Other board members were introduced – Ann Richards from Oscoda Twp and Pete Filpansick from lake management firm LakePro in attendance as guests

Reading of Minutes: Carole P read the minutes from the last meeting – approved as read

Treasurer's Report: Leonard B submitted a treasurer's report – current balances include \$10,253 in checking and \$10,761.59 in savings– membership count to date is 278

Weed Control Report: Pete F explained the procedure for this year's management program – first survey to be done this week; Clark is the new company hired to apply treatment chemicals; Eurasian milfoil will be the central focus for the use of monies available for this season (\$31,000) which will end the 5 year SAD for VanEtten until the new year when the process will begin again to institute a new 5 year SAD through the township. No problems foreseen regarding this process. Nuisance weeds will be eradicated if funds available. VELA member opened discussion regarding the use of boat launch fees to help in weed control program- Carole P referred to newsletter article on potential passage of SB 104 (sponsored by Thomas Casperson) which, if passed, would ear-mark all fees collected at sites to be used for weed control in lakes. Members encouraged to write to their govt officials in support of this bill. Currently the township board decides how the fees are to be used

Special Assessment District: Ann R gave an overview of the process to begin a new SAD for the next 5 year period with further explanation by board members. In summary, the township will upfront monies to be targeted for weed management up to a designated amount (suggested \$70,000) until the end of the season and then bill property owners for their share of the actual cost on the winter tax bill. There will be no carry-over of monies from year to year. She willing to “run the numbers” and provide a projection of cost per property to better understand the process. In response to concerns over possible administrative fees attached to this program, Ann R stated that such fees are allowed but that the township board has not made any decision on this issue. Property owners will be notified before the required hearings are scheduled and individuals may speak to the township board with any concerns at that time.

Lake Level Control: Joe P stated that any questions/concerns regarding the timing or process of drawing down the lake be directed to the drain commissioner, Gary Adams. Carole P reminded members that many variables are considered when managing the lake level. Dam operator not in attendance to respond

Lake Monitor Report: Dan S reported that water sampling has begun – Spring phosphorus and chlorophyll results not yet available; Doug J reported Clarity at 6 ft. Temp 65 degrees

PRVEL Report: : Carole P provided an update on current watershed projects, including road stream crossing upgrades, bank stabilization efforts, and monitoring/eradication of invasive species (IS) on the 80 acre State land just north of the mouth of the river as it enters the lake. Doug J announced a training event to be held Fri, June 19th, for people interested in learning more about IS and taking a ride up the river to the site for monitoring. PRVEL submitted a grant proposal to procure temperature loggers and stream gauges for monitoring programs – waiting for response. Pine River has been opened up for canoe/kayak use – logs relocated in the river to allow passage – recreational use by larger boats or jet skies detrimental to waterway – Carole to check with DNR regarding posting of NO WAKE signs. Information made available on upcoming volunteer events and free site visits by Huron Pines Council for those wanting to learn more about conservation projects on their own property.

Endowment Fund: Carole P reported values to date: \$18,064.16 Total Fund - \$2,383.61 Spendable Account. Anyone having suggestions for appropriate use of the monies can contact her.

Safe Fish Report: Paul R reported on the recent concerns regarding ground contaminants from the AFB showing up in local lakes and ponds – no advisories have been issued for PFO's that are any different from those previously given for fish consumption related to mercury, lead, PCB's etc – pamphlets were available for guidelines to fish consumption

Elections: Joe P reminded members that annual elections will be held at the July meeting – encouraged anyone interested to consider nomination – 3 positions open, all 3 board members willing to run again if no one volunteers

Open Q & C : Carole P gave recognition to member Pat Copland who was on the VE board in 1984 and presented the news article showing the board members at that time. Shirley B introduced VELA's Webmaster Tim Schafer and Carole P gave recognition to the great work he has been doing to assist VELA. Member asked if any plan to pursue the fish ladder at VE dam? Joe P stated the issue has been set aside by state officials and no further action appears to be in motion to proceed. Paul R stated the objection by Fish and Wildlife biologists related to the possibility of sea lamprey passage into the lake and then the river and so the project was dropped.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM

Respectfully Submitted,

Carole Plunkey