



LAKE MUSCONETCONG REGIONAL PLANNING BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board

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

77 Main Street Stanhope, NJ 07874

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www.lakemusconetcong.com

**ANNUAL REPORT
2021**

<u>Members</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Earl Riley, Chairman	Byram	12-31-21
Robert Hathaway, Jr., Vice-Chairman	Netcong	12-31-24
Joseph Keenan, Secretary/ Treasurer	Netcong	12-31-22
Mark Crowley	Roxbury	12-31-22
Lester Wright	Roxbury	12-31-24
Steven Rattner	Morris County	12-31-21
Rudy Shlesinger	Stanhope	12-31-24
Rosemarie Maio	Stanhope	12-31-22
Michael Balogh	Stanhope	12-31-22
Greg Poff	Sussex County	12-31-21
Vacant (2 Seats)	State of New Jersey	Indefinite

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Canal Society	- Chairman Riley
Site Plan Review/Stream Encroachment	- Mr. Balogh
Musconetcong Watershed Association	- Mr. Rattner
Audit Committee	- Mr. Wright
Lake Awareness	- Ms. Maio
Lake Management	- Mr. Hathaway
Lake Improvement (formed 6/16/2021)	- 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 20, 2021. 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. At the February 17, 2021 meeting, the Board appointed Clifford Lundin to serve as legal counsel for the Board for the remainder of 2021.

Web-Site - The Board's web-site is www.lakemusconetcong.com

Chairman's Comments

The year started out once again under COVID restrictions. The January through April meetings were held remotely via, Zoom. The single major issue for the board this year was the decision to sell the AM 2000 and all associated equipment. We worked with the office of grants management at NJDEP to ensure there would be support for our decision. The equipment was listed on Gov Deals for 45 days which generated a lot of interest but resulted in no bids. After the close of the auction the equipment manufacturer offered \$215,000.00 which was the minimum bid we were looking for on Gov Deals. The equipment was sold to Alpha Boats in September. In the 4 years we owned the equipment the total usage was only 215 hours due to the change in position of NJDEP.

Standing Committees

Canal Society

Chairman Riley agreed to serve as the chair until a replacement could be appointed. Chairman Riley kept the Board informed on matters of the Canal Society. There were limited activities in 2021 due to COVID-19. Waterloo Village Canal Days resumed in September 2021.

Site Plan Review/Stream Encroachment:

Mr. Balogh 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. The Board received notice of a pending application for a D (Use) Variance and Amended Site Plan Approval filed by FJZ Properties LLC for property at 128 Allen Street, Netcong. The application is seeking permission to store and maintain buses and to do minor repairs on the buses at the site. The Board had a strong concern with the application and noted the site has become a bus repair facility with extensive parking of buses inside and outside of the building. The Board agreed they should have a presence at the hearing to speak of the Board's concerns and opposition to an expanded use of the facility as a bus maintenance site (inside and outside). The hearing was carried over numerous months. The Board enlisted their attorney to communicate its concerns to the Netcong Land Use Board. As of the end of 2021, the hearing has not been completed.

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 MWA had their annual outreach to the Congressional representatives. The purpose of the meeting was to tell the representatives what was going on, what the needs are and to make them aware of the issues, the major issue being the water

temperature on the upper reaches of the river and the watershed. The MWA is trying to get the rest of the Musconetcong River into the Wild & Scenic. In 2021, the MWA received the 2018/2020 Integrated Water Quality Report from the NJDEP to which the MWA will be filing a response.

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. 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 was in the 2nd year of their two-year contract with Solitude Lake Management for a lake-wide herbicide treatment, which included treatment for water chestnut. The towns were asked to contribute towards treatment of the areas in front of their parks.

Arrangements were made with Ag Choice for disposal of the weeds removed from the lake with a tipping fee of \$11.00 per cubic yard (\$330.00 per container). The board contracted with Bace Demolition for a hauling fee of \$275.00 plus a \$25.00 fuel surcharge. The Board removed approximately 330 cubic yards of weeds from the lake.

The Board performed minimal harvesting this year. The lake was in good condition which is the result of the Board's long-term plan. It is the Board's opinion that the drawdown significantly impacted the large biomass which is why the lake is in such good condition. The lake is changing and getting deeper which is a result of the Board's treatment in the lake. The water chestnut in the lake is almost eradicated. This year the water quality and clarity in the lake is the best it has been in years.

The Board received the final grant payment of \$4,000 under the 319(h) Grant for the purchase of the hydro-rake. Since the Board 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 did not appear they will ever be able to utilize the machine for the purpose for which it was acquired the Board decided to sell the equipment. The Board sought legal advice from the Board's attorney as to whether they could sell the equipment. After receiving advice from legal counsel and confirmation from the NJDEP that the Board owned the equipment, the Board listed the equipment on Gov Deals. The Board did not receive a single bid on the equipment. According to N.J.S.A.40A:11-36(4), "if no bids are received the property may then be sold at private sale without further publication or notice thereof, but in no event at less than the estimated fair value." The Board was contacted

by Alpha Boats who offered to purchase the equipment for \$215,000.00. The Board accepted Alpha Boats' purchase offer and a transfer of title was done.

