



Van Etten Lake Association (VELA)
SPRING BOARD MEETING
May 4, 2024 – 10:00 AM, Parks Library
MINUTES

- I. Call to Order 10:00am
Present: all nine board members. **Guest:** Dan Banks
- II. Approve February 10, 2024, BOD meeting minutes - See Attached.
Diane Banks moved to approve the minutes as presented. Ed Lanivich seconded. The February 10, 2024 BOD minutes unanimously approved
- III. Guest: Dan Banks Topic: Update on Strategic Lake Management Plan.
 - Progress Report on **history, topics (concerns/opportunities), goals, strategies/procedures,** etc. & Operations Manual
 - **Huron Pine Watershed**
This group of volunteers works effortlessly to maintain a healthy watershed. All the polluted stream sites that needed attention have been cleaned up. Huron Pine Watershed welcomes new volunteers.
 - **Dam update**
Dam operator Greg Cole received a raise. Dan Banks is the unofficial back-up dam operator. Dam maintenance scheduled for this year, cement repair, possibly painting the steel beams. Dan stated that the lake draw-down has no effect on the area's wild life, insects go into the mud, bacteria dies.
 - **Controlling Lake Level** – Many factors affect water quality and quantity which the Dam operator takes into consideration before making their decision.
East Wind pushes the water to the west shore then into and raising AuSable River water which pushes water into Van Etten Creek. This greatly slows the water flow that passes through the dam.
Obstructions fallen trees, manmade objects can cause changes in and slow the water flow, create sandbars, more sediment in the mouth of the river.
Water the amount of water in the AuSable River greatly affects the movement of water out of the Dam and into the creek. High river levels can be the result of weather events or when the Foote Dam releases water into the AuSable River.
 - **Michigan Lakes and Streams Association Conference April 26,27, 2024.** Dan and Daine attend.
Legislative update:
HB 5532 Wake boat Restrictions would limit the use of wake boat to areas 20 feet or deeper and maintaining a 500 feet distance from the shore.
Wake boat generates waves that are 2 to 3 times larger and 6 to 12 times more powerful than natural waves.
Documentation 18 feet below the surface shows the waves disrupted fish beds and the natural makeup of the lake bottom: sediment. The waves cause damage to moored boats and erosion to the shoreline.
HB 444479, HB4480, SB299, SB300 Implementing a Statewide Septic Code
Michigan is the only state without a septic code. 84 percent of Michigan watersheds contain human Feces markers when tested
A code requiring suggested 5 (possible change to 10) year regular interval inspections, a new definition of septic failure and installation parameters are discussed in the bill.
It was mentioned that Alcona and Iosco counties have opposed this legislation.
EGLE and EPA have published guidelines on how to properly maintain a septic system.
Presentations/classes at the conference
Mona Lakes Phosphorus and Harmful Algal Blooms Problems
Early Detection Aquatic Invasive Species and Lake Wide Aquatic Surveys
Woody Habitat Restoration Projects

- Rick thanked Dan for the informative presentation and excused Dan from the meeting.

IV. President's Comments:

- Spring Information emailed to membership (April 1, 2024).
- VELA Website updated.
- Chamber of Commerce Membership has been completed. The cost to join is \$60.00 a year.
- Presentations to Membership at June Meeting –
 - Change in By-laws. By-Laws Revision Proposal: The addition of a new membership classification of Associate Member (From October 2024 BOD Meeting – see Attachment 1)

Attachment 1

VELA By-Laws

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING PRIVILEGES

~~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.~~

Amend Section 2 under Article III to the following:

Section 2: Associate Membership

- 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 provided, as available.
- E. All applications for Associate Membership are subject to approval by the VELA

- Survey Results (see number 8 below)
- Dam Operator Pay and should VELA get involved? No, Greg Cole recently received a raise.
- Recording (voice and/or video) at BOD meetings and VELA Membership Meetings – Consider BOD Policy? Add to bylaws? (see Attachment 2)
 - Diane Banks made a motion that no recording (voice and/or video) are allowed at VELA BOD, General or Annual meetings. Ed Lanivich seconded. A no recording sign will be displayed at all VELA meetings.

V. Treasurer Report - Draft Budget for 2024-25

\$500 Donation to NOW – (see Attachment 3) the board agreed to the \$ 500. donation.

- After reviewing and updating the budget Rick Copland made a motion to approve the 2024-2025 budget, John Kraly seconded. The budget will be presented at the July 6 meeting for the VELA membership to vote on.
- Leonard to write a check to Oscoda Township for \$4000.00 for the Handicap access ramp at Ken Ratliff Park.
- Diane Banks will investigate the cost of renting a small storage unit to storage VELA supplies.
- Saving account – \$13,687.
- Checking account - \$ 13,399.
- CD account - \$5000.
- Endowment fund – spendable amount \$11,699.
- Helen Shastal made a motion to investigate positive ways to spend the endowment funds, John Kraly seconded. Helen volunteered to be the chairperson.
-

VI. Weed Committee – Update are we on track?

- Hired Solitude (Clarke) as the applicator company.
- Lake Pro continues to be the Lake Manager company
- Oscoda Township and Solitude lawyers had some contract disputes.
- Now just waiting for the three-year contract to be signed.
- Promising method to remove phosphorus from the lake in year 2 and 3 of the contract.

VII. Membership Update (Diane)

- 240 members as of date.
- Diane mailed out membership invoices earlier this year.
- Still working out the issues with Pay-Pal. Maybe investigate another online payment option.

