

VELA Spring Meeting Minutes
Sat, July 9, 2016
Oscoda Township Conference Center

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

Call to Order: 10 AM with pledge of allegiance

Board Introductions: Pres, Joe P introduced board members and new dam operator, Greg Cole

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

Treasurer's Report: Leonard B reported account balances of \$10,918.57 in checking and \$10,780.08 in savings. The proposed budget for next year was presented and voted on by the members – motion to accept the budget for 2016-17 approved

Membership: Leonard B reported membership at 284

Lake Monitor Report: Doug J gave report in Dan Stock's absence: water tested on July 4 with readings of 8 ft clarity and temperature at 71.9 degrees

Weed Committee Report: Doug J reported that Lake Pro surveyed the lake on June 14 and found 2 areas of nuisance weeds/algae on north end of the lake and east side of Loud Island – returned to treat on July 6 at cost of \$3,040. They to re-survey July 11. Question was asked about plant debris/logs floating down to the dam – Greg C reported he removed one log. He also reported problems with unsafe practices at the dam site by individuals wanting to fish, swim, or play too close to the structure. Discussion regarding this subject led to a recommendation to take pictures of such activities and present to the Iosco County Bd of Commissioners for their review and/or any recommendations. Question regarding the poisoning of sea lamprey on the Ausable and how that might indirectly impact the lake – Doug J responded that such programs require input/permit from DNR and he is not aware of any potential threat to the lake. Anyone having concerns regarding lake weed issues may contact Doug J for followup.

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

Riparian Magazine: Carole P reported that VanEtten Lake will be featured in the next issue of this magazine designed for people who live on the water. VELA will purchase several copies for distribution and extra copies may be bought at a cost of \$3 each – contact her if interested.

PRVEL Report: Carole P gave a review of current projects within the watershed and invited everyone to their next meeting Thurs, July 28, at 10 am in Greenbush at the township hall. She reported on 2 new brochures to outline specific programs: Go Native – which works with local nurseries and gardeners to stop the selling of unwanted invasive plants to land owners. Macro Sampling – new brochure to hopefully interest more people in volunteering for this Spring and Fall venture to test the water quality of the Pine in several locations. Joe P explained the new Crowd Hydrology project which will better monitor the water level at various points along the Pine – anyone may record the levels and phone them in to a central data base. Doug J gave a report on the 80 acre ERA site for invasive species which is being monitored by PRVEL volunteers – very little return of IS – will F/U at site this season. Anyone interested in helping with this project, contact him

Annual Picnic: Shirley Brockhahn invited all to come to annual picnic on Saturday, Aug 6, at 5 PM.at the Warrior Pavilion at Ken Ratliff Park – website has information as well. Meat and beverages will be provided along with 50/50 raffle, silent auction, and entertainment for the kids.

Elections: Joe P reported 5 positions open for board seats – 4 current members willing to remain on board, leaving one position open for nominations. Devon Tasior contacted president to submit her nomination – no other nominations from the floor. Joe P asked for vote on slate of 5 positions – unanimously approved by members present. Board members to remain after meeting to elect officers.

Pending Issues: Meeting with Township to discuss boat launch fees, septic system ordinance, and use of endowment funds: Joe P reported he talked with township superintendent Bob Stalker regarding feedback on the previous meeting – VELA reps requested to be present at next work session (probably in Sept) to discuss issues. Details to be worked out with township if agreeable to recommendations. Recommendation for all VELA members to go online and complete township survey to have a voice in upcoming decisions regarding the direction Oscoda will be taking under township leadership – Secretary to send out eblast to all members encouraging this action.

Additional Topics – Open Comments: None

Next Meeting: Joe P reminded members that conference room may not be available for Sept VELA meeting – notice to go out via website and eblast if location changes.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 am

Respectfully Submitted, Carole Plunkey, Secretary