



LAKE MUSCONETCONG REGIONAL PLANNING BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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
2020**

<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	12-31-20
John Rogalo	Stanhope	12-31-20
Rosemarie Maio	Stanhope	12-31-22
Michael Balogh (appointed Nov. 2020)	Stanhope	12-31-22
Greg Poff	Sussex County	12-31-20
Vacant (2 Seats)	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 15, 2020. 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 was appointed as Qualified Purchasing Agent Eileen Born of the firm Dolan & Dolan was appointed to serve as legal counsel for the Board 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

Chairman's Comments

2020 was a year like no other in our thirty year history. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the majority of the Board's meetings in 2020 were cancelled. The Board held in-person meetings in January and February and then resumed meetings via Zoom in October, November and December. In spite of the restrictions on the operation of the board we were able to pull together a lake management program that was successful on several fronts. Although we could not utilize the AM 2000 for the tasks it is intended for due to restrictions placed on us by NJDEP after the purchase of the equipment we were able to provide significant utilization in a coordinated harvesting capacity.

The board gained its tenth member from Stanhope this year, welcome Mike Balogh. The State membership remains at two vacant positions in spite of the several requests to the Division of Parks and Forestry for representation as per our constitution and by-laws. Hopefully with the management changes occurring in NJDEP at multiple levels we will be able to get some manner of cooperation in 2021.

Standing Committees

Canal Society

Mr. Hathaway agreed to again 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. There was concern raised that the Board was not informed of tank removal work being done at the Enrite Gas Station in Stanhope, noting its close proximity to the lake.

Musconetcong Watershed Association

Mr. Rattner served as the Board's representative to the Musconetcong Watershed Association ("MWA"). Mr. Rattner kept the Board informed on matters of the MWA. The Musconetcong River from Lake Hopatcong to the Delaware River was

added to the National Scenic River Trails and is now a National Recreational Trail. The MWA received a federal grant to begin the Warren Glen Dam Feasibility Study.

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.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there was limited participation in the harvesting program this year. 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 contracted with Solitude Lake Management for a lake-wide herbicide treatment, which included treatment for water chestnut. This program covers a two-year period. The towns were asked to contribute towards treatment of the areas in front of their parks. The Board removed approximately 2,100 cubic yards of weeds from the lake.

The Board again had not been permitted by the New Jersey State DEP to utilize the hydro rake in the manner for which it was purchased and it does not appear they will ever be able to utilize the machine for the purpose for which it was acquired. There is a very limited scope of work that the hydro rake can be used for and there is a high insurance cost the Board pays for the equipment. The Board agreed they would make better use of the money from the sale of the equipment than what they could get out of the machine due to the limited scope of work that can be done. The Board is waiting on advice from the Board's attorney as to whether they can sell the equipment.

After the retirement in 2019 of 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, Chairman Riley took on the responsibility of preparing and submitting the quarterly reports for the Board. The final report was submitted to the State in early 2020. All backup documents required to finalize the grant have also been submitted to the State. Early in December, the Board received confirmation that the Board's documentation met the New Jersey State Treasury's requirements and the final grant payment in the amount of \$4,000 was mailed to the Board. To date, the Board has not received the \$4,000 check from the State.

In 2020 the Board received no support from the State, either financially or with an appointed representative. The Board has not received any support from the State since early 2017.

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 annual goose nest inspections were done this year, but no addling was done. The required survey was completed.

The Board again utilized volunteers for this year's weed harvesting program. This year 92 loads were removed with the harvester totaling 1,390,368 pounds of wet weeds. There was an estimated 454 hours of volunteer time, including 40 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 \$42,046 in management of the lake. Approximately \$16,556 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 2020 herbicide treatment and harvesting effort.

Lake Awareness

Stanhope Day/Netcong Day

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Stanhope Day and Netcong Day were cancelled. The Board's annual fishing contest, which is held in conjunction with Stanhope Day was also cancelled due to the pandemic. The Board discussed the possibility of holding the fishing contest in 2021, with proper guidelines in place.

Annual Budget

The annual budget 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	03.525%
Netcong	18.675%
Roxbury	20.1 %
Stanhope	32.7 %
Morris County	12.5 %
Sussex County	12.5 %

The total Budget vs. Actual for 2020 follows:

Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board Annual Budget FY 2020				VS:	Actual
Member	Adjusted Shoreline %	Anticipated Income			Income
Morris County	12.500%	\$ 6,259.38			\$ 6,259.38
Sussex County	12.500%	\$ 6,259.38			\$ 6,259.38
Byram Township	3.525%	\$ 1,765.14			\$ 1,765.14
Netcong Borough	18.675%	\$ 9,351.51			\$ 9,351.51
Netcong Parks Herbicide		\$ 800.00			\$ 800.00
Roxbury Township	20.100%	\$ 10,065.08			\$10,065.08
Roxbury Parks Herbicide		\$ 750.00			\$ 750.00
Stanhope Borough	32.700%	\$ 16,374.53			\$16,374.53
Stanhope Parks Herbicide		\$ 750.00			\$ 750.00
Shared County and Municipal Contribution		\$ 50,075.00			\$50,075.02
Misc Revenue (319 h grant plus 1K of Egg Addling)		\$ 5,000.00			\$ 2,300.00
Plus three municipal parks herbicide		\$ 2,300.00			\$ 2,300.00
LMRPB Anticipated Income		\$ 57,375.00	VS:		\$54,675.02
Operating Budget		Anticipated Expenses	VS:		Actual
Clerical		\$ 6,000.00			\$ 6,000.00
Education		\$ 500.00			\$ -
Office Expense		\$ 75.00			\$ 63.97
Insurance(Directors & Officers)		\$ 900.00			\$ 947.00
Legal		\$ 1,500.00			\$ -
Legal notices		\$ 100.00			\$ 213.03
Postage		\$ 50.00			\$ 55.00
Website		\$ 350.00			\$ 642.11
Miscellaneous		\$ 100.00			\$ 167.54
		\$ 9,575.00			\$ 8,088.70
Lake Management					
Fuel		\$ 1,500.00			\$ 515.96
Weed Transport/Disposal		\$ 6,000.00			\$ 6,150.00
Equipment Maintenance		\$ 5,000.00			\$ 2,138.97
General Liability Ins		\$ 1,500.00			\$ 1,230.00
Inland Marine Ins		\$ 5,300.00			\$ 5,286.00
Commercial Property Ins		\$ 400.00			\$ 430.00
Volunteer Ins		\$ 200.00			\$ 200.00
Umbrella Coverage		\$ 600.00			\$ 667.00
Weed Control		\$ 20,000.00			\$20,890.00
Lake Management		\$ 40,500.00			37,446.93
Plus Operating		\$ 9,575.00			\$ 8,088.70
Expenses shared by municipalities and counties		\$ 50,075.00			\$45,535.63
Misc Revenue applied to Weed Control		\$ 5,000.00			\$ 2,300.00
Plus three municipal Parks Herbicide treatment		\$ 2,300.00			\$ 2,300.00
Total LMRPB Expenses		\$ 57,375.00			\$50,135.63

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 2020 the Board logged 550 volunteer hours, totaling an in-kind value of \$13,750 (\$25 per hour). Since the year 1995, the total volunteer hours logged to date are 27,388 hours.