



LAKE MUSCONETCONG REGIONAL PLANNING BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

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) 527-3200

www.lakemusconetcong.com

**ANNUAL REPORT
2017**

<u>Members</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Earl Riley, Chairman	Byram	12-31-17
Robert Hathaway, Jr., Vice-Chairman	Netcong	12-31-20
Joseph Keenan, Secretary/ Treasurer	Netcong	12-31-18
Vacant	Roxbury	12-31-18
Lester Wright	Roxbury	12-31-20
Steven Rattner	Morris County	12-31-17
John Rogalo	Stanhope	12-31-20
Rosemarie Maio	Stanhope	12-31-18
Vacant	Stanhope	12-31-18
George Graham, Freeholder	Sussex County	12-31-17
Vacant	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. Wright
Lake Awareness	- Ms. Maio & Mr. Rattner
Lake Management	- Mr. Hathaway and Mr. Rogalo
Operating Budget Committee	- Mr. Keenan & Chairman Riley

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 18, 2017. 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.

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 that did not affect the lake. The Board reviewed plans for a proposed building off Allen Street in Netcong that could possibly impact the lake with surface run-off as well as stormwater run-off. The Board informed the Netcong Planning Board about their concern regarding increased density and run-off from the site. The Board was also made aware of the Waterloo Bridge Project which was to begin in 2017 and would impact the river monitoring equipment. As of December 31, 2017, the project had not begun and the Board had not been made aware of when work on the project will begin. The Board had serious concern that no entity involved in the dam repair project has approached the Board or provided any updates on the project. The Board asked the State Park's Superintendent to keep them informed on the status of the dam repair.

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 Port Morris to allow readings to be taken prior to entering Lake Musconetcong. A new monitoring site was added right below the Musconetcong Sewerage Authority in the West Brookwood section of Byram which will allow readings to be taken at a location below the Musconetcong Sewerage Authority. Two new sensors were placed in the Musconetcong River; one by the steel bridge and the other in Byram Township by Riverdale Park. The sensors are taking samples in real time every 5 minutes. The sensors were acquired through grant funding. The goal is to have sensors taking samples the entire length of the river.

Lake Management Program

The lake management committee, consisting of Mr. Hathaway and Mr. Rogalo, 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 took possession of the hydro-rake (Alpha Boat Universal Water Management Boat with a Tilt Deck Trailer and a Shore Loading Conveyor) acquired with grant funds. The Board concentrated use of the hydro-rake in front of Musconetcong Park in Stanhope. Stanhope Borough supplied backhoe services on an "as needed" basis and transportation of the conveyor. Approximately 100 tons of material was removed from the lake with the hydro rake. Stanhope Borough has provided a secured

facility for storage of the equipment. In addition to the hydro-rake, the small harvester was used for lake management.

The Board again contracted with Solitude Lake Management for herbicide treatment in the lake. They treated 150 acres of the open waters with a secondary treatment of 120 acres. The towns were asked to contribute towards treatment of the areas in front of their parks. As a test this year, the Board collaborated efforts with the Lake Musconetcong Community Association (“LMCA”), allowing the LMCA to control the herbicide treatment along all shorelines, including the public parks shorelines.

Disposal of the material removed from the lake continued to be an issue this year. The Board was advised by Ag Choice, that they would no longer accept weed disposal from any aquatic entity and the State was hesitant to provide a disposal site, which, in the past had been the State’s in-kind contribution to the Board. After much discussion with State officials, the issue was finally resolved in October, with the State permitting disposal at the Tilcon site and agreeing to pay the Board’s transportation costs.

The Board took samples of the lake material from five different locations and had the samples tested by APL Laboratories, which is a laboratory sanctioned by the State of New Jersey (and DEP). The results were favorable, showing nothing exceeding the allowable limits.

Board members had numerous meetings and discussions with the legislators and officials from the DEP centering around the utility of Lake Musconetcong and the State’s lack of focus and support of the lake.

The Board sponsored the “Firemen’s Challenge” event on August 19, 2017 at Lakeside Park in Stanhope in conjunction with a “wet-down” of the hydro rake. Members from the Netcong Fire Department and Stanhope Fire Department competed in the event. The fire departments were positioned on opposite sides of the lake and a barrel was dropped into the lake from the hydro rake. The opposing teams used their fire hoses to push the barrel to the opposite side of the lake. Netcong Fire Department was declared the winner of the challenge. There were over 100 people in attendance. The event included a 50/50 raffle sponsored by the Stanhope Fire Department with the proceeds going to the Board and both participating fire departments. The event was very successful and the Board has intentions of making the Firemen’s Challenge an annual event.

