



**Van Etten Lake Association (VELA)**  
**JUNE GENERAL MEETING**  
**June 1, 2019 – 10:00 AM, Robert J. Parks Library**

**Minutes**

Present: All Board Members present

I. Call to Order 10:04

- Pledge was led by Celeste Creger
- Board Members were introduced

II. Approval of Minutes (September 2019 General Meeting) Minutes - Approved

III. Reports

• President

○ Volunteer Opportunities

- Board Members – We are currently 3 short at this time - This is a nice way to meet people.
- Committees that are looking for members are the Weed Committee, Water Quality Committee and Picnic Committee. PRVEL is always looking for help.
- Elections for those who would like to be on the VELA Board will be at the July 6 Annual Meeting.

• Treasurer - Leonard Brockhahn

○ Current Financials

- Savings \$10,796.66
- Checking \$14,918.95

○ Endowment Fund – Celeste Creger

- Endowment \$17,735.00
- Reserve \$2,795.53
- Spendable \$5,470.17
- Total Assets \$26,000.70

• Membership – Shirley Brockhahn

- Membership is at 241. Membership Forms on Back Table.
- This is Shirley's last year of handling membership, we are looking for someone to take this over. Celest thanked Shirley for her many years of service to VELA.

• Weed Committee – Doug Jager – Leonard will be taking over the Weed Committee. Celest thanked Doug for all he has done with the Weed Committee over the years. Doug met with Pete (Lake Manager). There have been good results on getting rid of evasive plants, also nuisance plants. \$38,000 has been spent on appropriate weed eradication. Doug reiterated that the committee always tries to keep the costs down. There is \$70,000 able to be spent, but don't spend this amount unless necessary.

- There will be treating of the NW Cove and East Cove of Loud Island
- Remainder of lake will be surveyed June 26-27
- Will be careful this year of overspray on Boats
- Treatment times will avoid 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Holidays
- There is a new Product for heavy Green Algae out there, but we were not able to get into bid process, we would need to start bid process over and get ok from DNR. Will include this in bid process for next year.
- Doug addressed concerns about putting chemicals in the water. He explained the regulations and where we can and cannot treat on the lake. The survey looks at weeds on the surface

and then the Weed Committee makes recommendations. We are not looking to get rid of all weeds. Everything put into lake is approved by the DNR.

- Question about Blue Green Algae: Previous tests have shown this is not a problem in VanEtten Lake.
  - Question on reacting of PFOS on Weeds – no effect on the weeds themselves. DEQ has not looked at PFOS reaction with weed chemicals.
  - Comments: Weed committee has done a really good job. Has been judicious.
  - Comment: More people coming to Weed Committee meetings, would be great. They could be more informed. Weed committee right is always on top of things. Join one of these committees to help if you are really concerned.
  - Comment: Fertilizing with phosphorus content concern for home lawns. Runoff into lake. Michigan law now prohibits phosphorus in lawn fertilizers.
  - VELA is looking at working with the Township concerning septic systems on the lake and the concern of phosphorus and other lake pollutants from aging septic systems.
- Lake Monitor – Dan Stock
    - Water quality. Clarity for May 15 was 6ft. This was very good for this time of year. Clarity was 3ft 10years ago. Last year was lowest it has been for 10 years, but we don't know why, but the long-term trend is good. Phosphorus levels are running between 20-30 parts per billion. long term. Last year's spring sample was about same, but in fall had a reading of 84 parts per billion. Don't know why. The laboratory in Pellston, reran the samples and came back with ½ that amount or about 42 parts per billion. Will know more when we get results from this year. VanEtten Lake is a Mesotrophic Lake – good fishing lake that produces a lot of weeds.
  - Dam – Greg Cole (Not present) – any concern about lake levels should be directed to the drain commissioner.
  - Watershed – Carole Plunkey (Pine River Van Etten Lake Watershed Coalition – PRVEL Representative)
    - Reminded all of where water shed is and the large area that drains into VanEtten Lake. PRVEL is working on many projects to enhance the quality of the river and lake. There are 2 Projects this year: Small damn removal, and evasive species removal (plants). PRVEL has quarterly meetings at Library in Harrisville. PRVEL has a Facebook page. Also, VanEtten Lake.org is the VELA website and always has information available.

