



LAKE MUSCONETCONG REGIONAL PLANNING BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT 2013

Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board

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

PO Box 308, Stanhope, NJ 07874

(973) 691-5748

www.lakemusconetcong.com

**ANNUAL REPORT
2013**

<u>Members</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Earl Riley, Chairman	Byram	12-31-13
John Rogalo, Vice Chairman	Stanhope	12-31-16
Joseph Keenan, Secretary/ Treasurer	Netcong	12-31-14
Robert Hathaway, Jr.,	Netcong	12-31-16
Thomas Bradley	Roxbury	12-31-14
John Wetzel	Roxbury	12-31-16
Steven Rattner	Morris County	12-31-13
Rosemarie Maio	Stanhope	12-31-14
Thomas Bruno	Stanhope	12-31-14
George Graham, Freeholder	Sussex County	12-31-13
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
Lake Management	- Mr. Hathaway and Mr. Rogalo
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, 2013. 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 29, 2013 at Waterloo Village. Heritage Days were held at Waterloo Village from July through October. The Canal Society received a \$35,000 grant to conduct a strategic planning survey, the results of which will be released once finalized.

Site Plan Review/Stream Encroachment: - John Rogalo served as the Board member to oversee all site plan/stream encroachment applications. The Board received two site plan notices for properties in Netcong and one site plan notice for property in Stanhope. After reviewing the site plans, it was determined that there would be no negative 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 clean-out and maintenance of 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. A training session on water quality testing was held on April 3, 2013. The Musconetcong Watershed Association sponsored a Spring Clean-Up on April 13, 2013 which covered the watershed area from Lake Hopatcong to the Delaware River.

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.

In 2013 the Board continued to focus on aggressively treating the water chestnut. The Board authorized Allied Biological to submit an application to the State for the necessary permit, which was approved. The Board initially planned on an herbicide treatment using Platoon, which is a liquid 2-4-d herbicide with the focus being on Arbolino Cove and Byram Cove. At the recommendation of Mr. Hathaway, the Board revised the treatment plan and decided to use Navigate which is a 2-4-d herbicide that could be formulated in an oil soluble compound and, although more costly, is a more effective treatment. The Lake Musconetcong Community Association (LMCA) again utilized the LMRPB NJDEP Permit under separate contract with Allied Biological and funded herbicide treatment along residential shorelines using the herbicide Clipper. The Board's application of Navigate was able to be done in conjunction with the LMCA's application of Clipper, which had a much greater impact on the lake than if separate applications were done. The Board authorized an increase in the amount funded for herbicide treatment from \$14,000 to \$17,000 to enable treating the lake with Navigate. The State contributed \$11,000 towards the Board's efforts. Although Byram Cove and

the area treated with Clipper required a second treatment, which was done with Platoon, the results of this year's herbicide application exceeded the Board's expectations.

On July 7, 2013, a water chestnut hand pull event, organized by AmeriCorps, was conducted. Approximately 60 volunteers in canoes and kayaks hand harvested water chestnut in the lake. Canoes were supplied by Morris County Parks; kayaks were made available from NJ State Park Service and Living Adventure Tours. Two (2) harvester loads were pulled and Mr. Hathaway harvested another three (3) loads. The Board purchased a boom which was beneficial and made the hand pull easier, more efficient and safer for the volunteers.

The Board conducted a spring and fall Lake Clean-Up Day. On June 1st volunteers including youth from the Boys Scouts and Girl Scouts collected 30 garbage bags of debris. Funds from Netcong Borough's Clean Communities Grant were used to purchase the clean-up supplies. The Board also received assistance from Sussex County and Morris County SLAP. On November 9th over 30 volunteers, including members of the LMCA, Lenape Valley Go Green Club, Morris and Sussex County SLAP and residents collected 29 fifty-five gallon bags of debris. The volunteers cleaned the entire shoreline of the lake. Bell's Mansion donated and served lunch to the volunteers.

This year's weed harvesting program consisted entirely of volunteers. Mr. Hathaway created an outline of the harvesting program which included strategy, operator responsibility, training, communication, maintenance and commitment. The volunteer program was administered by Leslie Schack with the oversight of Mr. Hathaway. There were 588 volunteer hours on the harvester only. The operators removed 240 loads of weeds totaling 4 million pounds. There were approximately 150 volunteer hours on 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 \$35,500 in management of the lake. Approximately \$17,000 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.

