



LAKE MUSCONETCONG REGIONAL PLANNING BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT 2012

Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board

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

PO Box 308, Stanhope, NJ 07874

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www.lakemusconetcong.com

**ANNUAL REPORT
2012**

<u>Members</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Earl Riley, Chairman	Byram	12-31-13
John Rogalo, Vice Chairman	Stanhope	12-31-12
Joseph Keenan, Secretary/ Treasurer	Netcong	12-31-14
Robert Hathaway, Jr.,	Netcong	12-31-12
Thomas Bradley	Roxbury	12-31-14
John Wetzel	Roxbury	12-31-12
Steven Rattner	Morris County	12-31-12
Rosemarie Maio	Stanhope	12-31-14
Vacant	Stanhope	12-31-14
Susan Zellman, Freeholder	Sussex County	12-31-12
Vacant	State of New Jersey	Indefinite

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Canal Society	- Mr. Bradley
Site Plan Review/Stream Encroachment	- Mr. Rogalo
Musconetcong Watershed Association	- Mr. Wetzel
Lake Awareness	- Ms. Maio and Mr. Rattner
Lake Management	- Mr. Hathaway and Mr. Rogalo
Operating Budget Committee	- Ms. Zellman and 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 18, 2012. 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 and Princeton Hydro, LLC as professional consultant. 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. Bradley, as the Board's representative, attended the meetings of the Canal Society and kept the Board informed on their activities and goals. Canal Day was held on June 30, 2012 at Waterloo Village. Heritage Days were held at Waterloo Village beginning on July 14, 2012 and continued into the fall.

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 for various residential and commercial properties in Netcong, Roxbury and Stanhope. After reviewing the site plans, it was determined that there would be no impact to the lake resulting from the plans. The Board continued to monitor the construction of the Route 183/Route 46 Netcong Circle removal project and the Netcong swirl chamber.

Musconetcong Watershed Association – John Wetzel served as the Board's representative to the Musconetcong Watershed Association. Members of the "River Watch" conducted quarterly monitoring of the flow of the river and oxygen content in the river. The Musconetcong Watershed Association desired to install a monitoring site near the outflow and the Board suggested the monitoring site be located at the steel bridge in Stanhope.

Lake Management Program

The lake management committee, consisting of Mr. Hathaway and Mr. Rogalo, oversees the weed harvesting operations, as well as other lake management issues. Through the efforts of Mr. Hathaway along with our volunteer operators, all necessary maintenance and repairs were done to the equipment again this year without any payroll expense.

In 2012 the main focus of the lake management plan was to aggressively treat the water chestnut. The Board authorized Allied Biological to submit an application to the State for the necessary permit, which was approved. It was decided that this season a topical application would be applied to treat the weeds. The chemical selected by the Board was Weeder 64 (which is 24D in a topical liquid spray); however a different chemical was used based on the decision of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. The Board funded the treatment of approximately 70 acres. The Lake Musconetcong Community Association (LMCA) again utilized the LMRPB NJDEP Permit under separate contract with Allied Biological and funded 3 acres of herbicide treatment along residential shorelines. In June the herbicide was applied to the lake with unsatisfactory results. In the Board's opinion, the poor results were due to the chemical used and an application done too early in the season.

On July 7, 2012, a water chestnut hand pull event organized by Lauren Smith of AmeriCorps, working with the Musconetcong Watershed Association, was conducted. Approximately 80 volunteers in canoes and kayaks hand harvested water chestnut in

the lake. Approximately 20 tons of water chestnut was removed from the lake. Rosie's Diner and Sal's Pizza provided food for the volunteers.

This year's weed harvesting program again consisted entirely of volunteers. There were nine volunteers plus Board members who took two hundred twenty loads of weeds out of the lake with a total of 16,800 pounds per harvester load which totaled 3,696,000 pounds of weed removed from the lake. The Board recognized the tremendous amount of time and effort by these dedicated volunteers.

In 2011 the Board requested that the drawdown of the lake be extended for the duration of the winter with the intent it would kill the water chestnut before it had a chance to germinate thereby preventing a secondary growth. The request for an extension of the draw down was denied. In 2012 the Board again requested that the water level of the lake remain lowered for the winter months; however, due to Fish & Wildlife's concern that lowering the lake for the entire winter would result in a spring fish kill, the Board's request was denied.

