



Van Etten Lake, Iosco County

September 6th, 2025

2025 Lake Management Report

2025 was the fifth and final year of the current Special Assessment District (SAD) for Van Etten Lake. Oscoda Township retained LakePro as the lake manager. This was also the second year of a 3-year contract with SOLitude to carry out treatments conducted on the lake, using a multi-year permit. Our lake management strategy was a continuation of our overall plan for the lake. The main goals were:

1. Locate and aggressively treat any Eurasian Milfoil
2. Locate and treat any other invasive species, such as Curly-Leaf Pondweed
3. Promote native plant growth, while keeping it below nuisance levels
4. Monitor No-Tolerance weed areas

In the winter 2023-2024, LakePro solicited bids for the herbicide treatments and SOLitude was awarded the contract.

The following is a summary of lake management activities that took place in 2025:

May 27th

Near and Offshore Herbicide Treatment #1

LakePro supervised the offshore treatment of the lake conducted by SOLitude. There were 4 nearshore areas totaling 10.0 acres, and 1 offshore area in the north bay that was 4.45 acres. We aimed to proactively treat these areas with a broad-spectrum herbicide and algaecide in preparation for the upcoming summer. Treatment was supervised and carried out without deviation from plan.

June 9th

Lake Vegetation Survey #1

LakePro surveyed the aquatic plants in the lake. On this survey, we were not joined by a VELA representative. joined by Dan Banks. We were on the water to survey and discuss any topics regarding the lake. Our first objective was to check the previous treatment areas, and the treatment was successful in controlling the offshore patches in the bay. We also looked for both native and invasive species and found native weed vegetation. We then noted all the new areas of native plant and algae growth that were at or approaching nuisance conditions. Based on the results of this survey, we designed a custom treatment plan for review and approval by the Weed Committee.

June 23rd

Algae & Herbicide Treatment #2

SOLitude applied herbicides around the majority of the lakeshore for algae and native plants. Plans were devised from survey results. The herbicide treatment included 96.2 acres with contact herbicides and algicides. LakePro was also on the lake to ensure the treatment took place according to the plan and the lake postings were done correctly the day of treatment.





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July 14th

Lake Vegetation Survey #2

LakePro surveyed the aquatic plants in the lake. This survey highlighted an issue with macroalgal growth in specific areas of the lake. We took note of certain areas that had areas with surface algae and areas in which were concentrated with macro-algae. We also highlighted certain areas to hit with herbicide to knock back nuisance pondweed species. No invasives were found and native species were seen to be at a normal level. The North-West Bay was seen to have a slight increase in native weed growth.

August 5th

Algae & Herbicide Treatment #3

SOLitude applied herbicides around the majority of the lakeshore for algae and a few areas where native pondweeds were observed to be a nuisance. Plans were devised from survey results. The herbicide treatment included 75.8 acres with contact herbicides and algicides. LakePro was also on the lake to ensure the treatment took place according to the plan and the lake postings were done correctly the day before treatment.

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Summary

In 2025, Van Etten Lake retained their treatment applicator for a second year. This marks a significant departure from previous practices, where a new applicator was typically contracted each year. LakePro/TIGIRS, the organization overseeing this change, believes that retaining a single treatment applicator over multiple years will prove to be highly beneficial.

One of the key advantages of this new approach is the reduction in time spent on administrative tasks, such as waiting for the approval of a new permit annually. In previous years, the application process for permits required to begin treatments would often consume valuable time at the start of the season, delaying the applicator's ability to begin their work promptly. By retaining the same applicator year over year, LakePro/TIGIRS anticipates a more streamlined process, where less time is wasted on administrative delays, allowing for a quicker start to the treatment season.

Furthermore, with a longer-term commitment, the treatment applicator can better plan and allocate resources, optimizing their efforts throughout the season. This continuity not only enhances the efficiency of treatments but also allows the applicator to develop a deeper understanding of the lake's unique characteristics, potentially leading to more effective and targeted treatments. Overall, this change is expected to significantly improve the management of Van Etten Lake, enhancing both the timing and quality of treatments and ultimately contributing to better long-term health for the lake ecosystem.

For the first survey, LakePro/TIGIRS surveyed the littoral zone of the lake and did not find any invasive Eurasian Milfoil or Curly-Leaf Pondweed. So, we marked the areas of nuisance algae and native plants for treatment. As well as our survey, we inspected Solitudes treatment in the North-West Bay as well. This treatment was approved prior to Solitude and LakePro/TIGIRS coming onsite and totaled 14.75 acres at \$6,035.18. This treatment included the application of Flumioxazin, an algicide and herbicide paired with Tribune, an herbicide, to the entire treatment area. The use of these products was used specifically for the intent to reduce pondweed growth and surface algae that was accumulated within that area as well as controlling nuisance native species that topped out in growth during this time.

Approximately just over one week after treatment, LakePro/TIGIRS conducted another lake vegetation survey. The previous treatment was successful in controlling the nuisance pondweeds in the treatment area. However, due to only treating a few areas, new native plant growth had reached nuisance levels along the majority of the shoreline of the lake. After reviewing our findings from the June survey, we planned another custom treatment for review and sent it to the VELA Weed Committee. Upon approval, we scheduled a treatment with Solitude for 96.2 acres, targeting the areas of densest plant & algae growth around the lake.