VIII. Survey Results (Helen)

- Received favorable responds on all six questions.
- Increase membership dues to \$25. In favor (yes) 52%
- Increase future SAD for weeds dollars. In favor (yes) 75%

IX. Next Board Meeting:

The Board meeting will be held on **July 6, 2024** after the VELA Annual Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:35 pm

Respectfully submitted Celeste Creger, secretary

Upcoming General/Annual Meetings:

General Meeting: 10:00am, Saturday, June 1, 2024

Annual Meeting: 10:00am, Saturday, July 6, 2024

General Meeting: 10:00am, Saturday, September 7, 2024

Still on the Radar

- Lengthen Dock at Ken Ratliff Park (Township is working on)
- Handicapped Access at Ken Ratliff Park (Township is still working on funding) Started this spring.
- Boat Launch for VELA Members
- Septic ordinance (VELA tried in the past/ordinance passed that that the septic must pass inspection before a real estate sale is finalized.) - Note: State House and Senate are considering a bill to have all septic systems in the state inspected and brought up to code on a regular basis.

VELA By-Laws

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Note:

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)

Recording at Meetings:

Privacy Concerns: Recording someone without their knowledge or consent can be a serious breach of trust and privacy. **Inhibition of Participation:** Participants may feel less comfortable sharing their ideas freely if they know they are being recorded.

Transparency and Consent: Cornerstones of Ethical Recording

Transparency and consent are the bedrock of ethical recording. Always inform participants about your intention to record the meeting, ideally before it commences. This allows them to make informed choices about their participation and protects their privacy.

Legal Implications: Understanding the Boundaries

Recording without consent can have legal repercussions, varying depending on your jurisdiction and organization's policies. Familiarize yourself with relevant recording consent laws and ensure your actions comply with them.

Trust and Relationships: Building a Collaborative Environment

Recording can erode trust within a team if done without transparency and consent. Participants may feel hesitant to share ideas freely, fearing they could be misrepresented or used against them. Building a culture of open communication and respecting privacy is crucial for fostering a collaborative environment.

A Framework for Ethical Decision-Making:

To determine whether recording an unorganized meeting is ethical, consider the following framework:

1. Necessity:

- Is recording the only way to capture important information effectively?
- Are there alternative methods, like detailed note-taking or a designated notetaker, that could suffice?

2. Transparency and Consent:

- Are all participants aware of the intention to record?
- Have you obtained explicit consent from everyone involved?
- Is there a clear understanding of how the recording will be used and stored?

3. Purpose and Usage:

- Is the recording for legitimate purposes, such as capturing key points and decisions?
- Will it be used responsibly and ethically, respecting the privacy of participants?
- Will the recording be shared with only authorized individuals?

4. Legal Compliance:

- Are you adhering to all relevant recording consent laws and organizational policies?
- Are there any restrictions or limitations regarding recording in your workplace?

By thoughtfully considering these factors, you can make informed decisions about recording unorganized meetings. Remember, ethical recording is about striking a balance between capturing valuable information and respecting the privacy and trust of your colleagues. (*Record or Not To Record: A Guide to Meeting Ethics*: <https://screenapp.io/blog/guide-to-ethical-meeting-recording>)

Don Kramer's NONPROFIT ISSUES®

Nonprofit Law You Need to Know

We recommend, if they record the meetings, that every member of the board be advised that the meeting is being recorded; that the recording be retained only until the approval of the minutes of the meeting and then erased or destroyed; and that any member of the board have the right to have the recording stopped temporarily at any time if necessary to prevent “chilling” the discussion of a particularly sensitive issue.

If the organization has legal (generally voting) members, any member of the organization, as well as any member of the board, will probably have the right to listen to the recording while it exists. It will probably be considered to be one of the “books and records” of the organization. Since discussion at board meetings is usually considered “confidential,” many organizations do not want to record the discussion, or want to destroy the recording as soon as possible if they do so.

(https://www.nonprofitissues.com/to-the-point/may-directors-record-board-meeting#google_vignette)



February 26, 2024

Dear Van Etten Lake Property Owners Association,

I am writing to request support for our advocacy group "Need Our Water". We are a community action group organized to give Oscoda-AuSable and surrounding communities a voice. Our mission is to be a reliable resource and catalyst for education and communication while advocating for long-term health and environmental welfare plans on behalf of those affected by the water contamination from the former Wurtsmith Air Force Base in Oscoda, Michigan. Oscoda Citizens for Clean Water is the 501c3 created to receive funds for Need Our Water.

Since 2017, our group has fought to protect the community and specifically Van Etten Lake from dangerous PFAS chemicals flowing, uninterrupted, into the lake. Our motto is "STOP THE BLEEDING!" Most recently, we are focusing on several areas including plumes flowing through the YMCA camp and the State Campground (see attached map). The good news is that the USAF has initiated plans to address these areas. The bad news is that they do not plan to address the entire plume in these areas. We know this because we have experts volunteering to help the group understand these complex plans, including Mark Henry, Environmental Engineer, and Bob Delaney, retired EGLE Geologist.

Mark and Bob, along with others in the group, use their own personal resources to travel, produce information for sharing, conduct research and other expenses related to this work. Your financial support of our group could help offset the costs to these volunteer experts and the other volunteers working hard every day in the group.

We would appreciate any amount of funding you would be willing to contribute to our efforts. Your support in the past has provided funding for outreach material (cards, maps, flyers), travel expenses (attending RAB meetings, technical meetings, etc.), virtual meeting technology and much more.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and be assured, we will continue to fight to protect this precious resource and your property. You may contact me at nowactiongroup@gmail.com, 810-441-9855 or PO Box 429 Oscoda, MI 48750.

All the best to you,
Cathy Wusterbarth
Co-Leader, Need Our Water
President, Oscoda Citizens for Clean Water