



LAKE MUSCONETCONG REGIONAL PLANNING BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board

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

77 Main Street Stanhope, NJ 07874

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www.lakemusconetcong.com

**ANNUAL REPORT
2019**

<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	12-31-22
Mark Crowley	Roxbury	12-31-22
Lester Wright	Roxbury	12-31-20
Steven Rattner	Morris County	12-31-19
John Rogalo	Stanhope	12-31-20
Rosemarie Maio	Stanhope	12-31-22
Vacant	Stanhope	12-31-22
Greg Poff	Sussex County	12-31-19
Vacant	State of New Jersey	Indefinite

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Canal Society	- Mr. Hathaway
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 16, 2019. 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. Marvin Joss serves as Qualified Purchasing Agent and the firm Nisivoccia & Company was named as auditor for the year on an "as needed" basis. On June 19, 2019 the Board appointed Eileen Born of the firm Dolan & Dolan to serve as legal counsel for the Board through the remainder of 2019.

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

Chairman's comments

2019 has been a challenging year for the LMRPB. We have faced a year that saw a significant increase of invasive weed growth, a year in which we undertook a risk in the Probiotic treatment of the lake while we experience an attack of the dreaded HAB infestation. In addition to nature attacking our efforts we had major mechanical breakdowns. We managed to thwart the significant financial impact of the issues by the incredible dedication of our volunteers who spent in excess of three hundred hours of labor intensive work to resolve the dilemma. The track assembly on the shore conveyor was completely rebuilt at minimal cost thanks to four individuals.

In spite of continued promises of financial support from the Division of Parks for the third year in a row not a single penny was realized once again. The board has not had any support from the Division, either monetarily or an appointed representative since the beginning of 2017. Once again we were denied the use of the hydro-rake for the majority of the season and then we could only use it to remove floating vegetation.

Standing Committees

Canal Society

Due to the lack of representation from the previous Board member chairing this committee, Mr. Hathaway agreed to serve as the chair until a replacement could be appointed. Mr. Hathaway kept the Board informed on matters of the Canal Society.

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.

Musconetcong Watershed Association

Mr. Rattner served as the Board's representative to the Musconetcong Watershed Association. Congressional appropriations increased funding for the Wild & Scenic. In 2019 Wild & Scenic signs were installed at all road crossings where the road crosses the river. Members of the "River Watch" continued to conduct quarterly monitoring of the flow of the river and oxygen content in the river.

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 equipment was placed in the lake and removed from the lake with assistance from the Netcong Police Department, Netcong Department of Public Works and Stanhope Department of Public Works. Stanhope again agreed to store the hydro-rake at their Well 3 site.

The Board continued 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 treated approximately 65 acres in the lake.

The Board was not able to use the hydro-rake in the capacity it was purchased due to the lack of a disposal site for the material that would be removed from the lake with the hydro-rake. Instead, the hydro-rake was used to clean debris out of the lake, i.e. stumps, tires, etc.

The Board contracted with Solitude Lake Management for the probiotic treatment of approximately 16 acres in Arbolino Cove. Rutgers agreed to oversee the study and provide a third-party review. Applications were made monthly from July through September with a final analysis to be given to the Board and Rutgers. The Board received the final report from Solitude Lake Management; however, the report received was unsatisfactory and was not what the Board had requested. The Board is still waiting

for an acceptable final report. The report does show that the probiotic treatment experiment was successful and encouraging, however, the Board lacks the funds to continue with the experiment.

Disposal of the weeds removed from the lake were disposed of at Ag Choice at a negotiated cost of \$7.00 per yard.

Patricia Woods (Rector), Rutgers, Agricultural Extension Service Morris County agent who, on behalf of the Board, prepared the required quarterly reports under the 319(h) Grant for the purchase of the hydro-rake retired from her position with Rutgers early this year. Since there was no replacement appointed to her position, Chairman Riley took on the responsibility of preparing and submitting the quarterly reports for the Board.

Board members had numerous meetings and discussions with the legislators and officials from the Dep centering around Lake Musconetcong and the State's lack of support of the lake. The Board requested funding from the State for management of the State lake. As done last year, the Board received verbal promises of funding from the State; however, no funds were received. The Board continued to wait for the promised funds from the NJDEP of \$7,000 per year for weed transport and disposal for 2017 and 2018 as well as promised funding for 2019.

