

**Van Vliet Lake Association
Annual Meeting - August 18, 2007**

Meeting called to order by VVLA Vice President Jill Wilm at 10:20am. Association members present: Grace Alix, Ken Alix, Jim Awe, Jorja Burke, Paulette Cary, Mike Czarny, Fred & Sarah Hansen, George & Pat Kupfer, Dick & Carol Novak, Jon Novak, Tom & Barbara Olson, Chris & Stacy Redel, Dick Rowe, Bill & Diane Schroeder, Steve Smithson, Robert Stewart, Don & Jean Trimble, Jill Wilm, Bucket's Bay folks, and members' families and friends!

President's message: Read by Jill, as president Jeff Burke was unable to attend, the message referred to the subjects of weed control, weed harvesting (commercial and personal) and lake water levels and beaver dam removal. Copy on file.

Report - Mike Czarny: Current issues include historical data relating to water levels, water levels and weed growth, weed control, what we can do and DNR requirement permitting. Copy of information Mike presented is on file. Discussions included: George Kupfer addressed the purchasing of herbicides and the need for DNR permits; Tom Olson asked if members might be willing to donate \$200-\$300 dollars in order to fund a commercial weed harvesting (@ \$10,000-\$20,000) – a show of hands survey - 17 yes, 1 no, 2 would rather explore chemical means); Lake Management Plan is in effect for three years, what do we need to do to keep the plan current? George commented that an area in which to update our plan might be in the relationship of AIS (aquatic invasive species) in Van Vliet Lake. Handouts were distributed to those present showing statistics on drought severity from January 1985-June 2007, and photos of the weed cutting machine.

Steve Smithson gave a summary of the reconstruction of the weed harvesting boat/machine and stated that it is ready. Steve also stated that a permit to harvest is required by DNR and a shore crew and place to dump weeds would be necessary. Insuring of workers was discussed.

Tom thanked Steve, Mike and Jeff for their efforts in getting the boat/cutter up and running.

A motion was made by Paulette Cary, second by Dick Novak, to proceed with a survey of VV Lake Association membership with the idea of mechanical harvesting to determine how many would be in favor of this weed control method. Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed. Motion carried and survey will be sent out this winter.

Don Trimble thanked the VVLA Board for the work they've done this past year!

Elections – The following positions are to be filled: **Vice President, Treasurer, and 2 Board Members-at-Large.** As candidates for "members-at-large" Steve Smithson and Ronie Jacobsen submitted information regarding their qualifications. Nominated to continue in their positions were Jill Wilm, Vice President and Paul Specht, Treasurer. **A motion was made by Mike Czarny, second by George Kupfer,** to accept the nominees. Motion passed unanimously. There were no absentee ballots to be counted.

Treasurer's Report – Paul Specht: Beginning balance June 30, 2006 - \$1,794.66. Receipts include dues and donations of \$985.00. Disbursements for WI Lakes Association annual dues, Department of Financial Institutions annual dues and Web-site construction costs total \$136.55 for an ending balance on August 18, 2007 of \$2,643.11. (Report attached.) Paul reported that 34 Van Vliet Lake households are represented by 47 Lake Association Members.

New Business: Members made personal donations totaling \$100.00 for the Presque Isle Community Library. A brick will be purchased for the garden walk.

Jill invited all to meet for a walk through the Van Vliet Lake Hemlock Forest following the meeting and picnic lunch.

Paulette requested that our Parcel Map of 2000 be updated. She and George will work on this project.

Adjournment: Motion by Paulette, second by Mike to adjourn to our picnic at 11:45. Motion carried!

Respectfully submitted,
Jorja Burke, Secretary

Annual Meeting Weed Report August 18, 2007

1. PRESENT SITUATION – Low Water Levels across Northern WI

- a. Milwaukee article details ongoing issues for the last 3-5 yrs. -
<http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=643082>
- b. Lake Superior has hit an all time historical low (NOAA data)
- c. Other issues may have also contributed incrementally to present low levels. Although perceptions run strong and deep, there are no connected facts.

2. Low Lake Levels vs Weeds – DNR Rhinelander was unaware of any formal reference documents but made the following points:

- a. Low water levels directly correlate with more sunlight reaching nutrient rich beds, generally containing large quantities of latent seeds. This generally triggers not only an increase in the existing weed growth, but also allows for the growth of “other species” , which were kept suppressed; i.e. we should continue to expect more aggressive growth.
- b. Anecdotally - DNR has fielded about a 10 x increase in calls over the last 2 years relating to weed issues in lakes that are in the drought-prone (low water level) regions of the state.
- c. As long as we continue to experience low lake / rain levels - - we should expect more aggressive weed growth.

3. Can we do Anything ? - - - - Water Levels / Weeds ?

- a. **Water Levels – 80 / 20 approach** - - Additional rain to break drought. Also, Jeff in discussions with DNR concerning natural beaver dams as important and protected lake level control devices on private land(s).
- b. **Weed Control - - - revolve around Lake Mgmt Plan** – The DNR has approved our lake mgmt plan, including the weed survey section. We're good to go - - - -But - - - -
 - i. The DNR looks upon the weed section as one in need of frequent update, needing revision every 3 yrs. Our document established baseline weed population based on transect methodology vs GPS. The DNR has accepted this methodology and data, even though there are newer recommended methods. HOWEVER – our

Lake Mgmt plan did not include recommendations for weed control / planning.
(Jill / Jorga – update with your efforts ?)

- ii. In the absence of a formal written weed control recommendations plan - - the DNR can only feel comfortable issuing VW Lake Assoc a \$300 1-yr permit vs a \$300 3-yr permit. However, individuals can apply for an individual weed control permit specific to their dock area and boat access for ~ \$30.

c. **Weed control – How does the DNR view it ? - - Governing Laws & Principles**

- i. WI DNR website – aquatic plant mgmt programs -
<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/fhp/lakes/aquaplan.htm>
- ii. Citations on this page for:
 - 1. Overview Guidance – Chapter 30 Navigable Waters, Harbors and Navigation
 - 2. Aquatic Plant Mgmt (Chemical) – Admin Rule NR 107
 - 3. Aquatic Plant Mgmt (Mechanical & Hand) – Admin Rule 109
 - 4. UW Extension Lakes Program -
 - 5. <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes/ecology/APMguide.asp> - This is the NO BS / LOW legalese version of most of the stuff above. The document is in DRAFT form but the DNR is beginning to use this as a baseline guidance document for all future discussions.

d. **Weed Control – Methods / Comments**

- i. Manual
 - 1. No permit required / 30 ft wide corridor (rectangle) / manual (person's own muscle power)
- ii. Mechanical Harvesting

1. Any removal / control outside the 30 ft manual removal zone requires a DNR permit - - be it mechanical or chemical.
2. Old Boat & Harvester - - - belonging to Smithson family has been refurbished. **(PENDING)** Unit will be trialed in Birch Bay under private owner DNR permit. Details of future legal status, ownership, use-operation, and liability are under review with VW Lake Assoc Officers & Board.
3. Commercial Harvesting – Rough estimates could be in the range of \$10-15 K (1 x cut)
4. With any mechanical method(s) - -The DNR will be extremely concerned that any mechanical methods avoid disturbance of the soil bed.

iii. Chemical Control

1. Past efforts have worked
2. No estimates obtained

iv. Other – Lead times for commercial harvesters and chemical control are generally 1 yr out.

4. VW Lake Officers - Next Steps / Recommendations