

VELA Spring Meeting Minutes
Sat, June 4, 2016
Oscoda Township Conference Center

BOD Attendees: Joe Plunkey, Carole Plunkey, Janice Wilber, Doug Jager, Celeste Creger, Norm Ritter, Paul Rekowski, Leonard Brockhahn - Absentee: Dave Swenson

Call to Order: 10 AM with pledge of allegiance

Board Introductions: Pres, Joe P introduced board members and guest, Pete Filpansick from Lake Pro Management Firm. He also introduced Dan Stock, lake monitor, and reported that Greg Cole has been hired as the new dam operator – Greg not in attendance

Reading of Minutes: Carole P read the minutes from the September 2015 meeting – approved as read

Treasurer's Report: Leonard B reported account balances of \$11, 537 in checking and \$10, 774 in savings; \$470 has been received in donations to VELA and current membership stands at 275

Weed Committee Report: Doug J explained the new 5 year SAD for weed control. Township will be “upfronting” the monies spent and property owners will be billed based on those amounts on winter tax bills. Pete F explained the role of his firm in the process and reported the first of 3-4 surveys of the season to be performed around June 13 and then followed up with treatment based on findings. Doug reported that individuals are allowed to rake unwanted weeds from their property without a DEQ permit, but any chemical application requires a permit – Pete expanded on this subject, advising people to get all the necessary info from either Lake Pro or the DEQ before attempting to apply chemicals. Further comments included : 1) EM appears to be under control statewide, although algae growth and the appearance of curly leaf pondweed is stronger, 2) weed treatment cannot be done within 1000 ft of the dam or mouth of the river to avoid any carry-over into other bodies of water, 3) letters will be sent out regarding the chemicals used in the lake. Anyone having concerns regarding weeds may contact Doug J for followup.

Endowment Fund: Carole P reported \$18,081.25 in the Total Fund - \$3,075.53 Spendable Account.

Log/Stump Removal – Joe P reported that the board approved a plan to place buoys at the stump sites to alert boaters to hazard

Woody Debris Cleanup on the River: Joe P reported that PRVEL watershed group will share in the cost of having woody debris cleared from the river – work just completed – most likely an annual task.

VELA Board Elections: Joe P noted that 5 positions are open for elections at July meeting – anyone interested in being nominated for a post should contact him

Michigan Inland Lakes Convention Report: Dan S reported on subjects covered at the Spring convention, including Fish Ecology, Copper Toxicity/Tx of Algae, Hybrid version of EM appearing around the state, and still no State code regulating septic systems

Meeting with Township to discuss lake issues: Joe P reported that reps from the VELA board met with township officials to discuss boat launch fees, the status of the sample point of sale septic system ordinance that VELA has proposed to the township for consideration, and possible projects that could involve Endowment Fund monies. Mr Stalker to report back to the township board for review of info

and get back to VELA when decisions made – it was noted that anyone may attend the work sessions as they are open to the public and that would be a good time to express any views regarding these issues. VELA board members to follow up with township if no response received in a reasonable amount of time

Cormorant Harrassment Program – Joe P reported very few birds seen this year – no further action to be taken

Riparian Magazine: Carole P reported that the magazine will be featuring VanEtten Lake in the summer issue this year – anyone interested in obtaining a copy to contact her – a few copies will be made available when published

Additional Topics – Open Comments

PFC Well Contamination: Doug J reported that MDEQ has randomly tested a few wells on the east side of VE lake to ensure no health hazard exists – results received well below the standard set by EPA Paul R responded to questions and explained findings – he reported a second meeting/presentation to be held Tues, June 14th to update residents – will be announced in Oscoda Press. Lake water has NO restrictions related to PFC contamination. A few wells still to be tested

PRVEL Watershed Report: Carole P reported 2 road stream crossing sites to be completed this year to minimize the amount of sediment coming into the Pine River; also assisting Huron Pines and US Forest Service in Buhl Dam Removal project – continues to seek volunteers for the river sampling program to test water quality and the invasive species monitoring and treatment. Anyone interested in helping to contact her and/or visit VELA website for more information. Doug J reported on IS work being done just north of mouth of the river – seeking a boat to assist in June field trip to site – volunteers may contact him

Water Testing: Joe P reported water clarity at 6 ft in May with 2 temp readings under 60 degrees and 1 at 70 degrees end of May

Welcome Packets: Carole P reminded members that welcome packets are available to new people on the lake. Contact her if you need a packet for a new neighbor.

Annual Picnic: Janice W reminded members of annual picnic on Sat, Aug 6 – more info available closer to the time at general meeting and website. Anyone wishing to help, please contact Carole P

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon

Respectfully Submitted, Carole Plunkey, Secretary