



LAKE MUSCONETCONG REGIONAL PLANNING BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT 2008

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
2008**

<u>Members</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Douglas Zellman, Chairman	Stanhope	12-31-10
Barney Hunts, Vice Chairman	Stanhope	12-31-10
Joseph Keenan, Secretary/ Treasurer	Netcong	12-31-10
Edward J. Sekula, Jr.,	Netcong	12-31-08
John Wetzel	Roxbury	12-31-10
Nicholas DePalma	Roxbury	12-31-08
Steven Rattner	Morris County	12-31-08
Earl Riley	Byram	12-31-09
John Rogalo	Stanhope	12-31-08
Susan Zellman, Freeholder	Sussex County	12-31-08
Helen Maurella	State of New Jersey	Indefinite

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Canal Society	- Ms. Maurella
Site Plan Review/Stream Encroachment	- Mr. Rogalo
Musconetcong Watershed Association	- Mr. Sekula
Lake Awareness	- Ms. Maurella
Lake Management	- Mr. Hunts
Operating Budget Committee	- Ms. Zellman & 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 16, 2008. 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 – Ms. Maurella, as the Board's representative, is an official member of the Canal Society. Canal Day was held on June 21, 2008 at Waterloo Village with over 1,200 visitors. The Canal Society held eight Waterloo Canal Heritage Days throughout the summer and fall with guided walks through the village.

Site Plan Review/Stream Encroachment: -

Old Morris Canal Restaurant (2 Walton Place), Stanhope – In 2007 the Board received notice of an application before the Stanhope Land Use Board requesting a change in zoning to permit the construction of a 21-unit adult community structure on the site. During the hearing, members of the Lake Board voiced concerns regarding the buffer, setback requirements, storm water run-off and the impact of the proposed development on the lake. The Land Use Board carried the matter into 2008. On April 14, 2008 the Stanhope Land Use Board found that it was not able to recommend a zone change regarding this property since the proposed project was substantially out of character with the surrounding neighborhood, both in its density of development, including, but not limited to the height of the building and the density proposed.

The Board received several site plan notices for various residential properties in Netcong, Roxbury and Stanhope. After reviewing the site plans, it was determined that there would be no impact to the lake resulting from the plans.

Musconetcong Watershed Association - Mr. Sekula, the Board's representative, is currently serving on the Musconetcong Watershed Advisory Committee. The Musconetcong River Management Council was established and received a \$250,000 grant for dam removal.

Lake Management Program

The lake management committee, consisting of Mr. Hunts, Mr. Zellman and Mr. Keenan, oversees the weed harvesting operations, as well as other lake management issues. Through the efforts of Mr. Hunts, all necessary maintenance and repairs were done to the equipment. The start of the weed harvesting program was delayed due to orders by the Division of Parks & Forestry to halt the harvesting program because three endangered plant species were found in the lake. The Board was required to conduct a plant survey of the lake prior to beginning the weed harvesting program. The delay resulted in the Board losing over half their harvesting season. The Board awarded a professional service contract to Dr. Robynn Shannon, of Ramapo College of New Jersey to conduct the plant survey.

Amy Cradic, Assistant Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and other representatives from the State attended the October 15th public meeting to discuss lake management policy and priorities; goals for the future of Lake Musconetcong; lake management update on the plant survey; short-term and long-term plan for the lake. There was a large turnout from the public and local officials.

Mr. Hunts researched the use of herbicides to treat the increasing weed problem in the lake. During the plant survey, an invasive species (water chestnut) was found in Arbolino Cove and, if left untreated, will eventually take over the entire lake. Mr. Hunts gathered information on the use of Sonar, Renovate and 24D. The Board authorized Glen Sullivan of Allied Biological to submit an application to the State for a permit for the use of Renovate and 24D on the lake.

The Board benefited from over 225 hours of volunteer service. During the season, 166 loads of weeds were removed from the lake. Arrangements were made for disposal of the weeds at the Tilcon site at no cost to the Board other than the cost of transporting the weeds to this site.

The Board receives annual funding for the lake management program from the four municipalities and two counties.

Weed Harvesting Budget: The weed harvesting budget for 2008 was \$20,000. The LMRPB utilized funds received from the 319 NPS Grant (see following) as well as from Byram, Netcong, Roxbury, and Stanhope which are apportioned according to percentage of shoreline and funding from both Sussex and Morris County.

Grants and Applications

319H NPS Pollution Control and Management Implementation Grant – The Board received a \$45,000 grant from the New Jersey State Department of Environmental Protection entitled “Implementation of Weed Harvesting.” The Board will receive funding in the amount of \$15,000 over the next three years. The work period under the grant agreement is July 21, 2008 through July 20, 2011. The grant moneys will enable the Board to continue the weed harvesting program over the next three years. The deliverables of this project are a reduced phosphorus load, a reduction in bio mass and a healthier lake.

319H Grant (Bathymetric Mapping of Lake Musconetcong) – In 2007 the Board received a grant for bathymetric mapping of the Lake which included a dredging plan. The Board awarded a contract to Princeton Hydro LLC to perform the necessary services relating to the bathymetric mapping. Princeton Hydro, LLC and the Board continued working on the bathymetric mapping project throughout 2008.

