



LAKE MUSCONETCONG REGIONAL PLANNING BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board

*Byram, Netcong, Roxbury, Stanhope,
Morris and Sussex Counties, the State of New Jersey*

77 Main Street Stanhope, NJ 07874

(973) 527-3200

www.lakemusconetcong.com

**ANNUAL REPORT
2018**

<u>Members</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Earl Riley, Chairman	Byram	12-31-21
Robert Hathaway, Jr., Vice-Chairman	Netcong	12-31-20
Joseph Keenan, Secretary/ Treasurer	Netcong	12-31-18
Mark Crowley	Roxbury	12-31-18
Lester Wright	Roxbury	12-31-20
Steven Rattner	Morris County	12-31-18
John Rogalo	Stanhope	12-31-20
Rosemarie Maio	Stanhope	12-31-18
Thomas Bruno	Stanhope	12-31-18
George Graham, Freeholder	Sussex County	12-31-18
Vacant	State of New Jersey	Indefinite

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Canal Society	- Mr. Graham
Site Plan Review/Stream Encroachment	- Mr. Rogalo
Musconetcong Watershed Association	- Mr. Rattner
Audit Committee	- Mr. Wright
Lake Awareness	- Ms. Maio
Lake Management	- Mr. Hathaway
Operating Budget Committee	- Mr. Keenan

Members of the Board represent Byram, Netcong, Stanhope, Roxbury, the Counties of Morris and Sussex and the State of New Jersey and are appointed by their representative governing body. The number of representatives and the amount of annual membership fees are based on shoreline.

The terms of the Board Members vary according to the ordinances (4-year terms) of each municipality. Resolutions by the County Freeholders include a one-year term and the State appointments are indefinite.

LAKE MUSCONETCONG REGIONAL PLANNING BOARD

The Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board was established on January 10, 1990 as an advisory board whose purpose is to recommend to the municipalities of Byram, Netcong, Roxbury and Stanhope and the Counties of Sussex and Morris and the State of New Jersey, methods by which the many problems evident in the Lake Musconetcong Watershed area may be solved.

Vision Statement

The vision of the Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board is the complete restoration of the lake for recreation and other uses and to act as its guardian so that future generations may enjoy the use of the lake.

Mission Statement

The Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board's mission is to work with the general public, local, state and federal governments in restoring, preserving, protecting and enhancing the environmental conditions of Lake Musconetcong and its surrounding watershed to ensure high environmental quality, increased recreational potential, public awareness and economic vitality. Through educational awareness, the Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board hopes to preserve the historic, economic and recreational values, and community pride once enjoyed by the residents of the municipalities it serves, as well as by the general public.

Meeting Schedule and Appointments

The reorganization meeting was held on January 17, 2018. Officers were elected at the reorganization meeting, as shown on the first page of this report.

Regular meetings were held on the third Wednesday of each month throughout the year.

The regular meeting place is designated as the Netcong Municipal Building. All meetings are scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m.

Appointment of Personnel & Consultants - Appointments were made by resolution at the reorganization meeting. Ellen Horak was re-appointed as an independent contractor to perform clerical duties deemed necessary by the Board. Clifford R. Lundin, Esq. serves as legal counsel, Marvin Joss serves as Qualified Purchasing Agent and the firm Nisivoccia & Company was named as auditor for the year on an "as needed" basis.

Web-Site - The Board's web-site is www.lakemusconetcong.com

Standing Committees

Canal Society – Mr. Graham, as the Board's representative, attended the meetings of the Canal Society and kept the Board informed on their activities.

Site Plan Review/Stream Encroachment: - John Rogalo served as the Board member to oversee all site plan/stream encroachment applications. The Board received several site plan notices and variance notices, and after review it was determined that they did not affect the lake. The Board continued their concern that they have not been included in any communication regarding the dam repair.

Musconetcong Watershed Association – Mr. Rattner served as the Board's representative to the Musconetcong Watershed Association. Members of the "River Watch" continued to conduct quarterly monitoring of the flow of the river and oxygen content in the river. A presentation was given to the Board by the Musconetcong Watershed Association on the River Sensor Program. Two on-line sensors were installed in the Musconetcong River; one by the steel bridge in Stanhope Borough and one by Riverdale Park in Byram Township. The sensors are taking samples in real time every 5 minutes and measure the water quality. The Musconetcong Watershed Association celebrated its 50th Year of wild and scenic designation.