In 2021 the Board again 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 \$2,400 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 and they found no nests and no eggs.

The Board again utilized volunteers for this year's weed harvesting program. This year 16 loads were removed with the harvester totaling 235,872 pounds of wet weeds. There was an estimated 105 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 \$39,620.00 in management of the lake. Approximately \$8,085.00 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 2021 herbicide treatment and harvesting effort.

Lake Improvement

The Lake Improvement Committee was formed on June 16, 2021 to create a plan for use of the proceeds from the sale of the AM 2000 and related equipment. Mr. Hathaway served as Chair with committee members Ms. Maio, Mr. Rattner and Chairman Riley. The committee met a number of times and discussed various options for the proceeds. The committee made their recommendation to engage in a 3-year plan of probiotics of 100+ acres treatment area three times per year for three years. The cost of the 3-year plan will be a little over \$100,000 and the remaining \$115,000 will be left to address equipment issues. The Board accepted the recommendation of the committee. Having completed their charter, the Lake Improvement Committee was abolished on October 20, 2021.

Lake Awareness

Stanhope Day/Netcong Day

The annual fishing contest was held the morning of June 13, 2021 with approximately 39 children participating. Trophies were awarded to the winners and prizes were given to all participants. Ramsey's again donated prizes for the event. The Morris County Sportsmen Federation again donated \$200 to help cover the cost of the fishing contest. As in the past, the fishing contest was a success and enjoyed by all the children who participated.

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 2021 follows:

Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board Annual Budget FY 2021			VS:	Actual
Member	Adjusted Shoreline %	Anticipated Income		Income
Morris County	12.500%	\$ 6,259.38		\$ 6,260.00
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
<i>Netcong Parks Herbicide</i>		\$ 800.00		\$ 800.00
Roxbury Township	20.100%	\$ 10,065.08		\$ 10,065.08
<i>Roxbury Parks Herbicide</i>		\$ 750.00		\$ 750.00
Stanhope Borough	32.700%	\$ 16,374.53		\$ 16,374.53
<i>Stanhope Parks Herbicide</i>		\$ 750.00		\$ 750.00
Shared County and Municipal Contribution		\$ 50,075.00		\$ 50,075.64
Misc Revenue (319 h grant plus 1K of Egg Addling)		\$ 6,400.00		\$ 2,300.00
Plus three municipal parks herbicide		\$ 2,300.00		\$ 2,300.00
Sale of Am 2000		\$ -		\$ 215,000.00
LMRPB Anticipated Income		\$ 58,775.00		\$ 269,675.64

	<i>Anticipated Expenses</i>	VS:	<i>Actual</i>
<i>Operating Budget</i>			
Clerical	\$ 6,000.00		\$ 6,000.00
Education	\$ 500.00		\$ 247.13
Office Expense	\$ 75.00		\$ 106.59
Insurance(Directors & Officers)	\$ 900.00		\$ 899.30
Legal	\$ 1,500.00		\$ 3,123.75
Legal notices	\$ 100.00		\$ 528.08
Postage	\$ 50.00		\$ 55.00
Website	\$ 350.00		\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 100.00		\$ -
	\$ 9,575.00		\$ 10,959.85
<i>Lake Management</i>			
Fuel	\$ 1,500.00		\$ 398.69
Weed Transport/Disposal	\$ 6,000.00		\$ 1,260.00
Equipment Maintenance	\$ 5,000.00		\$ 546.37
General Liability Ins	\$ 1,500.00		\$ 1,880.00
Inland Marine Ins	\$ 5,300.00		\$ 2,750.00
Commercial Property Ins	\$ 400.00		\$ 400.00
Volunteer Ins	\$ 200.00		\$ 200.00
Umbrella Coverage	\$ 600.00		\$ 600.00
Weed Control	\$ 20,000.00		\$ 29,234.50
Lake Management	\$ 40,500.00		\$ 37,269.56
Plus Operating	\$ 9,575.00		\$ 10,959.85
<i>Expenses shared by municipalities and counties</i>	\$ 50,075.00		\$ 48,229.41
Misc Revenue applied to Weed Control	\$ 6,400.00		\$ 2,300.00
Plus three municipal Parks Herbicide treatment	\$ 2,300.00		\$ 2,300.00
<i>Total LMRPB Expenses</i>	\$ 58,775.00		\$ 52,829.41

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 2021 the Board logged 305 volunteer hours, totaling an in-kind value of \$7,625 (\$25 per hour). Since the year 1995, the total volunteer hours logged to date are 35,013 hours.