The Board received \$2,300 from the Borough of Netcong for administering the goose egg addling program again this year which program enables 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. Members of the Board searched but found no goose nests; therefore, there were no eggs to addle. The Board members searched, mapped and addled 50 swan nests.

The Board again utilized volunteers for this year's weed harvesting program. This year 50.25 loads were removed with the harvester totaling 844,200 pounds of wet weeds. There was an estimated 202 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 \$35,141.00 in management of the lake. Approximately \$5,752.00 was spent on operation of the harvester and the Hydro-rake. 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 2019 herbicide treatment and harvesting effort.

Lake Awareness

Stanhope Day/Netcong Day

The Board was registered to have a table at Stanhope Day which was held on June 9, 2019; however, due to prior commitments of a number of Board members and the difficulty for only one member to cover the table the entire day, there was no attendance by the Board at Stanhope Day.

The annual fishing contest was held the morning of June 9, 2019 with approximately 25 children participating. Trophies were awarded to the winners and prizes were given to all participants. All the trophies and prizes were donated so there was no cost to the Board for the event. The Morris County Sportsmen Federation again donated \$300 to help cover the cost of the fishing contest. As in the past, the fishing contest was a success and enjoyed by all the children who participated.

The Board set up a table at Netcong Day which was held on September 8, 2019 at which they 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 2019 follows:

		Budget FY 2019 (Revised 5/13/19)	v s .	Actual
<i>Member</i>	<i>Adjusted Shoreline %</i>	<i>Anticipated Income</i>		<i>Income</i>
Morris County	12.500%	\$ 5,425.00		\$ 5,425.00
Sussex County	12.500%	\$ 5,425.00		\$ 5,425.00
Byram Township	3.525%	\$ 1,529.85		\$ 1,529.85
Netcong Borough	18.675%	\$ 8,104.95		\$ 8,104.95
<i>Netcong Parks Herbicide</i>		\$ 800.00		\$ 800.00

Roxbury Township	20.100%	\$ 8,723.40	\$ 8,723.40
<i>Roxbury Parks Herbicide</i>		\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00
Stanhope Borough	32.700%	\$ 14,191.80	\$ 14,191.80
<i>Stanhope Parks Herbicide</i>		\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00
County and Municipal Contribution		\$ 43,400.00	\$ 43,400.00
Plus three municipal parks herbicide		\$ 2,300.00	\$ 2,300.00
Donation - Yonnie Guyre			\$ 75.00
Donation LMCA (weed Control)			\$ 2,600.00
319H Grant - Admin reimbursement			\$ 3,000.00
Egg Addling (Netcong)			\$ 2,300.00
LMRPB Anticipated Income		\$ 45,700.00	\$ 53,675.00
		Anticipated Expenses	Actual Expenses
Operating Budget			
Clerical		\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
Education		\$ 500.00	\$ 276.57
Office Expense		\$ 75.00	\$ 105.34
Insurance(Directors & Officers)		\$ 900.00	\$ 947.05
Legal		\$ 1,500.00	\$ -
Legal notices		\$ 100.00	\$ 170.95
Postage		\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Website		\$ 350.00	\$ -
Miscellaneous		\$ 100.00	\$ 40.26
		\$ 9,575.00	\$ 7,590.17
Lake Management			
Fuel		\$ 1,500.00	\$ 717.55
Weed Transport/Disposal		\$ 6,000.00	\$ 1,950.00
Equipment Maintenance		\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,084.73
General Liability Ins		\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
Inland Marine Ins		\$ 5,300.00	\$ 4,939.00
Commercial Property Ins		\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
Volunteer Ins		\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Umbrella Coverage		\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00
Weed Control		\$ 8,325.00	\$ 9,350.00
Sludge Reduction		\$ 5,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
Lake Management		\$ 33,825.00	\$ 37,741.28
Plus Operating		\$ 9,575.00	\$ 7,590.17
LMRPB Total Expenses		\$ 43,400.00	\$ 45,331.45
Plus three municipal Parks Herbicide		\$ 2,300.00	\$ 2,300.00
Total County and Municipal Expenses		\$ 45,700.00	\$ 47,631.45

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 2019 the Board logged 602 volunteer hours, totaling an in-kind value of \$15,050.00 (\$25 per hour). Since the year 1995, the total volunteer hours logged to date are 26,838 hours.