On July 15, 2017, Taran Sayal, Ambassador for Watershed Management Area I, working with the Board conducted a water chestnut hand pull event. Approximately 40 volunteers in canoes and kayaks hand harvested water chestnut in the lake. Approximately 10,000 pounds of water chestnut was removed from the lake.

The lake was drawn down 2 feet beginning October 25, 2017 which provided an opportunity for a shoreline clean-up. Clean the Lake Day was held on November 12, 2017 with 22 volunteers participating in the clean-up of the Lake’s shoreline. They

removed thirty (30) 50-gallon bags of debris from the lake. Bell's Mansion served lunch to the volunteers, as they have done the past few years.

The Board again utilized volunteers for this year's weed harvesting program. This year only 8 loads were removed with the harvester totaling 64,000 pounds of wet weeds. In addition there were 18 loads of organic material removed utilizing the Hydro Rake which approximated 100 tons of material. There was an estimated 160 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 \$26,000 in management of the lake. Approximately \$1,600 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 2017 herbicide treatment and harvesting effort.

Lake Awareness

Save the Lake Day Fishing Contest

The Board was informed that Stanhope Day would not be held in 2017. Traditionally, the annual fishing contest was held in conjunction with Stanhope Day. The Board decided to conduct a "Save the Lake Day Fishing Contest" which was held the morning of June 11, 2017 with approximately 36 children participating. Trophies were awarded to the winners. 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.

Netcong Day

The Board set up a table at Netcong Day which was held on September 10, 2017 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 2017 follows:

Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board 2017 Budget vs. Actual

Member	Adjusted Shoreline %	Anticipated Income	Actual Income
Morris County	12.50%	\$5,091.75	\$4,883.00
Sussex County	12.50%	\$5,091.75	\$5,091.75
Byram	3.53%	\$1,435.87	\$1,435.87
Netcong	18.68%	\$7,607.07	\$8,307.07
Roxbury	20.10%	\$8,187.53	\$8,187.53
Stanhope	32.70%	\$13,320.02	\$14,020.02
	100.00%	\$40,734.00	\$41,925.24
Other Income	Bank Interest	\$10.00	\$300.00
Fireman's Challenge			\$3,431.81
LMRPB Anticipated Income		\$40,744.00	\$45,657.05

	Anticipated Expenses	Actual Expense
Operating Budget		
Clerical	\$6,000.00	\$6,026.25
Education	\$500.00	\$331.60
Office Expense	\$75.00	\$262.12
Insurance(Directors & Officers)	\$850.00	\$842.00
Legal	\$500.00	\$1,058.25
Legal notices	\$125.00	\$169.80
Postage	\$50.00	\$47.00
Website	\$300.00	\$337.95
Miscellaneous (Fireman's Challenge)	\$50.00	\$2,018.81
	\$8,450.00	\$11,093.78

Lake Management Budget		
Fuel	\$314.00	\$339.98
Weed Transport/Disposal	\$1,700.00	
Equipment Maintenance	\$1,250.00	\$1,173.70
General Liability	\$1,150.00	\$1,150.00
Inland Marine Ins	\$3,295.00	\$5,983.00
Commercial Property Ins	\$310.00	\$310.00
Volunteer Ins	\$200.00	\$200.00
Umbrella Coverage	\$565.00	\$565.00

Weed Control	\$23,500.00	\$16,800.00
Equipment registration NJMVC		\$180.00
Miscellaneous (Electric - Shed)		\$41.85
Sludge Reduction		\$853.89
AM2000 Transportation		\$3,414.00
Alpha Boats		\$355.95
Accessory Equipment		\$300.81
	<u>\$32,284.00</u>	<u>\$31,011.42</u>
LMRB Total Expenses	\$40,734.00	\$42,105.20

319 H Grant Identifier Number WM16-047			
319 H income		319 H Expenses	
	\$352,166.00	Alpha Boats	\$352,166.00
	<u>\$352,166.00</u>		<u>\$352,166.00</u>

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 2017 the Board logged 500 volunteer hours, totaling an in-kind value of \$12,500 (\$25 per hour). Since the year 1995, the total volunteer hours logged to date are 25,968 hours.