Weed Harvesting Budget: The weed harvesting budget for 2012 was \$29,285. We unfortunately over spent the budget by \$3,855 due to equipment breakdowns, fuel costs and weed disposal. 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.

Members of the Board met with the District legislature to discuss the possibility of annual funding for the Board. Information was provided detailing the Board's short term and long term goals as well as budget information for the past two years. The Board requested \$50,000 annual funding. As of the end of the year, the Board has received no response to their request.

See **Appendix A** for a breakdown of the total costs associated with the 2012 herbicide treatment and harvesting effort.

Grants and Applications

319H Grant (Bathymetric Mapping of Lake Musconetcong) – In 2007 the Board received a grant for bathymetric mapping of the Lake which included a dredging plan. The Board awarded a contract to Princeton Hydro LLC to perform the necessary services relating to the bathymetric mapping. The Board received the final payment in the amount of \$8,194.11 which was the 10% holdback amount due Princeton Hydro LLC that the State held until completion of the project.

Lake Awareness

Lake Awareness Day

Lake Awareness Day was held in conjunction with Stanhope's Spring Festival which was held on June 10, 2012. The Board set up a table to promote awareness of the lake issues. The Board set up an educational display and distributed an informational brochure to the public containing information on the Board, including the annual activities and a brochure containing information on lake management.

The annual fishing contest was held the morning of June 10, 2012 with approximately 30 children participating. Marie Raffey, a seasonal employee of the State Park, coordinated and oversaw the event. Trophies and prizes were awarded to the participants. Bait and Boat donated cat fish that were placed in the lake during the fishing contest. The Morris County Sportsmen Federation sponsored hot dogs that were provided to the participants at the end of the fishing contest.

The Board set up a table at Netcong Day which was held on September 9, 2012 where they again displayed informational brochures for the public.

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 2012 follows:

Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board Annual Budget vs. Actual FY 2012

<i>Member</i>	<i>Adjusted Shoreline %</i>	<i>Anticipated Income</i>	<i>2012 Actual</i>
Morris County	12.500%	\$ 4,791.88	\$ 4,792.00
Sussex County	12.500%	\$ 4,791.88	\$ 3,776.00
Byram	3.525%	\$ 1,351.31	\$ 1,351.31
Netcong	18.675%	\$ 7,159.06	\$ 7,159.06
Roxbury	20.100%	\$ 7,705.34	\$ 7,705.34
Stanhope	32.700%	\$12,535.55	\$ 12,535.55
	100.000%	\$ 38,335.00	\$ 37,319.26
Other Income	Bank Interest / Sale of Truck	\$ 10.00	\$ 1,498.50
	Misc Contributions	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 217.02
LMRPB Income		\$ 39,345.00	\$ 39,034.78
 Expenses			
Operating Budget		Budgeted Expenses	Actual Expenses
Clerical		\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
Education		\$ 800.00	\$ 1,384.31
Office Expense		\$ 150.00	\$ 63.38
Insurance(Officers)		\$ 900.00	\$ 949.57
Legal		\$ 500.00	\$ -
Legal notices		\$ 125.00	\$ 108.25
Postage		\$ 200.00	\$ 226.00
Website		\$ 200.00	\$ 191.76
Miscellaneous		\$ 175.00	\$ 116.94
		\$ 9,050.00	\$ 9,040.21
Lake Management			
Fuel		\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,765.94
Weed Transport/Disposal		\$ 4,500.00	\$ 5,300.00
Equipment Maintenance		\$ 3,500.00	\$ 7,447.63
New Equip. (Fuel oil)		\$ -	\$ 1,000.27
General Liability		\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
Marine Ins.		\$ 2,250.00	\$ 1,770.00
Property Ins		\$ 225.00	\$ 225.00
Accident Ins		\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Umbrella Coverage		\$ 210.00	\$ 210.00
Weed Control		\$ 16,000.00	\$ 14,021.10
		\$ 29,285.00	\$ 33,139.94
LMRB Total Expenses		\$ 38,335.00	\$ 42,180.15

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 2012 the Board logged 1,065 volunteer hours, totaling an in-kind value of \$26,625. Since the year 1995, the total volunteer hours logged to date are 21,684 hours.