



LAKE MUSCONETCONG REGIONAL PLANNING BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT 2010

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
2010**

<u>Members</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Earl Riley, Chairman	Byram	12-31-13
John Rogalo, Vice Chairman	Stanhope	12-31-12
Joseph Keenan, Secretary/ Treasurer	Netcong	12-31-10
Robert Hathaway, Jr.,	Netcong	12-31-11
Thomas Bradley	Roxbury	12-31-10
Gary La Spisa	Roxbury	12-31-12
Steven Rattner	Morris County	12-31-10
Rosemarie Maio	Stanhope	12-31-10
Barney Hunts	Stanhope	12-31-10
Susan Zellman, Freeholder	Sussex County	12-31-10
Helen Maurella	State of New Jersey	Indefinite

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Canal Society	- Ms. Maurella
Site Plan Review/Stream Encroachment	- Mr. Rogalo
Musconetcong Watershed Association	- Mr. La Spisa
Lake Awareness	- Ms. Maurella, Ms. Maio, Mr. Hathaway
Lake Management	- Mr. Hunts, Mr. Keenan, Mr. Rogalo
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 20, 2010. 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 26, 2010 at Waterloo Village with over 1,200 visitors. School programs entitled “Indian Village” and “Canal Town” were held throughout the school year at Waterloo Village. Heritage Days were held in the fall at Waterloo Village on a number of Saturdays through October and offered guided walks through the village.

Site Plan Review/Stream Encroachment: - The Board received several site plan notices for various residential and commercial 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. La Spisa was appointed as the Board's representative to the Musconetcong Watershed Association. Members of the “River Watch” (including Board members: John Rogalo and Chairman Riley) monitor the flow of the river and oxygen content in the river. They take measurements and conduct a chemical and visual analysis of the sites. The Musconetcong Watershed Association offered to provide a test kit to be used at a monitoring station close to the outflow of Lake Musconetcong. The Board agreed that the location near the bridge in Stanhope indicated by Princeton Hydro would be the best location for the monitoring station.

Lake Management Program

The lake management committee, consisting of Mr. Hunts, Mr. Keenan and Mr. Rogalo, oversees the weed harvesting operations, as well as other lake management issues. Through the efforts of Mr. Hunts and Mr. Hathaway along with our volunteer operators, all necessary maintenance and repairs were done to the equipment.

During the plant survey conducted in 2008, water chestnut was found in Arbolino Cove. Since that time, the water chestnut has spread throughout the entire lake. The lake management committee has devoted many hours towards addressing the infestation of water chestnut in the lake. In 2010, the Board agreed to concentrate most of their efforts and funds towards the use of herbicide treatment in the lake. Due to budgetary constraints, the Board enlisted the service of volunteers to operate the weed harvester this season, thereby enabling them to dedicate additional funds towards herbicide treatment. The weed harvesting program began in June and continued throughout the season. The weed harvesting program focused mainly around clearing Water Chestnut from Arbolino Bay, Byram Bay and other accessible areas of the lake and shoreline.

On June 19, 2010, approximately 10 volunteers in canoes and kayaks hand harvested water chestnut in the lake. Approximately 1.5 tons (wet weight) of water chestnut were removed from the lake.

The Board authorized Allied Biological to submit an application to the State for a permit for the use of pre-emergent 2-4D on the lake, which was approved with conditions. The Lake Musconetcong Community Association (LMCA) again funded herbicide treatment along the shoreline of their individual properties. The LMCA utilized the LMRPB NJDEP Permit under

separate contract to Allied Biological. The Board treated 37 acres of the lake with herbicide while the LMCA funded approximately 12,000 feet or approximately 60% of the shoreline. Certain areas of Arbolino Bay and Byram Bay required a second herbicide treatment.

See *Appendix A* for a breakdown of the costs associated with the 2010 herbicide treatment and Harvesting Costs.

See *Appendix B* for a paper from Allied Biological describing the treatment and the results of the 2010 herbicide treatment.

Arrangements were made for disposal of the weeds at a State owned site on Route 517 in Allamuchy Township at no cost to the Board other than the cost of transporting the weeds to this site. The Morris County MUA provided the Board with use of their roll off and assisted the lake management program with pick-up two days per week.

In an attempt to freeze the water chestnut and prevent their re-growth in the shallow areas of the lake, the Board asked that the water level of the lake remain down throughout the winter months. The lake was lowered; however, due to the DEP following the new compressed schedule for the Lake Hopatcong drawdown and the above average rainfall in November and December the Board's efforts were negatively impacted. We will wait and see if keeping the lake at the lowered level throughout the winter months has had any noticeable impact on the water chestnut re-growth during the late spring of 2011.

