



LAKE MUSCONETCONG REGIONAL PLANNING BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

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
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<u>Members</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Earl Riley, Chairman	Byram	12-31-17
Robert Hathaway, Jr., Vice-Chairman	Netcong	12-31-16
Joseph Keenan, Secretary/ Treasurer	Netcong	12-31-18
Frances D'Auria (filled un-expired term)	Roxbury	12-31-18
Lester Wright (filled un-expired term)	Roxbury	12-31-16
Steven Rattner	Morris County	12-31-15
John Rogalo	Stanhope	12-31-16
Rosemarie Maio	Stanhope	12-31-18
Thomas Bruno	Stanhope	12-31-18
George Graham, Freeholder	Sussex County	12-31-15
Daniel Bello	State of New Jersey	Indefinite

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Canal Society	- Mr. Graham
Site Plan Review/Stream Encroachment	- Mr. Rogalo
Musconetcong Watershed Association	- Chairman Riley
Audit Committee	- Mr. Bruno
Lake Awareness	- Ms. Maio
Lake Management	- Mr. Hathaway and Mr. Bruno
Operating Budget Committee	- Mr. Keenan & Mr. Graham

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 21, 2015. 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 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. Graham, as the Board's representative, attended the meetings of the Canal Society and kept the Board informed on their activities. Waterloo Canal Day was held on June 27th and was greatly attended. Canal Heritage Days were held during the months August through October and a number of buildings at Waterloo Village were open to the public on the fourth Saturday of July, August and September.

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 after review it was determined none of the applications received would negatively impact the lake.

Musconetcong Watershed Association – Chairman Riley served as the Board's representative to the Musconetcong Watershed Association. Members of the "River Watch" continued to conduct quarterly monitoring of the flow of the river and oxygen content in the river. One of the testing sites was moved to Willow Street in Netcong to allow readings to be taken prior to entering Lake Musconetcong.

Lake Management Program

The lake management committee, consisting of Mr. Hathaway and Mr. Bruno, oversees the weed harvesting operations and herbicide treatment, 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.

The Board entered into an agreement with Allied Biological for herbicide treatment of the lake. The Board authorized Allied Biological to submit an application to the State for the necessary permit for the herbicide treatment, which was approved. A plant survey was conducted to determine which chemical would be used on the park shorelines. Funds received from Netcong, Roxbury and Stanhope paid the cost to treat the park shorelines. Treatment of the lake consisted of Navigate and Copper Sulfate for algae control.

On July 7, 2015, Daniel Ross, Ambassador for Watershed Management Area I, working with Pat Rector and the Board conducted a water chestnut hand pull event. Approximately _____ 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.

The Board again entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Lake Hopatcong Commission, State of New Jersey and State Parks providing ownership of the small harvester to the Board on a temporary basis, which agreement is to be renewed annually.

In 2014, 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. A "permit by rule" was issued and the permanent ramp was constructed in 2015. The State of New Jersey covered the cost for preparing the plans. Netcong and Stanhope's Departments of Public Works provided the labor assisted by Mr. Hathaway and Mr. Rogalo.

The Board again utilized volunteers for this year's weed harvesting program. This year 8 loads were removed with the large harvester totaling 134,400 pounds of wet weeds and 28 loads were removed with the small harvester, totaling 280,000 pounds of wet weeds. It is the Board's opinion that an effective herbicide treatment and the successful management plan contributed to a lesser workload. There was an estimated 190 hours of volunteer time, excluding hours for maintenance of the equipment. The good condition of the lake this season was the cumulative effect of using herbicide with the harvesting.

The Board contracted with Organic Earth Solutions to conduct a three-month trial using Bio Lake Clear, a natural, biological means of algae control in the three acre area in front of Bait and Boat. The product is 100% biological and not an algaecide. The contractor indicated that with continued use, there will be a sludge reduction of up to 25% a year and with long term treatment, there would be no need to dredge the lake. Since the product is an organic biological product, no permits were required. Treatment began on July 6th and continued through September. The contractor treated the test area twice a week and used the "Sludge Judge" to measure progress of the treatment. Measurements were taken three times over the three month period. Chairman Riley and Mr. Hathaway were present when measurements were taken. The cost of the three-month treatment was \$7,500 and the final report showed a reduction in sludge, but more importantly in one location it showed 8 feet of water. There was no negative affect on the fish, the sludge layer was reduced 30% and the water column increased substantially. Noting the success of the test, the Board agreed to continue their investigation into the feasibility of treating the entire lake in an effort to reduce the biomass which underlines the entire lake. The Board plans to conduct an additional test in the 10 acre area adjacent to Musconetcong Park in the Stanhope section of the lake. The Board agreed to request that the four towns and two counties contribute \$1,000 in addition to their normal budget contributions to facilitate this testing during the 2016 season.

Weed Harvesting Budget: The Board spent approximately \$26,994 in management of the lake. Approximately \$7,075 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.

See **Appendix A** for a breakdown of the total costs associated with the 2015 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 14, 2015. 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 14, 2015 with approximately 40 children participating. 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 prizes for the participants. Ramsey's Outdoor donated 2 fishing poles and the State of New Jersey donated trophies.

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 2015 follows:

<i>Member</i>	<i>Adjusted Shoreline %</i>	<i>Anticipated Income</i>	<i>Actual income</i>
Morris County	12.5%	\$ 4,888.75	\$ 4,883.00
Sussex County	12.5%	\$ 4,888.75	\$ 4,888.75
Byram	3.5%	\$ 1,378.63	\$ 1,378.63
Netcong	18.7%	\$ 7,303.79	\$ 7,903.79
Roxbury	20.1%	\$ 7,861.11	\$ 9,061.11
Stanhope	32.7%	\$ 12,788.97	\$ 13,988.97
	100%	\$ 39,110.00	\$ 42,104.25
Other Income	Bank Interest	\$ 10.00	\$ 0.63
	Misc Contributions	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 200.00
LMRPB Income		\$ 40,120.00	\$ 42,304.88
Expenses		Budget	Actual
Operating Budget			
Clerical		\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
Education		\$ 500.00	\$ 289.15
Office Expense		\$ 100.00	\$ 66.34
Insurance(Officers)		\$ 900.00	\$ 849.58
Legal		\$ 500.00	\$ -
Legal notices		\$ 125.00	\$ 135.66
Postage		\$ 200.00	\$ 213.00
Website		\$ 200.00	\$ 27.90
Miscellaneous		\$ 150.00	\$ 112.60
		\$ 8,675.00	\$ 7,694.23
Lake Management			
Fuel		\$ 2,000.00	\$ 238.84
Weed Transport/Disposal		\$ 1,150.00	\$ 400.00
Equipment Maintenance		\$ 4,500.00	\$ 6,434.87
General Liability		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,040.00
Marine Ins.		\$ 3,300.00	\$ 3,300.00
Property Ins		\$ 240.00	\$ 250.00
Accident Ins		\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Umbrella Coverage		\$ 545.00	\$ 568.00
Weed Control		\$ 17,500.00	\$ 26,994.00
		\$ 30,435.00	\$ 39,425.71
LMRB Expenses		\$ 39,110.00	\$ 47,119.94

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 2015 the Board logged 590 volunteer hours, totaling an in-kind value of \$14,750 (\$25 per hour). Since the year 1995, the total volunteer hours logged to date are 24242 hours.