

VELA Board Meeting
April 11, 2016
6:30 PM PM – Sacred Heart Church – Oscoda

Attendees: Carole & Joe Plunkey, Janice Wilber, Celeste Creger, Paul Rekowski, Leonard & Shirley Brockhahn, Doug Jager, Dan Stock (lake monitor)

Absent: Norm Ritter, Dave Swensen

Call to Order/Minutes: Joe P called the meeting to order - minutes from the last meeting were read by Carole P and approved as read

Treasurer's Report – Leonard B reported balances as of February 29, 2016 at \$10, 774 in savings and \$10, 939 in checking

Correspondence: Carole P reported thank-yous received from Iosco County Fishing for the Future Tournament and Pine River Watershed for donations made to their organizations

Agenda Items:

- 1) PFCs in Well Water: Paul R summarized issue of PFC contaminated wells found near the former AFB. All reported levels were below the EPA standards for safety concerns, but some health officials deemed it necessary to issue a Do Not Drink the Water letter to the owners of the 24 wells that were tested. More well testing to be done in specific areas. VE lake water has traces of PFCs like all other lakes around the country with NO warnings for humans or animals – normal advisories are still in place for safe eating of fish from the lake. A letter was received from property owner suggesting a need to increase the flow of water in the lake by dredging at the mouth of the Pine River to lessen the impact of such chemicals if/when they entered the lake – board determined the reasoning to be flawed and no response is indicated
- 2) Weeds in Cove by Dam: Doug J reported on property owners complaints of excessive weeds in cove – he consulted with Lake Pro on possible solutions. Will visit site in Spring to see if any action to be taken.
- 3) SAD: The new 5 year SAD went through the (2) hearing process and was approved by the township board in March. Doug J reported on the process and monies available for this season. It was determined that any issues dealing with the taxes collected for weed control, whether the property owner believes he/she receives direct benefit from the program or not, be addressed directly to the assessor's office
- 4) Stump Removal: Discussion regarding safety issues with emerging stumps located north of Loud Island – decision to mark the stumps with buoys as removal is both costly, difficult, and no place for disposal. Paul R and Doug J to work on project for Spring
- 5) Woody Debris in River: Discussion around clearing the river north of the lake of downed and floating logs – Huron Pines staffer offered to do the work again this season – Carole to contact him – cost to be shared by VELA and PRVEL
- 6) Lake level letter: Carole received letter from property owner re: lake level mandate and effect on wildlife – discussion followed – she contacted conservationist from Huron Pines for opinion – consensus is that changing the level is often beneficial to purging the lake of unwanted materials and natural occurrences like water level fluctuations affect wildlife in nature so this is not a unique occurrence on this lake and wildlife adjust to such events – no action to be taken
- 7) Stealhead Planting: Carole noted an article from Oscoda Press regarding stealhead hatchery no

- longer being maintained, therefore, no need for lake water to be diverted in Spring to give more water to the hatchery effort – therefore, lake level should not be altered
- 8) VELA board elections in July – Joe P noted 6 positions open for nomination at July's annual meeting – all those currently holding those positions agreeable to be re-nominated
 - 9) Fishing for the Future – Doug J gave a summary of Conservation District's fishing tournament in February – program needs more people to make a success – will ask for volunteers at Spring general meeting
 - 10) New Invasive Algae: Joe P reported on new invasive algae appearing in Michigan called Rock Snot due to its appearance – membership to be informed to watch and report if seen – plan to continue educating members on importance of cleaning watercraft to keep unwanted plants/aquatic species from entering the lake
 - 11) Lake Pro: Joe P requested feedback on when to have rep from Lake Pro attend meetings – agreement that Spring and Fall appropriate to present lake management information
 - 12) Boat Launch Fees: Carole P suggested a plan to include boat launch fees in annual dues received from members and then pay the township this amount – might increase membership if seen as an incentive - board members to meet with Oscoda Superintendent to discuss – details to be worked out. Unanimous approval of plan. Additional topics to discuss with superintendent include point-of-sale septic system ordinance and use of Endowment Fund monies in conjunction with township projects at Ratliff Park (approx \$3,000).
 - 13) Riparian Magazine: Carole P reported that articles/pictures about VE lake have been prepared and sent to the Riparian magazine to be featured in one of their issues this year – more copies to be made available – suggestion to give copies to Oscoda Twp board to keep them informed and hopefully, more supportive
 - 14) Membership: Shirley B reported huge difficulty in identifying lake property owners based on current list from township – suggestion to meet with assessor to clarify and generate accurate listing
 - 15) Mich Lake & Streams Conference: Dan S plans on attending in April as rep from VE lake – costs to be paid by VELA

Adjourn: 8:10 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Plunkey, Secretary