The Board transferred ownership of our 15ft. boat and trailer to the Stanhope Volunteer Fire Department under an agreement that the boat and trailer will be used for rescue / water safety purposes. Buoys were donated to the Board by Navigation Aids of Forked River and will be placed in the Lake in 2011 under the agreement with the Stanhope Volunteer Fire Department to mark navigational hazards.

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 2010 was \$10,500. The LMRPB utilized funds received from the 319H 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.

Lake Management Plan: The Board is in the process of drafting a Lake Management Plan to address today's problems and the future of the lake with the ultimate goal being dredging the lake.

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 a year over a three year period. The work period under the grant agreement began July 21, 2008 and runs through July 20, 2011. The grant money will assist the Board to continue the weed harvesting program. The deliverables of this project are a reduced phosphorus load, a

reduction in bio mass and a healthier lake. In 2010 The LMRPB Removed 2,301,600 lbs of weeds (wet weight) which translates to 411 pounds of phosphorus.

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 2010. Princeton Hydro, LLC provided the Board with the final dredging plan in June and it was submitted to the NJ DEP. The Board requested from the State a no-cost extension of the grant period to June 30, 2011 to allow Princeton Hydro to complete all of the final required reports.

The Borough of Netcong has offered the services of their Borough Administrator, Ralph Blakeslee, to help the Board write grants. Mr. Blakeslee has significant experience in the art of grant administration.

Lake Awareness

Lake Awareness Day was held in conjunction with Stanhope's Spring Festival which was held on the scheduled Rain Date of June 27, 2010. 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. Many people approached the Board at the Stanhope Spring Festival to ask questions about the lake and to volunteer their help.

The annual fishing contest was held the morning of June 13, 2010 (the scheduled day of Stanhope's Spring Festival) with 71 children participating. Attendance at the fishing contest was much higher than previous years. Trophies and prizes were awarded to the participants. The Morris County Sportsmen Federation donated \$200.00 to cover expenses for this event. Due to poor weather conditions, the Board did not set up a table at Netcong Day which was held on September 12, 2010. Total Volunteer Hours for Lake Awareness: 35 hours, valued at \$875.00 (\$25.00 per hour per volunteer).

Clean the Lake Day

Clean the Lake Day was held on October 23, 2010. There were 12 volunteers including 3 SLAP participants and 1 officer assisting on the Morris County side of the lake present for 3 hours. Due to a scheduling conflict the Sussex County SLAP participated on November 9, 2010 with 8 volunteers and 2 officers assisting on the Sussex County side of the Lake for 4 hours. The volunteers collected a total of 50 pounds of garbage cut the phragmites behind and around the maintenance shed.

Total Volunteer Hours for Clean the Lake Day: 59 hours and value of in-kind services for Clean the Lake Day is \$1,475.00 (\$25.00 per hour per volunteer).

Annual Budget

The annual budget has remained stable for 17 years. 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:

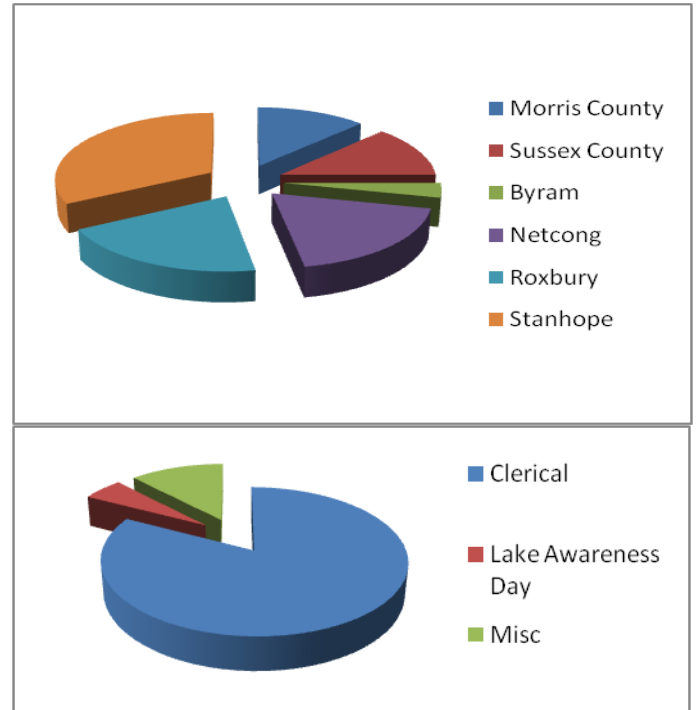
<u>Percent of Shoreline</u>	
Byram	3.525%
Netcong	8.675%
Roxbury	20.1 %
Stanhope	32.7 %
Morris County	12.5 %
Sussex County	12.5 %

