

Van Etten Lake Association (VELA)

SPRING BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 10, 2025 – 10:00 a.m. ~ Robert J. Parks Library

- I. Call to Order -10:04 a.m.
 - a. Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Board members present: Diane Banks, Helen Shastal, Janet Swensen, Tim O'Harran, John Boettger, Charlie Bauer, John Kraly. Absent: Mike Woods, Ed Lanivich.
- III. Approval of Minutes - September 7, 2024, BOD Meeting - Motion to approve minutes, Janet Swensen, seconded by Helen Shastal. All in favor. Motion carried.
- IV. **Guest:** Dan Banks – Update Management Plan and the MLSA Conference
- V. **Weed Committee Report** – Chairman Dan Banks - Lake Pro was sold to TIGRIS. There will be no changes for this year. However, there will be additional services in the future. Copies of the Lake Management Treatment Plan are available upon request.
 - a. Per a request at the end of 2024, the board asked that the committee implement two individual Muck Pellet test areas for comparison. Dan B., and Charlie will mark the plots and John C. will measure.
 - b. Flyers were e-blasted to members on Muck Pellet availability for purchase.
 - c. Dan and Adam Romatz attended the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association Conference and learned that MSU will be spearheading this program in the future and using a third-party lab. Janet may write a letter of concern regarding the closing of the MSU lab.
 - d. At the MLSA Conference, Dan learned there were two hot topics of concern among all lake associations throughout the state, a septic ordinance and wakeboard legislation. Both were dropped in the legislature at the end of 2024 due to lack of support from constituents. Janet will reach out to Senator John

James and Diane will reach out to the Senator that introduced each of the Bills in Lansing.

- e. Diane will research other lakes or townships that possibly have wakeboard ordinances. Dan and Diane will set a meeting with the township supervisor , Tom Chatel, to educate and discuss wakeboats. Also, Charlie will contact another Association who has successfully passed ordinances. In the future, we may need to create a task force for this. Dan showed the Board a Wakeboat YouTube video, titled "Lakes at Stake," from the state of Wisconsin, which was very impactful. Discussion regarding emailing the video to educate members or have it on our website once the site is completed.

V. President's Comments:

- Lake Flooding-docks, boats, skis, etc. - Diane has been emailing communications on lost items from members and feedback is that it is very much appreciated. Diane will contact the township and county to see if there is any help available with log removal, chipping.
- VELA Website New Address - vanettenlake.com. Our existing Webmaster, Tim Schafer has stepped down from providing gratis website development/updates. Diane is working with a new Webmaster that she has had experience with. She wants to create a more interesting and interactive website, possibly including online payments and perhaps a Classified section for members to utilize at no cost/small cost. Maybe add language for donations. Board agreed if there is a fee for online payment, that it will be added to the membership fee. Janet suggested having a list of intended activities on how to spend surplus monies/projects on website.
- New Logo Development - Diane presented templates of six (6) individual logo designs for VELA, for consideration. Janet made a motion to approve the proposed logo that the Board unanimously agreed on, seconded by John K. All in favor. Janet made a motion to gift the person who designed the logo a \$50 gift card. Helen seconded the motion. All in favor.
- Bylaw Revisions – Banks presented the bylaw revisions to the Board. These will be disseminated at the Membership meeting on May 31st and voted on at the Annual Meeting.

VI. Treasurer Report - Draft Budget for 2024-25 - See budget report. Tim asked if Diane could share the endowment fund statement for accuracy in reporting. Tim also asked about particular line items and is adjusting them in the budget after the board agreed to do so. Janet, Diane and Tim will be meet with Patrick Heraghty, Community Foundation on August 6th at 10:00 a.m. to discuss the VELA Foundation endowment fund for clarification and ideas on what is allowable. Tim made a motion to donate annually to the endowment fund. Helen Seconded the motion. All in favor. No dollar amount was determined. Janet made a motion to accept the budget. John K. seconded the motion. All in favor.

VI. **Membership Report** - Diane Banks- Membership is going well. However, there are still some that need to pay their dues. John B. asked if we could look-into auto pay for membership dues? Diane will check with the credit union. Charlie made a motion to increase the fee for the Associate Member to \$100, which would include a small banner ad that would be placed on the website for one year advertising their service. John B seconded the motion. All in favor.

- New Membership Application Draft- suggestion to add a maximum of eight (8) weed committee members and a section to include a donation. Janet made a motion to accept the new membership application. Helen seconded the motion. All in favor.

VIII. Old Business

- Grant Opportunities – Helen Shastal- Helen will reapply for the Clean Boats Clean Water Grant when it is available. She shared holding a youth fishing day, but no firm decision was made to apply. This will be discussed at the annual meeting with the members. She apprised the board for a 'life jacket' loaner station which was well received, and everyone agreed it would be a good idea. The life jacket loaner station grant will be submitted by a Great Start Collaborative director in the area.

VII. New Business

- Pancake Breakfast – Date, Location TBD. Diane is in contact with Rob Young, Ausable Inn catering and will try to get a date for July/August to hold the event at Warrior Pavillion at Ratliff Park, from 9 a.m-11 a.m. It will be a meet and greet for members-(adults-\$12/Kids under seven- \$6).
- Youth Fishing Tournament – Helen - Will ask members at the next meeting if they are interested and how they feel about it.
- Now Donation - \$500 each past year. Everyone agreed to send another donation for 2025.
- Email Scams – Helen apprised the group of email scams going around. One of the board members received one from Diane. Stay aware.

Janet made a motion to adjourn the meeting, John B. seconded, All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 1:03 pm. Next Board Meeting: Jul 3, 2025, at the R.J. Parks Library at 9:00 a.m.

Upcoming General/Annual Meetings:

Annual Meeting: 10:00 a.m., Saturday, July 5, 2025

General Meeting: 10:00 a.m., Saturday, September 6, 2025