Morris County Clean Communities Grant – The Board received two (2) grants each in the amount of \$400 through Morris County Clean Communities Grant. The grant money was used for the Board’s two Clean the Lake Days on June 28th and October 4th.

Sussex County Clean Communities Grant – The Board received one grant for \$400.00 for Clean the Lake Day on June 28, 2008.

Lake Awareness

Lake Awareness Day was held in conjunction with Stanhope's Spring Festival on June 8, 2008. The Board set up a table to promote awareness of the lake issues. Princeton Hydro, LLC joined the Board at the Stanhope Spring Festival, setting up an educational display. The Board 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 Board displayed the winning posters from the "Protect My Watershed" poster contest. Winners were selected from 48 entries submitted by students in grades 2-8. A U.S. savings bond was awarded to six students.

The annual fishing contest was held the morning of Stanhope's Spring Festival, with 31 children participating. Trophies and prizes were awarded to the winners in each age category. The Morris County Sportsmen Federation donated \$150.00 to cover expenses for this event.

The Board was also represented with a table at Netcong Day on September 7, 2008 and a table at Byram Day on October 4, 2008. The Board distributed informational brochures at both events.

Many people approached the Board at the Stanhope Spring Festival, Netcong Day and Byram Day to ask questions about the lake and to volunteer their help.

Total Volunteer Hours for Lake Awareness: 280 hours, valued at \$7,000.00 (\$25.00 per hour per volunteer).

Clean the Lake Day

In 2008, the Board decided to conduct Clean the Lake Day twice during the year. The first Clean the Lake Day was held on June 28, 2008 along the Morris and Sussex County shoreline. There were 19 volunteers including 6 SLAP participants and 1 officer assisting on the Morris County side of the lake present for 4 hours. There were 9 volunteers assisting with the clean-up on the Sussex County side of the lake. The volunteers collected a total of 420 pounds of garbage and 958 pounds of recyclables and repaired the riparian buffer along the Stanhope shoreline.

The second Clean the Lake Day was held on October 4, 2008. There were 7 volunteers plus 3 SLAP participants and 1 officer from Morris County and 9 SLAP participants and 1 officer from Sussex County. The volunteers collected 120 pounds of garbage and 20 pounds of recyclables. The Sussex County SLAP crew repaired the floating dock sections and cleaned the shed area. Present from the Board were Helen Maurella, Douglas Zellman, Barney Hunts, Nick DePalma and Steve Rattner.

Total Volunteer Hours for both Clean the Lake Days: 140 hours and value of in-kind services for Clean the Lake Day is \$3,500.00 (\$25.00 per hour per volunteer).

Annual Operating Budget

The annual operating budget for the LMRPB is \$7,200.00. The budget has remained stable for 15 years. The annual membership for the governmental entities represented is as follows:

	<u>Percent of Shoreline</u>	<u>Annual Contribution</u>
Byram	3.525%	\$ 253.80
Netcong	18.675%	\$1,344.60
Roxbury	20.1 %	\$1,447.20
Stanhope	32.7 %	\$2,354.40
Morris County	12.5 %	\$ 900.00
Sussex County	12.5 %	\$ 900.00

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 2008 the Board logged 4825 volunteer hours, totaling an in-kind value of \$120,625.00. Since the year 1995, the total volunteer hours logged to date are 33,003 hours.

2008 Income and Expenses

Operating Budget

Income:

Morris County	\$ 900.00
Sussex County	\$ 900.00
Byram Township	\$ 253.80
Netcong Borough	\$1,344.60
Roxbury Township	\$1,447.20
Stanhope Borough	<u>\$2,354.40</u>

Total Income: \$ 7,200.00

Expenses:

Clerical:	\$4400.00
Lake Awareness Day	\$ 474.14
Miscellaneous	\$1008.77
Legal	\$ 97.50
Telephone	<u>\$ 290.91</u>

Total Expenses \$ 6,271.32

Lake Management Budget

Income:

Morris County	\$ 5,000.00
Sussex County	\$ 5,000.00
Byram Township	\$ 977.00
Netcong Borough	\$ 2,493.00
Roxbury Township	\$ 2,635.00
Stanhope Borough	\$ 3,895.00
Misc Contributions	<u>\$ 1,850.00</u>
Subtotal:	\$ 21,850.00

Bank Interest \$ 133.33

Total Income: \$ 21,983.33

Expenses:

Payroll	
(harvester operators)	\$ 814.75
(Workers Comp)	\$ 1,398.00
Other Insurance	\$ 4,730.00
Harvester expenses &	
Repairs	\$ 4,548.01
Weed Survey	\$ 3,241.60
Weed Disposal	\$ 2,088.77
Other (miscellaneous)	\$ 82.19

Total Expenses: \$ 16,903.32

EXPENDITURES AGAINST GRANTS

State three-year harvesting grant (To be reimbursed)

Payroll Expenses	\$8000.00
Administration	\$1500.00
Weed transport and disposal	\$3000.00
Fuel	<u>\$1388.85</u>
Total Expenses	\$13,888.85

Lake survey grant (To be reimbursed)

Princeton Hydro Consultants	<u>\$34,844.81</u>
Total Expenses	\$34,844.81