Again in 2013, 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.

The Board pursued obtaining use of one of two smaller harvesters not currently being used in other state lakes (Hopatcong and Swartswood) that would be used to remove the water chestnut from Lake Musconetcong. Swartswood Lake's harvester was deemed beyond repair and therefore not an option. Since ownership of the Lake

Hopatcong Commission's harvesters was transferred to the State and the State does not allow volunteers to operate their equipment, the Board requested the Lake Hopatcong Commission amend their Memorandum of Understanding with the NJDEP to allow the Board to use one of the small harvesters. In a vote by the Lake Hopatcong Commission, the Board's request was denied.

See **Appendix A** for a breakdown of the total costs associated with the 2013 herbicide treatment and harvesting effort.

Lake Awareness

Lake Awareness Day

Lake Awareness Day was held in conjunction with Stanhope's Spring Festival which was held on June 9, 2013. 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 Board conducted a 50/50 raffle which was sponsored by the American Legion Post 278. There were 296 tickets sold at \$5.00 per ticket. The winner of the 50/50 raffle received \$740.00.

The annual fishing contest was held the morning of June 9, 2013 with approximately 35 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 donated \$200 for the purchase of the trophies and lunch for the participants. Deli Delicious supplied hot dogs that were served to the participants at the end of the fishing contest.

The Board set up a table at Netcong Day which was held on September 8, 2013 and Byram Day which was held on October 5, 2013 at Waterloo Village at which 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 2013 follows:

Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board Annual Budget vs. Actual FY 2013

<i>Member</i>	<i>Adjusted Shoreline %</i>	<i>Budgeted Income</i>		<i>2013 Actual</i>
Morris County	12.500%	\$	4,888.75	\$ 4,792.00
Sussex County	12.500%	\$	4,888.75	\$ 4,882.50
Byram	3.525%	\$	1,378.63	\$ 1,376.87
Netcong	18.675%	\$	7,303.79	\$ 7,294.46
Roxbury	20.100%	\$	7,861.11	\$ 7,851.06
Stanhope	32.700%	\$	12,788.97	\$ 12,772.62
	100.000%	\$	39,110.00	\$ 38,969.51
Other Income	Bank Interest	\$	10.00	\$ 0.21
	50/50 Raffle Proceeds			\$ 740.00
	Misc Contributions	\$	1,000.00	\$ 126.98
Total FY 13 LMRPB Income		\$	40,120.00	\$ 39,836.70

<i>Expenses</i>	<i>Budgeted Expense</i>		<i>2013 Actual</i>
Operating Budget			
Clerical	\$	6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
Education	\$	700.00	\$ 970.59
Office Expense	\$	100.00	\$ 32.62
Insurance(Officers)	\$	1,000.00	\$ 950.00
Legal	\$	500.00	\$ 1,705.00
Legal notices	\$	125.00	\$ 319.98
Postage	\$	200.00	\$ 186.00
Website	\$	200.00	\$ 27.90
Miscellaneous	\$	150.00	\$ 538.02
	\$	8,975.00	\$ 10,730.11

Lake Management

Fuel	\$	2,000.00	\$	2,028.57
Weed Transport/Disposal	\$	6,000.00	\$	3,375.00
Equipment Maintenance	\$	3,000.00	\$	6,174.42
General Liability	\$	1,200.00	\$	1,100.00
Marine Ins.	\$	2,250.00	\$	2,121.58
Property Ins	\$	225.00	\$	225.00
Accident Ins	\$	200.00	\$	200.00
Umbrella Coverage	\$	210.00	\$	210.00
Weed Control	\$	15,000.00	\$	18,445.00
Electric	\$	50.00	\$	49.95
Hand Pull of Weeds			\$	1,001.44
Miscellaneous			\$	575.22
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	\$	30,135.00	\$	35,506.18
Total FY 13 LMRPB				
Expenses	\$	39,110.00	\$	46,236.29

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 2013 the Board logged 1028 volunteer hours, totaling an in-kind value of \$25,700. Since the year 1995, the total volunteer hours logged to date are 22,712 hours.