

VELA General Meeting
Saturday June 3, 2017

Call to order/Introductions

Board Members present: Joe Plunkey, Carole Plunkey, Leonard Brockhahn, Shirley Brockhahn, Doug Jager, Janice Wilber, Dave Swenson, Celeste Creger (Norm Ritter resigned for health reasons) (Devon Tasior resigned due to other commitments)

Minutes of last meeting: read and approved (Sept/2016)

Treasurer's Report: Leonard reported total account balance at \$23,962 - \$13,179 in checking, \$10,783 in savings – no bills outstanding

Membership Report: Shirley reported 265 current members and noted that \$600 had been received in donations

Weed Committee Report: Doug reported that lake manager contracted by the township is Lake Pro once again. Herbicides will be applied by PLM. First weed survey will take place on June 12th. The firm will not be doing any treatment during major holidays. If property owners have areas of concern, please contact Doug for follow-up. Joe read a response from Lake Pro regarding a question from a lake resident living at south end of the lake who is concerned that treatment chemicals might be in the surrounding water by his home, but he would not know if any restrictions, as no signs will be posted near the dam (since no treatment there). Basically, it was explained that herbicides move very little once in the water and drift potential would be highly unlikely at that location – so no restrictions would be in place. As in previous years, property owners within 100 ft of treatment areas have signs posted on their property listing any restrictions.

Water Quality Report: Water clarity has been running between 4-5 ft which is normal for spring readings. Water temp at about 60 degrees. The first phosphorus and chlorophyll samples have been taken but no results until the fall. Anyone interested in helping with testing contact Dan Stock.

Dam Update: Greg Cole (dam operator) listed plans for the near future including a floater cable to prohibit boaters from anchoring at the dam, safety fencing near the dam to keep people away from the structure, steps to the creek from the park area, and fishline container for deposit of old line/hooks. He also reported that controls were freezing up in winter months, so new box installed to prevent this. Greg has made visits to other dam sites to learn more about how they function and help him in accessing how best to control water levels to prevent any property damage to homeowners. In general, lake levels begin to be lowered in mid November and raised in mid May – very hard to predict how long process takes due to many contributing factors. He responded to several questions pertaining to water levels.

Endowment Funds: Carole reported total fund balance at \$20,461.93 and of this amount, \$3,821.89 is in the spendable account. Anyone with ideas on how best to spend these funds, please contact any board member.

PRVEL Watershed Report: Carole gave an overview of watershed projects and made special note of the removal of Buhl Dam in Alcona County. This project allows for improved fish passage, while also

improving bank stabilization, therefore, less sediment loading into the river which flows into VE lake. PRVEL partnered with Huron Pines conservation council, DNR, and US Forest Service to complete this project, which was funded through grants. Doug Jager gave info on fighting invasive species by partnering with Mich DNR to eradicate these unwanted plants from a section of state land located just north of the river where it enters VE lake. Anyone interested in volunteering to help with this program to contact him. Next site visit will be Sat, June 17th.

Septic Ordinance: Dan Stock reported that VELA met with the township superintendent and members of the Public Health Dept to hopefully finalize plans for a point-of-sale septic system ordinance. The decision was made to re-visit the existing township ordinances pertaining to septics and “tweak” this document to in essence require the public health dept to do an inspection at point-of-sale, but with no requirement to make changes if noted – this would then give the buyer the option to require changes be made before purchase, or not. Township requested to discuss this plan with their lawyer and get back to VELA

Boat Launch Survey: President Joe Plunkey gave an update on talks with the township to allow lake residents free one time access and departure from the lake with their boats/pontoons. Suggestions have been made on the details of such a program, but township is requesting that VELA take a survey of residents first, to see exactly what percentage of lake property owners want such a program. Since no action could be taken this season due to time constraints of conducting such a survey, decision was made to wait until the January mailing 2018 of dues invoices and include the survey at that time. Township representative, Bill Palmer, was in attendance and clarified that the monies collected at the boat launch do not show a profit and often funds are taken from the general fund to supplement those monies that go toward park upkeep. Carole P noted that she had checked with other lakes in the area having public launch sites and all those require lake residents to pay a launch fee.

Picnic: Carole P gave info on upcoming annual picnic, Saturday, Aug 5th at 5 PM. The committee will be meeting soon to discuss particulars and respond to suggestions made through survey done last season by those in attendance.

Elections: Joe P reminded members of upcoming board elections in July – anyone interested may submit their name for nomination

PFC Discussion: President Joe Plunkey opened the floor for discussion of PFC contamination in private well water as a result of leakage from the old AFB in Oscoda. Carole P made the point that it appears that lake properties are not selling as a result of “bad press” on this issue and it may have a negative impact on tourism. She encouraged everyone to first be informed and then promote the lake whenever possible as safe for all kinds of recreation and fish consumption. Bill Palmer gave an update on township action being taken and stated that the new restoration advisory board should be established around the end of July – hopefully, a representative from VELA will be selected to be on this board.

Next meeting: Saturday, July 8, 2017

Meeting adjourned: 11:40 AM

Respectfully submitted

Carole Plunkey, Secretary