Chairman's Comments

2018 was a frustrating year in the operation and management of Lake Musconetcong. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection prohibited the operation of our newly acquired Hydro Raking equipment until the board acquired NJDEP permits for dredging. We were unable to utilize the equipment until; the September timeframe resulting in almost no meaningful reduction in the level of sludge present on the lake bottom. The first indication of the NJDEP obstructing our efforts came in the guise of the department of fisheries claiming that we could not disturb the spawning area of sunfish and pickerel in the minute location (less than 900 square feet) we were planning to remove sediment from. (Lake Musconetcong has an area of approximately 13,200,000 square feet) After many discussions and several meetings with the DEP and our legislators we were able to obtain permitting to allow us to proceed with the sediment clearing process. Unfortunately by the time the permits were approved we had less than 4 weeks to begin sediment removal. The weather also negatively impacted our progress. The site we were allowed to dispose of the sediment was too wet and subsequently caused the vehicle to become mired in the disposal area prompting the carrier to refuse any additional trips to this location.

The overall lack of cooperation and the apparent lack of a partnership with the State Parks Service in the maintenance of this state owned lake is extremely frustrating. Promises of financial support and NJDEP membership on the board have been unfulfilled and not responded to. It is the opinion of this chairman that the continued lack of response and cooperation will put the future of Lake Musconetcong in jeopardy.

Lake Management Program

The lake management committee oversees the weed harvesting operations and herbicide treatment, as well as other lake management issues. Through the efforts of Mr. Hathaway along with members of the Board and our volunteer operators, all necessary maintenance and repairs were done to the equipment.

The Board again contracted with Solitude Lake Management for herbicide treatment in the lake. The towns were asked to contribute towards treatment of the areas in front of their parks. The Board again collaborated efforts with the Lake Musconetcong Community Association (“LMCA”), with the LMCA handling herbicide treatment along the shoreline, including public parks, and the Board treating the open waters. This allowed for a combined effort to manage the lake under one plan. The Board acknowledged that having a single lake management plan and having both entities participate in the plan is what the New Jersey State Department of Environmental Protection prefers. Due to the cost, and the assurance that the results would be the same, the decision was made to use a water-based herbicide instead of an oil-based herbicide, which was used in the past. The Board was not satisfied with the results of this year’s herbicide treatment.

Last year the Board took possession of the hydro-rake (Alpha Boat Universal Water Management Boat with a Tilt Deck Trailer and a Shore Loading Conveyor) acquired with grant funds; however, due to roadblocks by the State, the Board was prevented from using the machine for the purpose intended and was instead used to remove debris from the lake. The Board spent most of the year trying to secure funding from the State and a disposal site for the material removed from the lake. Members of the Board attended meetings with the legislators and representatives of the NJDEP to discuss and try to resolve these issues. The Board also spent a tremendous amount of time securing the permit for the hydro rake operation. The permit was issued and is valid for five (5) years. The Board continued to work with State Parks on a disposal site owned by State Parks, which in the past has been the State’s in-kind contribution. Although the Board was informed by Senator Oroho’s office that the hydro raking was approved and the disposal was approved, the Board did not receive a formal letter of approval from the State. The Board continued their frustration that they secured the permit needed to operate the hydro rake, but had no disposal site for the material.

During the year, the Board’s weed harvesting was limited due to the disposal site issue. Because of the lack of a disposal site provided by the State for the past two years the Board’s activity has very limited.

The Board requested \$16,000 funding from the State. The Board received verbal promises from the State approving the funds; however, a written agreement was never received. The Board also received verbal agreement from the NJDEP for up to \$7,000

for weed transport and disposal from last year (2017). The Board requested the \$7,000 promised last year, but never received, and an additional \$7,000 for this year for a total of \$14,000 plus the \$16,000 they were promised. The Board continued to wait for the funds from the State.

The Board took over administering the egg addling program previously handled by the Borough of Netcong within the Borough. Netcong Borough offered to give the Board the funds previously paid to the USDA of approximately \$2,500 in return for the Board agreeing to administer the egg addling program. The Board agreed to assume administration of the program which enabled goose control across the entire waterbody. The four municipalities surrounding the lake were in favor of the program and approved the Board's administration of the egg addling program. The Board secured the proper permit for the USDA goose addling program.

The Board again utilized volunteers for this year's weed harvesting program. This year only 20 loads were removed with the harvester totaling 336,000 pounds of wet weeds. There was an estimated 100 hours of volunteer time, excluding hours for maintenance of the equipment. The Board recognized the tremendous amount of time and effort by these dedicated volunteers.

