

Van Vliet Lake Association
Board Meeting – July 22, 2007

Meeting called to order by President Jeff Burke at 2:00pm.

Board members present: Jeff Burke, Jill Wilm, George Kupfer, Mike Czarny, Tom Olson, Bill Schroeder, Steve Smithson, Paul Specht, Jorja Burke.

Old Business:

Water Levels: Mike Czarny's graphs indicating historical high/low water levels were presented. There was discussion re ordinary high water mark and George stated he had not seen the lake this low since 1956. Letters from members of the community addressing the water levels as related to the removal of beaver dams on Presque Isle Lake also appeared in the FYI newspaper: VVLA, Gene Sommers of Averill Lake and Sheri Beranis of Presque Isle Lake.

Jeff presented information from Bob Kriehn regarding a similar situation on lakes in the Natural Lakes community. That group convinced the DNR to allow posting of the area around beaver dams on their lakes informing the public that tampering with beaver habitat is illegal under Wisconsin statutes. Jeff spoke with John G. in DNR offices, Rhinelander, regarding that program. Tom Bashaw referred Jeff to another individual to proceed. Three to four feet of rocky shoreline on Presque Isle Lake is now exposed, reducing walleye spawning habitat. Discussion ensued re information to be presented at the annual meeting: Accelerated aging of the lake, low water levels, accelerated weed growth, permanent damage.

Weed control discussion: Hockney Weed Cutter – Boat has been stored and maintained by Smithsons for 30 years; Steve is investigating status of registration. Mike offered the following insights: It runs and looks like it works; permit required – two types available – 1. Personal permit for individual property owner @ \$30/per year or 2. Lake Association permit @300/per 3 years (a VVLA permit requires a valid DNR approved weed survey & an aquatic plant management plan). George addressed the picking up of cut weeds, moving them to shore and final disposition. (Information on file)

Tom asked, "What would a professional say we could do with \$10,000 (if we could raise it)? A board member had contacted a Mr. Cliff Schmitt. He charges \$800 to set up and \$150 per hour at .5 acres an hour; \$15,000 for 1 cut, pick-up and permits.

It was agreed that there are basically three components to present to members with this plan: 1. The cost of hiring someone to cut; 2. Experiment of hands-on cutting w/Hockney; and 3. The use of aquacides. The members will be asked how many are willing to contribute \$300 on an annual basis to control the weeds. The membership will be asked at the Annual Meeting to voice concerns regarding weed issues.

Aquacides were briefly discussed. George said an application had been used a number of years ago which performed well for approximately 4 years. This option is no longer permitted by the DNR.

PI Town Lakes Committee: Jill presented current AIS info from this town committee, including an update on the grant process for the weed survey/aquatic plant management plans for many lakes in Presque Isle. Tom made a motion to commit \$150 as Van Vliet Lake's share of the payment to Northern Environmental should Van Vliet be awarded a grant. Second by Bill, motion passed unanimously.

Website Info: Ronie will address website information at the annual meeting.

New Business:

New sign at DNR Van Vliet Boat Landing: Bill was approached by Don Trimble who is working with the DNR, on Barb Novak's behalf, to purchase and install a new, larger sign in Jules Novak's memory at the boat landing, which is sponsored by the VVLA. Jeff asked for written documentation of the DNR's approval for the new 38"x18"x24" sign. Tom made a motion to support the change in the sign if the documentation is forthcoming from the DNR, second by Jill. Motion passed unanimously.

Annual meeting & Picnic: Barbara Olson and Jorja will co-ordinate. Request RSVP by 08/13 to Jill or Jorja. Jill will distribute flyers to announce event to be held at Wilderness Park, August 18th. In case of rain, there will be no picnic and the meeting will be held in the Library.

Respectfully submitted,
Jorja Burke, Secretary