



Van Etten Lake Association (VELA)
WINTER BOARD MEETING
October 14, 2023 – 10:00 AM, Parks Library
MINUTES

- I. Call to Order at 10:05am. Present: Diane Banks, Charles Bauer, Leonard Brockhahn, Rick Copland, Celeste Creger, John Kraly, Tim O'Harran and Helen Shastal. Ed Lanivich was excused.
- II. Approve July 22, 2023 BOD meeting minutes - See Attached. - approved
- III. Guest: Dan Banks Topic: Proposed Lake Management

Dan's Presentation

- A Lake management plan is a dynamic document that identifies goals and action items for protecting and maintaining desired conditions in a lake and watershed.
- This document is the basis for attaining grant funding to achieve the identified goals.
- Development of this strategic plan will endeavor partner with the appropriate agency and association for support and expertise, i.e.: DNR, EGLE, NOW, RAB, PRVEL, Oscoda Township, Iosco County Drain Commissioner, Michigan Lakes and Stream.
- Boards and committee members may use the completed strategic plan along with the VELA By-Laws as the foundation for actions and expenditures.
- Some topics that should be addressed in this strategic plan for Van Etten Lake and the watershed are: Weed control, PFAS, Safety, Dam operation, Fish management, Water Quality and ways to "educate, inform and actively work toward the improvement and protection of Van Etten Lake and its surrounding environment." (VELA By-Laws)
- This is a large project that will require strategic planning, forming of committees, boards to focus on each area deemed important.
- Rick thanked Dan for the informative presentation and excused Dan from the meeting.

Comments

- This plan would have to be turned over to Oscoda Township, who has insurance
- The total cost of this plan was not discussed but see below for a motion to allow for initial expenses.
- Does VELA have to become a 501c3 non-profit organization to implement the strategic plan?
- **Motion** made and unanimously passed to move forward to investigate a strategic lake management plan with Dan Banks being the point person.
- **Motion** made and unanimously passed that Dan Banks is allowed \$500.00 for expenses, i.e. mileage, office supplies, etc. incurred while investigating this plan. Dan will submit the receipts to Leonard (treasurer).

- IV. President's Comments:
- BOD binder updates to all – New members received their binders.
 - Website – mostly updated
 - Fall Newsletter – received articles from NOW, Diane Banks, Dan Stock. Please send articles to Celeste soon.

V. Treasurer Report

Saving Checking	\$18,677.00
Checking	<u>\$ 11,751.00</u>
Total	\$ 30,428.00

- Diane Banks has "view only" access to VELA banking accounts for Pay Pal purposes.
- **Motion** made and unanimously passed, to allow Leonard to move \$8000.00 from the VELA saving account into interest bearing CD account.

VI. Weed Committee – Update on meeting with LakePro & plans for 2024

- Paul (owner) and Mike from LakePro attended the meeting. Paul does not know why the algae bloom was so bad this year.
- Dan Stock stated the phosphorus level at the mouth of the Pine River was 10 times higher than normal. Dan checking with the testing lab and did another test.
- LakePro sonar system was not functioning for three months, the company LakePro use systems were hacked.
- Milfoil was found and treated by the mouth of the Pine River. The treatment seems to have eradicated the Milfoil.
- Phragmites weeds were found by the YMCA camp and treated on September 14, 2023
- Paul is involved with the bid proposal; the proposal is due by November 1 and due back by November 15. The new applicator contract will be for three years.
- Paul stated there is a new chemical to remove phosphorus from the lake water. This chemical has not been approved for use in Michigan.
- Paul talked about satellite imaging to see high level of phosphorus in the lake water.
- A survey and treatment schedule has been set up for the 2024 season.

VII. Buoys Proposal – See attached - reviewed by Board

- **Motion** made and unanimously passed, a \$1500.00 buoy grant fund to be established: A VELA property owner could apply to VELA for a grant to pay for the buoy(s) to be placed in front of their properties to mark for shallow water or safety issues.
- The property owner would fill out the permit form required by the State of Michigan, DNR would investigate the site for approval. Property owner would be responsible follow all state and DNR guidelines and to put in and remove the buoy. The buoys will not be owned, monitored, maintained or in any way be the responsibility of the VanEtten Lake Association. Dan Banks offered to help anyone with this process help if necessary.

VIII. By-Laws Revision Proposal: BOD Terms (2-year term only) – See attached.

- Discussion had by the board, and decided to keep the By-Laws as they are for now.

