

# Van Etten Lake Association (VELA)

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

July 3, 2025 – 10:00 a.m. ~ Robert J. Parks Library

- I. Call to Order - 10:05 a.m.
- II. Board members present: Diane Banks, Helen Shastal, Tim O'Harran, John Boettger, Charlie Bauer, Mike Woods. Absent: Janet Swensen, John Kraly, Ed Lanivich.
- III. **May 10, 2025** - Motion to approve minutes, Helen Shastal, seconded by Charlie Bauer. Discussion, Charlie noted that he did not know he was expected to reach out to an association that he knew of who has successfully got ordinances passed. Charlie asked that the minutes be changed. Helen made a motion to approve with changes, seconded by Janet Swensen. Motion carried.
- IV. **Weed Committee Chairman Report - Dan Banks**
  - Treatment was done on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Dan received an email from a member on the NW side of the lake that a weed had shown up. Dan investigated and it is a weed that is difficult to get-off of prop motors. He contacted Lake Pro with a sample to see about a possible emergency treatment to stop the spread of this weed. The homeowner was happy with the quick response by the weed committee. He also requested that Diane send him the new VELA membership applications as he is the president of the homeowner association for that area. This was a great example of why we need to ask for more money for our SAD, in case we need it for situations that arise. Charlie stated that the weeds we currently have are good for fish habitat.
  - Dan also gave an update on the Dam. There will be a new gauge with new technology to give us new levels that will work best with the current condition of the lake. The old reference for the mandated levels we're established in 1944. This new technology will give current levels to meet the needs of the lake as it is

today. There are two apps that you can see the data. They are: River Levels App and USGS Mobile Water Data App.

- We have a surprise algae bloom in the north bay. Not sure why this happened.

## V. President's Comments:

- Diane sent a formal letter to the township asking what the status is on our SAD. She was apprised that the township has handed it over to their attorney to look into getting the paperwork done. Charlie asked if we could increase the SAD amount. Diane will ask the township.
- VELA Website is almost ready to unveil. She and the new webmaster have been working diligently on a new creation. Diane asked if we should have a link on our website to the RAB – no one was against it. She will add link, along with NOW.
- Mike Woods asked for a jpeg of the new VELA logo for a gift he is making to donate to the picnic raffle. Helen will also donate a gift basket to the picnic raffle.
- Mike Woods will research online payment options for the website.

## VI. Treasurers Report – No report given

### Membership Report - Diane Banks

- Currently we are at 265 members.
- Elections will take place at the Annual Meeting in July. Diane has developed a written ballot and will make sure only one person per household votes.
- VELA Outreach will be Dan and Diane participating in the Oscoda parade pulling a boat with a VELA banner on it and throwing candy.
- Diane contacted the DNR to see if Van Etten is slated for fish stocking this year. She was told no. She will apprise the members.

## VII. New Business

- Septic Law – Diane contacted numerous legislators regarding the Septic Bill that was introduced last year – she was told the law did not make it due to lack of support. No one was introducing a new bill.
- Ratliff Park Boat Launch – Dan and Diane attended a township meeting where Dan spoke to the Oscoda Township Board regarding the need for more parking at the boat launch. Also, the need to possibly eliminate the parking spots near the pavilion which make it almost impossible to launch boats at times. They will take this suggestion under advisement.
- VELA Outreach will be Dan and Diane participating in the Oscoda parade pulling a boat with a VELA banner on it and throwing candy.
- Diane contacted the DNR to see if Van Etten is slated for fish stocking this year. She was told no. She will apprise the members.

Charlie made a motion to adjourn the meeting, John B. seconded, All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

Next VELA Board Meeting is set for Saturday, October 11, 2025, at the Robert J. Parks Library.