

**DRAFT**

**Van Etten Lake Association (VELA)  
FALL GENERAL MEETING  
September 8, 2018 – 10:00 AM, Park Library**

**MINUTES**

Board Members Present: Celeste Creger, Leonard Brockhahn, Rick Copland, Mike Clemons, Doug Jager, Leif Lindblom, Russell Williams

Absent: Dave Swenson (excused), Frank Rainey (excused)

- I. Call to Order: Meeting started at 10:02am by VP Celeste Creger
  - Pledge
  - Introductions: Board Members and any guests were introduced.
- II. Approval of Minutes (July 2018 General Meeting)

Approved as written.
- III. Reports:
  - **Treasurer** - Leonard Brockhahn
    - Current Financials  
\$10,796 Savings  
\$14,133 Checking
    - Endowment Fund - Dave Swenson  
Celeste Creger reported in Dave's absence.  
Current balance: \$24,004.88 (as of 7/31/18) is available for distribution: \$4,615.58.
  - **Membership** – Shirley Brockhahn  
Leonard Brockhahn reported in Shirley's absence.  
Total Members: 291 – up from last year
  - **Weed Committee** – Doug Jager
    - Lake Pro Representative – Pete Filpansick (Presented by Doug Jager)  
Doug explained algae bloom and reviewed report from Lake Pro. (See attached report from Lake Pro.)  
Question: Does Health Department do Water Quality Testing on the lake? Suggestion: Might want to look into.
  - **Lake Monitor** – Dan Stock  
August Clarity was 4.5ft down from last year's reading of 8ft. The long term average for August/September is 6.5ft. The last 3 to 4 years have had better clarity averages, but there were no big algae blooms during those times.  
August Temp 72° F. The long term average is 70° F.
  - **Dam** – Greg Cole  
Bill Palmer reported in Greg's absence.  
Everything flowing fine. Greg is trying to keep water up for taking boats out. A few weeks ago, Greg had to keep Van Etten Creek low for lamprey lampricide treatment. The lake will start to be lowered about November 15. The timing of lake lowering and raising (fall and spring) are usually reported in the Oscoda Press.
  - **Watershed** – Carole Plunkey (Pine River Van Etten Lake Watershed Coalition - PRVEL Representative)  
Carole reported that PRVEL's main project this year was bank stabilization on the South branch of the Pine River. Also, this fall, there will be work done on a small dam removal on private property near Trask Lake Road on the East branch.

In 2019 PRVEL plans for RSX (road/stream crossing) improvement on Kurtz Creek at Kimbelein Road and the far west end of the watershed area.

Upcoming events and activities:

- PRVEL meetings are the second Thursday of the month at 10:00am in the Harrisville Library.
- Volunteers needed for Macro sampling (September 26 & October 3) and for monitoring invasive species. Contact Doug Jager for more information and volunteering.

- “Water Ways” project in Harrisville November 16-28. PRVEL to have display at the Harrisville Library on Saturday, December 8 from 11am-1pm.
- “Giving Tuesday” Celebrated on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving: PRVEL applied to be included in this fund drive. Watch for more information via email and newspapers and consider donating to help fund further projects which benefit the watershed as well as the Van Etten Lake.
- PRVEL will continue to monitor logs and woody debris coming down the river.

Please take a look at the PRVEL Facebook page as this will help show they are engaging with the community.

IV. Picnic Wrap-up (Carole Plunkey)

Expenses: \$1234.51 (included \$250 Pavilion Rental)  
 Income: \$132.00 50/50  
           \$469.00 Auction Baskets  
 Total: \$601.00  
 Cost of 2018 VELA Picnic = \$631.51 about \$115.00 over last year.  
 Attendance: 75

The Pavilion has been reserved for 2019. Note: Due to a township error we cannot have the picnic on the traditional 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in August so the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in August has been reserved for 2019 (8/10/19).

The Picnic Committee always needs volunteers. Please contact Carole Plunkey to help out.

V. Copyright Infringement Settlement Update (Celeste Creger)

An historical review of the copyright issue was reported out. The final written draft of the settlement is with plaintiff’s attorney at this time and waiting for approval. Upon approval, the settlement will be completed, and the VELA website will be back up. Carole Plunkey explained that she is working with the webmaster and is the process of redesigning the website.

VI. Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Update (Joe Plunkey – RAB Representative)

The last RAB meeting was August 30. There was a tour though the new GAC plant prior to meeting. Connections were approved and the GAC plant is up and running. The GAC plant is designed to remove PFC in the groundwater. The next RAB meeting will be November 28 or December 5.

There was a question from Mike Clemons (VELA Board Member) if all the lake area has been tested. Joe explained that further monitoring wells are in process. Arnie Leriche (RAB Community Co-chair) furthered the answer to that question by explaining that there was drinking well testing done all over the lake a couple of years ago. Some other attendees expressed their drinking water has been tested and all was OK on Loud Drive all North of Phalen Creek.

Arnie Leriche added to Joe’s report by explaining that all RAB meetings are videotaped and available on Youtube. He also explained that this videotaping has been paid for by various sources including Oscoda Township. He asked all to view the videotaped meetings on Youtube as the number of viewers can help support the need for funding.

Also noted:

- Anyone wishing to report foam on the lakes should do so through the DEQ website.
- There was some explanation from the membership of Oscoda Township’s plan for municipal water and possible sewer extensions in the plume area.

VII. Comment/Question Period

Carole Plunkey – Comment: Be sure you are getting all lake and water information from correct sources online.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

General Meeting: Saturday, June 1, 2019

Annual Meeting: Saturday, July 6, 2019

Meeting Adjourned: 11:39am

Respectively Submitted: Richard Copland, Secretary

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