IX. By-Laws Revision Proposal: The addition of a new membership classification of Associate Member - See attached.

- By-Laws Article III section 2 Associate Member- this would be members who service or sell to the members, i.e., lawn service, dock removal, snow removal, etc. to include the availability of Banner Ads on the website available to Associate members.
- A motion was made but after a discussion a second motion was made. Note: This is a motion to amend the VELA By-Laws.
- **Motion** made **A.** A business, organization, or non-property owner who wishes may apply to support the Association. **B.** Associate members do not have voting privileges. **C.** Associate members annually dues will be \$100.00. **D.** Associate members will be listed on the website with the option for a live link if provide, as available. **E.** All Applications are subject to approval by the VELA board. This motion was passed by a vote of 7 for and 1 against.

This motion to change the VELA By-Laws requires:

- “A. A by-law amendment must be introduced in writing at one of the three (3) meetings.
 - B. A proposed by-law amendment must be voted on at the following meeting.
 - C. It takes a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote to pass a by-law amendment.”
- (VELA By-Laws)

X. Raise the price of dues by \$5.00 – See attached.

- This question will be on the survey that Helen will be sending in the near future to VELA Members.
- The board will discuss this topic at a future meeting, after the survey results have been received and reviewed.

- XI. Membership (update, process, updated forms)
 - 310 members, 248 paid members, 62 members have not paid their dues as of today.
- XII. \$500 Donation to NOW
 - Diane Banks to contact Cathy Wusterbarth to get more information for the purpose of these funds.
 - Cathy could possibly provide the information at a future VELA meeting.
- XIII. Survey for VELA Members
 - Helen will email the draft survey to VELA board members for comment and review. Then make the necessary changes.
 - Once the survey is approved by the VELA board, Helen will send the survey to the members.
- XIV. Next Board Meeting (Spring – bring your calendars)
 - **February 10, 2024 at 10 am. Parks Library**
 - **May 4, 2024 at 10am. Parks Library**

Meeting adjourned at 1:28pm

Respectfully submitted by Celeste Creger, Secretary

Upcoming General/Annual Meetings:

General Meeting: Saturday, June 1, 2024

Annual Meeting: Saturday, July 6, 2024

General Meeting: Saturday, September 7, 2024

Still on the Radar

- VELA Website (Updating in process)
- Lengthen Dock at Ken Ratliff Park (Township is working on)
- VELA join Chamber of Commerce (Rick)
- Handicapped Access at Ken Ratliff Park (Township is still working on funding)
- Boat Launch for VELA Members
- Septic ordinance (VELA tried in the past/ordinance passed that the septic must pass inspection before a real estate sale is finalized.) - see attached for a recent news article

VII. There is a permit required by the state of Michigan. Homeowners can fill out the form asking for permission in front of their property to place buoys (no charge). This would not be the lake association's responsibility. A DNR enforcement agent would then come out and see the site for approval of the buoy placement. Dan Banks has volunteered to take the buoys in and out around the lake and store them, if approved. Homeowners could apply to VELA for a grant to pay for the buoy(s) in front of their properties.

VIII. Board of Directors to be term limited to a 2 year term. See below for applicable sections of the current Bylaws:

“ARTICLE VI: BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEES”

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Section 3: Term of Office

The term of office for elected board members shall be two (2) years.” (Vela Bylaws)

“ARTICLE VIII: BY-LAW AMENDMENTS”

Section 1: Procedures

- A. A by-law amendment must be introduced in writing at one of the three (3) meetings.
- B. A proposed by-law amendment must be voted on at the following meeting.
- C. It takes a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote to pass a by-law amendment.” (VELA Bylaws)

X. Raise Dues by \$5.00

“ARTICLE IV: DUES”

Any proposed changes in dues shall be presented by the Board of Directors for approval by the membership at the annual meeting.” (VELA Bylaws)

IX. Associate Member - this would be members who service or sell to the members, ie. lawn service, snow removal, dock removal, etc. To include the availability of Banner Ads on the website available to Associate members.

“ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING PRIVILEGES”

There shall be two types of membership: Regular membership and Booster membership.

Section 1: Regular Membership

- A. Must be a property owner in the Van Etten Lake dam Special Assessment District in Oscoda Township, Iosco County.
- B. Regular members are voting members.
- C. Regular members have one vote per property description; however, no one individual may have more than one vote.

Section 2: Booster Membership

- A. Any government agency, organization or non-property owner who wishes to support the Association.
- B. Booster members do not have voting privileges.” (VELA Bylaws)

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- B. A proposed by-law amendment must be voted on at the following meeting.
- C. It takes a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote to pass a by-law amendment.” (VELA Bylaws)