



LAKE MUSCONETCONG REGIONAL PLANNING BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

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
2014**

<u>Members</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Earl Riley, Chairman	Byram	12-31-17
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 (resigned 3/19/14)	Roxbury	12-31-16
Steven Rattner	Morris County	12-31-14
Rosemarie Maio	Stanhope	12-31-14
Thomas Bruno	Stanhope	12-31-14
George Graham, Freeholder	Sussex County	12-31-14
Daniel Bello	State of New Jersey	Indefinite

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Canal Society	- Mr. Bradley
Site Plan Review/Stream Encroachment	- Mr. Rogalo
Musconetcong Watershed Association	- Mr. Wetzel
Audit Committee	- Mr. Rogalo and Mr. Hathaway
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 15, 2014. 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 including the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Braille Trail at the Morris Canal between Stanhope and Mount Olive.

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; none of which it was determined would negatively impact the lake.

Musconetcong Watershed Association – John Wetzel served as the Board's representative to the Musconetcong Watershed Association until his resignation from the Board. 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, 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 2014 the Board's focus was finding funding to dredge the lake. Chairman Riley, Mr. Hathaway and Mr. Bello met with officials from the DEP to discuss a conceptual plan for dredging Lake Musconetcong. It was agreed by all parties that the best concept would be a "section dredge" plan which the Board will pursue.

The Board authorized Allied Biological to submit an application to the State for the necessary permit for herbicide treatment, which was approved. The Board initially planned on an herbicide treatment using Navigate and a copper sulfate, if needed to treat any algae bloom at a cost of \$373.00 per acre. After surveying the weed beds, it was agreed to treat the lake with Reward at a cost of \$232 per acre for two doses of the lower dose and \$339 per acre for the higher dose. Treating the lake with the higher dose also addressed the coontail. The Board revised the treatment plan and signed a revised contract with Allied Biological. The Board was able to treat more acreage at no additional cost.

On July 19, 2014, Matt Barr, Ambassador for Watershed Management Area I, working with Pat Rector and the Board conducted a water chestnut hand pull event. Approximately 50 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. The Board utilized the boom which made the hand pull easier, more efficient and safer for the volunteers.

With assistance from Steve Ellis, the Board entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Lake Hopatcong Commission for ownership of one of the Commission's small harvesters. The Board accepted ownership of the harvester with the understanding that if the Board determines they no longer need the harvester, ownership will transfer back to the Lake Hopatcong Commission. The State made all necessary repairs to the harvester at a cost of approximately \$20,000 prior to the Board taking possession. The harvester was transferred to Lake Musconetcong mid-August. The Board is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the harvester.

At the Board's request, the State DEP submitted an application for a freshwater wetlands permit and flood hazard permit by rule for the construction of a permanent launch ramp for the harvester. With timing restrictions and the need for the water level in the lake to be low, a temporary ramp was constructed. Once the permits are secured, a permanent ramp will be constructed in the spring of 2015.

The Board again utilized volunteers for this year's weed harvesting program. Leslie Schack administered the volunteer program and coordinated all volunteers with the oversight of Mr. Hathaway. This year 129 loads were removed with the large harvester totaling 2,167,200 pounds of wet weeds and 11 loads were removed with the small harvester, totaling an estimated 110,000 pounds of wet weeds. The total number of weeds removed this year was 2,227,220 pounds, compared to last year when approximately 4 million pounds were removed. It is the Board's opinion that a more effective herbicide treatment this year and the draw down that occurred last year contributed to the lesser growth of weeds. The successful management plan also contributed to a lesser workload. There was an estimated 550 hours of volunteer time, excluding hours for maintenance of the equipment. The Board recognized the tremendous amount of time and effort by the dedicated volunteers. The good condition of the lake this season was the cumulative effect of using herbicide with the harvesting.

The Board secured two additional dumpsters from Netcong Borough that will be restored over the winter for use next season. The Board anticipates taking possession of the conveyor from Swartswood Lake for use next season. With the additional equipment, the lake management program will consist of one backhoe, two conveyors and two harvesters and two disposal sites.

Weed Harvesting Budget: The Board spent approximately \$27,854.00 in management of the lake. Approximately \$13,208.00 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.

The LMCA coordinated a letter writing campaign to state and district legislators in an attempt to secure annual funding for the Board in the amount of \$50,000. The Board assisted the LMCA in their endeavor by paying the copying costs associated with the letter writing campaign. There was a concern raised by members of the LMCA that it is the DEP's opinion that the State satisfied the request for funding by repairing Lake Hopatcong's small harvester and giving possession of it to the Board.

See **Appendix A** for a breakdown of the total costs associated with the 2014 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 8, 2014. 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 8, 2014 with approximately 23 children participating. Marie Raffey, a seasonal employee of the State Park, coordinated and oversaw the event. Henry Conforte, a member of the Morris County Sportsmen Federation assisted with the fishing contest. Trophies and prizes were awarded to the participants. Bait and Boat donated fish that were placed in the lake during the fishing contest. The Morris County Sportsmen Federation donated \$200 for the purchase of food and beverages for the participants.

The Board set up a table at Netcong Day which was held on September 7, 2014 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 2014 follows:

Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board Annual Budget FY 2014 - Anticipated vs. Actual				
Adjusted Shoreline				
Member	%	Anticipated Income		Actual income
Morris County	12.500%	\$	4,888.75	\$ 4,883.00
Sussex County	12.500%	\$	4,888.75	\$ 4,888.75
Byram	3.525%	\$	1,378.63	\$ 1,378.63
Netcong	18.675%	\$	7,303.79	\$ 7,886.79
Roxbury	20.100%	\$	7,861.11	\$ 7,861.11
Stanhope	32.700%	\$	12,788.97	\$ 13,854.98
	100.000%	\$	39,110.00	\$ 40,753.26
Other Income	Bank Interest	\$	10.00	\$ 0.63
	Misc Contributions	\$	1,000.00	\$ 560.00
LMRPB Income		\$	40,120.00	\$ 41,313.89
Expenses		Budget		Actual
Operating Budget				
Clerical		\$	6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
Education		\$	500.00	\$ 537.17
Office Expense		\$	100.00	\$ 8.99
Insurance(Officers)		\$	900.00	\$ 900.00
Legal		\$	500.00	\$ -
Legal notices		\$	125.00	\$ 99.02
Postage		\$	200.00	\$ 195.00
Website		\$	200.00	\$ 251.64
Miscellaneous		\$	150.00	\$ 59.91
		\$	8,675.00	\$ 8,051.73
Lake Management				
Fuel		\$	2,000.00	\$ 1,829.34
Weed Transport/Disposal		\$	3,500.00	\$ 900.00
Equipment Maintenance		\$	3,250.00	\$ 6,191.03
General Liability		\$	1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Marine Ins.		\$	2,200.00	\$ 2,200.00
Property Ins		\$	240.00	\$ 342.58
Accident Ins		\$	200.00	\$ 200.00
Umbrella Coverage		\$	545.00	\$ 545.00
Weed Control		\$	17,500.00	\$ 14,646.20
		\$	30,435.00	\$ 27,854.15
LMRB Expenses		\$	39,110.00	\$ 35,905.88

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 2014 the Board logged 940 volunteer hours, totaling an in-kind value of \$23,500.00. Since the year 1995, the total volunteer hours logged to date are 23652 hours.