Weed Harvesting Budget: The Board spent approximately \$40,735.00 in management of the lake. Approximately \$7,210.00 was spent on operation of the harvester. The LMRPB utilized funds received from Byram, Netcong, Roxbury, and Stanhope which are apportioned according to percentage of shoreline as well as funding from both Sussex and Morris Counties.

See **Appendix A** for a breakdown of the total costs associated with the 2018 herbicide treatment and harvesting effort.

Lake Awareness

Stanhope Day/Netcong Day

The Board was registered to have a table at Stanhope Day on June 10, 2018; however, the event was cancelled due to inclement weather. The Board was also registered for a table at Netcong Day on September 9, 2018; however, they cancelled their attendance due to inclement weather.

Firemen's Challenge

The Board scheduled the "Firemen's Challenge" event for August 19, 2018 at Lakeside Park in Stanhope; however, the event was cancelled due to inclement weather. The Board attempted to reschedule the Firemen's Challenge, but being unable to reach an agreement between the fire departments on a rescheduled date, it was decided not to hold the event. The \$1,000 donation towards the event made by the Netcong-Stanhope Rotary was returned. The Board conducted the 50/50 raffle sponsored by the Stanhope

Fire Department to be drawn during on the original date for the Firemen’s Challenge. Proceeds from the 50/50 raffle went to the Board and both participating fire departments. The 50/50 raffle was not as successful as the previous years.

Annual Budget

The annual membership for the governmental entities is based on a pro-rated percentage of shoreline by municipality which totals 75% of the requested budget. The remaining 25% of the budget is allocated equally to the two counties and is represented as follows:

<u>Percent of Shoreline</u>	
Byram	3.525%
Netcong	18.675%
Roxbury	20.1 %
Stanhope	32.7 %
Morris County	12.5 %
Sussex County	12.5 %

The total Budget vs. Actual for 2018 follows:

Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board 2018 Budget vs. Actual

	Adjusted Shoreline %	Anticipated Income	Actual Income
Member			
Morris County	12.50%	\$5,335.00	\$5,092.00
Sussex County	12.50%	\$5,335.00	\$5,335.00
Byram	3.53%	\$1,504.47	\$1,504.47
Netcong	18.68%	\$7,970.49	\$7,970.49
Netcong Parks Herbicide		\$800.00	\$800.00
Goose Egg Addling			\$2,359.00
Roxbury	20.10%	\$8,578.68	\$8,578.68
Roxbury Parks Herbicide		\$750.00	\$0.00
Stanhope	32.70%	\$13,956.36	\$13,956.36
Stanhope Parks Herbicide		\$750.00	\$750.00
County and Municipal Contribution	100.00%	\$44,230.00	\$46,346.00
NJ State Park Service		\$16,000.00	\$0.00
LMRPB Anticipated Income		\$60,230.00	\$46,346.00

	Anticipated Expenses	Actual Expense
Operating Budget		
Clerical	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
Education	\$500.00	\$360.00
Office Expense	\$75.00	\$85.09

Insurance(Directors & Officers)	\$900.00	\$900.00
Legal	\$1,500.00	\$735.25
Legal notices	\$125.00	\$110.88
Postage	\$50.00	\$47.00
Website	\$350.00	\$0.00
Miscellaneous	\$100.00	\$6.39
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	\$9,600.00	\$8,244.61

Lake Management Budget

Fuel	\$1,500.00	\$16.37
Weed Transport/Disposal	\$7,000.00	0
Equipment Maintenance	\$2,500.00	\$7,192.82
General Liability	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Inland Marine Ins	\$5,300.00	\$2,999.05
Commercial Property Ins	\$400.00	\$400.00
Volunteer Ins	\$200.00	\$200.00
Electric		\$44.49
Equipment Purchase		\$177.91
Umbrella Coverage	\$680.00	\$680.00
Weed Control	\$25,000.00	\$27,524.69
Sludge Reduction	\$5,000.00	\$0.00
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	\$49,080.00	\$40,735.33

LMRB Total Expenses

	\$58,680.00	\$48,979.94
Less SPS contribution	\$16,000.00	0
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County and Municipal Expenses	\$42,680.00	\$48,979.94

Hydro Rake 319 h Grant

Payment to Rutgers	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
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Volunteer Hours and Contributions

The Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board is grateful for the many volunteer hours and in-kind contributions of materials and labor through individuals, organizations and participating governing bodies. During 2018 the Board logged 270 volunteer hours, totaling an in-kind value of \$6,750.00 (\$25 per hour). Since the year 1995, the total volunteer hours logged to date are 26,238 hours.