

## VELA Board Meeting

May 6, 2015

6:30 PM – Methodist Church Library – Oscoda

**Attendees:** Carole & Joe Plunkey, Janice Wilber, Celeste Creger, Paul Rekowski, Leonard Brockhahn, Ann Richards (township guest), Dan Stock(Lake monitor), Doug Jager (Weed Committee)

**Absent:** Ron Mathison, Tom James, Greg Cole

### Agenda

Call to Order: Joe Plunkey, VP

Minutes of Last Meeting – not available (see 8/28/14)

Treasurer's Report: Leonard B reported \$9,560 in checking account, 10,766 in savings account – 2 out standing bills for ML&S Conference. Current membership is 277 with approx 30 memberships just received – he to prepare budget for annual meeting in July.

Special Assessment District Update: Ann Richards reported that there is currently \$39,000 in the fund, of which \$31,000 will be available for weed control (including permits and application costs). Lake Pro Management Firm fee amounts to \$8,000 of the \$39,000. Recommendation by the board to continue this year with Lake Pro. Discussion followed regarding the new SAD for 2016 – process to begin in January 2016 as layed out by rules regarding the formation of a SAD – board recommended raising the high end amount of monies to be spent yearly to ensure adequate weed control for possible contingencies where weed growth is severe – amount to be decided at a later date within the process. Dan S raised the question regarding the possiblility of VELA (or the township) adding extra monies for the purpose of weed control if needed (in years that available money is not enough to handle the treatment) – she to check on whether this can be done or not. Ann did not forsee any difficulties in proceeding with the new SAD – board will have opportunities to voice any concerns at the appropriate time, esp in regards to any administrative fees attached to the new SAD. Letter to the board sent by president, Ron Mathison (absent) read to all members.

Correspondence: Letter from property owner, David Cleveland directed to the VELA board read and discussed. He has several concerns regarding the bottomlands in front of his lakeside property and Phelan Creek. Decision to table any action regarding the request until input from president, Ron M

Endowment Fund: Carole P reported assets of \$18,064.16 in fund – Spendable amount \$2,383.61 – no current plan to use these funds

Michigan Lakes & Streams Conference Reports: Dan S reported he went for refresher training in testing procedures for phosphorus and total suspended solids – also has info on shoreline assessment program to assess changes over time – board to consider. Carole P reported she attended 1 day session on aquatic invasive species and efforts to inventory, monitor and treat in Michigan – also info provided on legal issues pertaining to riparians. She asking board to consider future attempt to highlight VanEtten Lake and the watershed in Riparian Magazine

Lake Monitor Report – Dan S reported 4 volunteers ready for this season - to start in May – will be using new lab (Ohio) for analysis – money in budget for this expense.

Watershed News: Carole P reported that woody debris in Pine River will be cleared by hired

professional – asking for \$250 to share cost for 2 days work. Motion to pay cost seconded by Celeste Creger – approved by unanimous vote. Also reported PRVEL has applied for grant money to purchase materials to assist in stream monitoring – response expected this Spring. Two road/stream crossings and several soil erosion projects to begin this season thru Ausable River Restoration Grant and Forest Service monies. Next PRVEL meeting Thurs, July 23 in Greenbush

Weed Committee Report: Doug J will be working with lake management firm and township to administer weed control measures this season – he explained rationale for use of current funds and will be available for consult with township for new SAD

Other Business:

- 1) Carole P stated no cormorants seen on the lake yet this Spring – Don Wassman still head of harrassment program
- 2) Several volunteer events sponsored by Huron Pines RC&D this year – anyone can participate – contact Carole P for more details
- 3) Spring VELA newsletter will be mailed out this month to all property owners around the lake
- 4) Carole P gave info on the formation of lake boards vs lake associations for weed control programs
- 5) VELA board elections will take place at the annual meeting in July – positions open for nomination are currently held by Janice Wilber, Tom James, and Greg Cole

Next Meeting: TBD

Adjourn: 8:55 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Plunkey, Secretary