#### IV. Annual Picnic (August 10, 2019) – Carol Plunkey

- We would Like to have more volunteers. Please bring a dish to pass. There will be games, a silent auction, etc. The picnic is at an indoor venue, Warrior Pavilion at Ken Ratliff Park. If you would like to help out, see us after the meeting.

#### V. Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Update (Joe Plunkey/ Dan Stock– RAB Representatives)

- PFOS/PFOA – Letter (Celeste Creger) The VELA Board is in the process of drafting a new letter concerning PFOS/PFOA to send to government officials and elected representatives. For those who would like to send their own letter, contact information and information on how to draft a letter to your representatives is available on the back table.
- Report - Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Update (Joe Plunkey/ Dan Stock– RAB Representatives): The RAB's function was explained. Dan and Joe are the Reps for VELA on the RAB. RAB is an advisory board. We have no decision powers. We can bring concerns to the powers that be. The Air Force has decided to install additional PFOS treatment facilities. They use activated carbon which captures most of the PFOS. The Air Force is going through a long-term process to determine where the contaminates are and how to treat them.
  - RAB – Interim remediation – Air Force says it will be 4 years before they will decide what to do – but this also means, they can take action ahead of time if they get remediation money. Problem is not going to go away immediately. One idea is

to have a series of wells to intercept ground water before it goes into the lake, but a study needs to be done first on how best to facilitate this idea.

- Don't eat, play in foam, but recreational activities are OK. Highest concentrations are along the West shore from Pierces Point to damn.
- Most recent flyer from DEQ is posted on their website. MDEQ has wells and Air Force has wells.
- The Oscoda Township Superintendent, Dave Schaeffer, helped explain more: The Air Force sends a letter to property the owner with well results. If you have not received a letter, you can request from the Air Force. MDEQ presents information at RAB meetings. But, this is not an exact science. MDEQ takes about 3-6 months to get results. The next RAB meeting will be in the Fall.
- Comment: Fresh Water.org. Will test your water for \$60 through University of Michigan. There is about a three week turnaround. Handouts available on the back table for those interested. Thank you Joe and Dan for representing VELA's interests on the RAB.

## VI. Comment/Question Period

Comment: Question on poison (chemicals) put into the lake to control weeds. Concern of- fisherman.  
Answer: The expert is guy who comes down from Lake Pro. You can go out and talk to him when he is on the lake. He will also be at the September meeting to answer any questions. Most of the chemicals on the list we do not use. We use as little chemicals as we can to maintain the lake. Note: VanEtten Lake turns over every 33 days. (Correction noted – lake turns over faster than most inland lakes)

Comment: Drain pipe by Trailer Park into VanEtten Creek. Smells of Gasoline.

Comment: Dave Schaeffer - Township Superintendent: The Township is sending out phase 2 of the water main extension. They need easement on each property to connect the water main. It is free to hookup. There will only limited amount of time to hookup. This project will go out to bid June/early July. Would love to get it done this fall. Once main is installed then easement letters will go out. Old wells will be capped and abandoned.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:30am

### **Upcoming Meetings:**

Annual Meeting: Saturday, July 6, 2019 – 10:00am,  
Robert J. Parks Library

General Meeting: Saturday, September 7, 2019 –  
10:00am, Robert J. Parks Library

### **Annual Picnic (Mark your Calendars):**

Saturday, August 10, 2019 – 5:00pm

Ken Ratliff Memorial Park – Pavilion

*Please bring a dish to pass*

Respectively Submitted: Richard Copland, Secretary  
*Approved 7/1/2019*