Roughly one month later, we surveyed the littoral zone of the lake and still did not find invasive species. We noted nuisance pondweed growth, macro-algae growth, and in a few spots, we noted some shorelines had a buildup of filamentous alga. The treatment areas Solitude treated the pervious time looked to be hit to a good effect. We made an ROS to send to the VELA weed committee for their approval based on our findings.





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The VELA weed committee approved the ROS for Treatment #3 and this was conducted 2 weeks later. This treatment was similar to the earlier ones that had previously been conducted up to this point. Our biggest note during the last survey was macro-algae growth and was our focus. We did see late emergence, native pondweeds and included areas to be covered for that as well. LakePro/TIGRIS remained on site to see the treatment through and make sure the correct areas were being treated. LakePro/TIGRIS made contact with Dan Banks prior to each treatment.

The 2025 lake management was successful. We met the primary goals of monitoring Eurasian Milfoil, watching for other invasive species, and suppressing nuisance plants. Going into 2026, permitting will be very streamlined like it was in 2025. Solitude will just have to pay EGLE the re-certification fee. This way we can get in treatments before Memorial weekend like we were successful in doing this year.

The management of aquatic plants on Van Etten Lake is making good progress, but it's an ongoing process that has not yet concluded. Sustaining your efforts is crucial to maintaining the lake in the excellent condition observed most of the summer until the late algal bloom. It is imperative to remain vigilant in detecting any potential new invasive species and to persist in controlling the growth of native plants to ensure that boating, swimming, and fishing continue to improve for all those who enjoy the lake.

Thanks for another great summer on your lake,

Michael Smith
TIGRIS Aquatic Services
Operation Manager - Michigan

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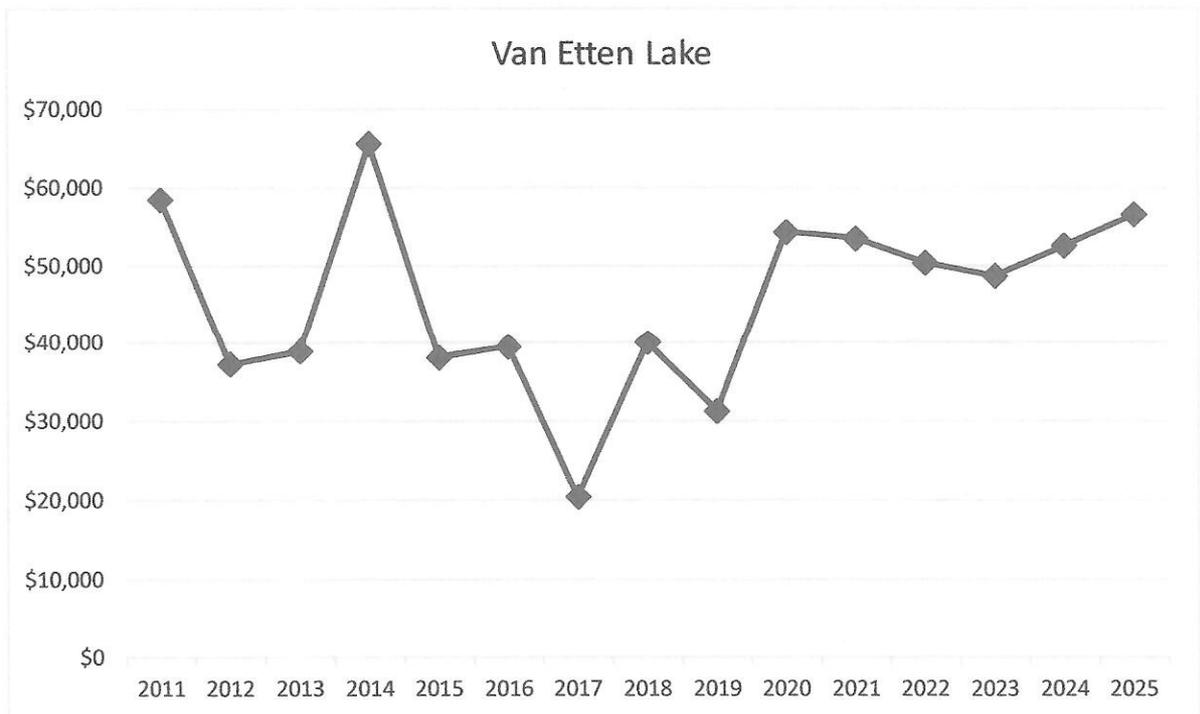
2025 Lake Management Expenditures

LakePro, Inc.	Lake Management Consulting	\$ 8,240.00
EGLE	Aquatic Nuisance Control Permit	\$ 1,600.00
Solitude	Treatment #1	\$ 6,035.18
Solitude	Treatment #2	\$ 23, 899.50
Solitude	Treatment #3	\$ 16, 744.85

2025 Lake Management Total: \$56,519.53

Historical Lake Management Expenditures

2025	\$56,519.53
2024	\$52,512.75
2023	\$48,732.44
2022	\$50,370.50
2021	\$54,967.50
2020	\$54,292.50
2019	\$31,315.00
2018	\$40,030.00
2017	\$20,404.00
2016	\$39,510.00
2015	\$38,120.00
2014	\$65,601.92
2013	\$38,897.50
2012	\$37,254.50
2011	\$58,475.25



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