

VELA Board Meeting
April 30, 2018
Parks Library 10AM – 11:45 AM

Attendees: Carole & Joe Plunkey, Leonard Brockhahn, Dave Swensen, Rick Copland, Celeste Creger

Absent: Doug Jager, Frank Rainey, Leif Lindblom

Guests: Greg Cole & Donna Tingley – NOW action group (Need Our Water) & Shirley Brockhahn

Agenda Items:

NOW group allowed to present info on their organization and make request for funding – board agreed to consider request and decide on amount if affirmative vote. Guests left the meeting and after discussion, decision made unanimously to contribute \$500 to NOW. This is contingent on the group's ability to get further organized and provide info on how monies are to be given (no official group bank account as of yet).

Meeting Minutes: Minutes from August/2017 meeting read and approved

Treasurer's Report: Leonard reported balances for end of March – savings \$10,796 – checking \$14,376

Membership: Shirley B reported 2018 membership now 246 with second mailing to go out this week. It was noted that \$620 had been received in donations along with dues. Boat Launch survey (as requested by the township board) only returned 95 'yes' votes and 85 'no' from the total number 623 sent out – this is not a majority of lake residents responding, so board will not be taking action to pursue waving of boat launch fees with the township board

PFC Update: Joe gave updated status of well/surface water contamination by chemicals emanating from the old AFB – noted that 2 new filtration systems will be built by the Air Force by August/2018. Fish sampling of VE lake also to take place this spring as soon as ice out – results may take months. Joe P and Dan Stock, lake monitor, hold seats on the Restoration Advisory Board which will be meeting every other month.

Annual Picnic: Carole reported same committee as last year – event to be held August 4th at Warrior Pavilion

Weed Committee Update: Joe gave report for Doug Jager and tentative schedule for weed management plan by Lake Pro – to begin in June

Logs in Lake – Joe reported bottleneck of logs in mouth of river as it enters the lake – potential safety issue for the dam if logs reach there. He surveyed the site with dam operator and arborist who happens to live on the lake – too difficult for removal at this time – best plan would be for property owners to either pull the debris onto their property for shoreline buffer or to dry out and use for fire wood. Drain commissioner and watershed group aware of issue.

Endowment Funds: Carole reported approx \$4600 in the spendable account. She noted that the township Parks and Rec plan includes some renovations and improvements at Ken Ratliff Park which may be projects that the Fund could support – she informed the township board of possible cost sharing venture

Swimmer's Itch: Joe stated that he had received a request from Freshwater Solutions LLC for VELA to join a cross-continent swimmer's itch research initiative to create a large data base of cases found in North America and help to secure federal funding to address the issue. VELA would send out the info to all members for their volunteer participation and would receive feedback once the data was formulated. All agreed to accept.

Liability Insurance: Joe gave an update regarding a letter received from a legal firm representing an individual who states that he owns the copyright to a picture he found on the VELA website and wants us to close down the website until he can settle with us on a monetary figure for copyright infringement. Joe has sought unofficial legal advice and the issue is under consideration. The website has been shut down until resolution. Board discussion regarding purchasing liability insurance for VELA in case of need in future – Dave S to follow up and report back info

Mich Directory of Lake Assoc: Carole reported that the directory is updating its list and that VELA is listed on their website.

Respectfully submitted – Carole Plunkey, Secretary