

VELA Fall Meeting Minutes
Saturday September 9, 2017
Robert J Parks Library

BOD Attendees: Joe Plunkey, Carole Plunkey, Doug Jager, Celeste Creger, Rick Copland, Frank Rainey, Leif Lindblom Absent: Leonard Brockhahn, Dave Swenson
Guests Pete Filpansick (Lake Pro) Cory Upper (Public Health)

Call to Order: 10 AM with pledge of allegiance

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

Treasurer's Report: Leonard B submitted a report in his absence: current balances = checking \$12,637 savings \$10, 786.

Membership: Carole P gave report submitted by treasurer, Leonard B indicating current number of members remains at 280

PFC issues: This agenda item was moved forward to accommodate guest, Cori Upper, from district health dept. He introduced MDHHS rep, Susan Menente via smartphone connection since she could not be in attendance as hoped. She answered several questions from members and indicated that possibly another community meeting might be beneficial. Members agreed, only if current data is available regarding fish and water contamination by PFC's. Several members in attendance are on the new Restoration Advisory Board and it was noted that they will be having a meeting late Oct or early Nov so perhaps this kind of meeting could be held after that occurred. One of the main concerns of those present was the importance of updated testing of fish in VanEtten Lake since it was noted that the only results available are from 2012 – 2013. Cory took notes to follow up on all questions not answered. Carole P stated that she had received data from DEQ regarding boring done in the lake bottom by DEQ in April/May of this year. Results show 4.3 ppt of PFOA and PFOS total. She awaiting info from DEQ to clarify results as she was informed by MDHHS that soil testing is not the same as water testing as far as reporting in ppt.

Weed Committee Report: Doug J and Pete F from Lake Pro gave overview of lake conditions and treatments for this season, stating that approx \$11,000 had been spent on weed control. Pete will survey the lake again today, in response to member complaints of excessive pond weeds in certain areas and also excessive algae. No invasive species were found on last survey done in August. He explained restrictions placed on where herbicides are permitted by DEQ and took under advisement a complaint by a member regarding the herbicide company used this year.

Water Quality: Dan S reported very good clarity this season with readings averaging 8 ft for July and August. Temperature readings are similar to last season and recent cooler air temperatures will most likely diminish the algae being reported. No phosphorus results are yet available but will be included in the next newsletter.

Dam Update: Dam operator was not present so no report given

Watershed Report: Carole P highlighted the primary project for the watershed this season, which was the removal of Buhl Dam in Alcona County to re-connect 20 river miles of upstream habitat, improve fish passage, and benefit stream banks previously impacted by fast moving waters. A ribbon cutting

ceremony is planned for Thurs, Sept 21 at the site and all are encouraged to come. Flyers for the event are on the watershed's facebook page and RSVP's are needed by Sept 14. She reminded everyone of the ongoing watershed programs and invited everyone to their next regular meeting in October at the Harrisville library.

Endowment Fund: Carole P reported \$21,393.48 in the Total Fund - \$3,821.89 Spendable Account. No targeted projects for the funds to date.

Picnic Wrap-Up: Carole gave a report for the picnic committee – monies spent = \$1100. Monies taken in by raffles and 50/50 = \$555. Therefore, picnic cost VELA \$545

Other Issues:

- Carole P reported that VELA board has met to discuss how best to promote the lake in view of all the negative press regarding PFC contamination and mis-information on the safety of the lake for all sports. She gave listing of several ideas to promote lake e.g. VELA is now represented on-line with the Visitors Bureau, and the Oscoda Twp website. Ads will be placed in the local newspapers promoting the lake and a family fishing tournament is being planned for next season.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 am

Respectfully Submitted, Carole Plunkey, Secretary