The total Budget vs. Actual for 2010 follows:

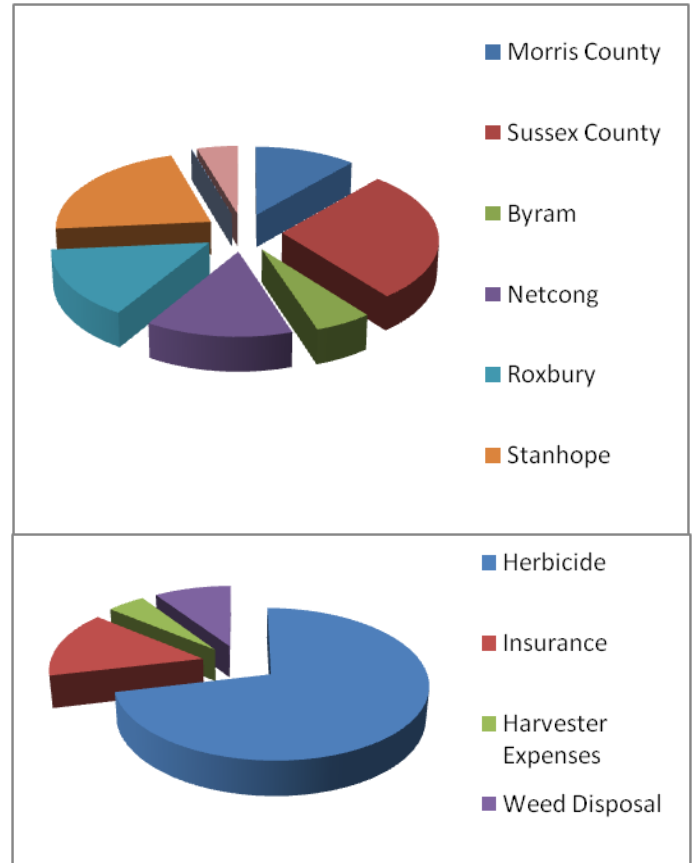
Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board 2010 Budget vs. Actual

Operating	2010 Budgeted	2010 Actual
Income		
Morris County	\$ 900.00	\$ 900.00
Sussex County	\$ 900.00	\$ 900.00
Byram	\$ 253.80	\$ 253.80
Netcong	\$ 1,344.60	\$ 1,344.60
Roxbury	\$ 1,447.20	\$ 1,447.20
Stanhope	\$ 2,354.40	\$ 2,354.40
	\$ 7,200.00	\$ 7,200.00
Expense		
Clerical	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
Lake Awareness Day	\$ 353.52	\$ 382.11
Misc	\$ 300.00	\$ 875.51
Legal	\$ 547.00	\$ -
	\$ 7,200.52	\$ 7,257.62

Actual



Lake Management	2010 Budgeted	2010 Actual
Income		
Morris County	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,655.00
Sussex County	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Byram	\$ 977.00	\$ 977.00
Netcong	\$ 2,493.00	\$ 2,493.00
Roxbury	\$ 2,635.00	\$ 2,635.00
Stanhope	\$ 3,895.00	\$ 3,895.00
Bank Interest	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00
Misc Contributions	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 827.00
	<u>\$ 21,010.00</u>	<u>\$ 18,092.00</u>
Expense		
Herbicide	\$ 23,375.00	\$ 22,890.00
Insurance	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 4,723.00
Harvester Expenses	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,492.00
Weed Disposal	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 3,000.00
	<u>\$ 33,875.00</u>	<u>\$ 32,105.00</u>
Summary		
Total Income	\$ 28,210.00	\$ 25,292.00
Total Expenses	\$ 41,075.52	\$ 39,362.62
Variance	\$ 12,865.52)	\$ (14,070.62)
Grant reimbursement	\$ 17,106.23	\$ 17,106.23
Net	<u>\$ 4,240.71</u>	<u>\$ 3,053.61</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 2010 the Board logged 672 volunteer hours, totaling an in-kind value of \$16,800.00. Since the year 1995, the total volunteer hours logged to date are 19,804 hours.

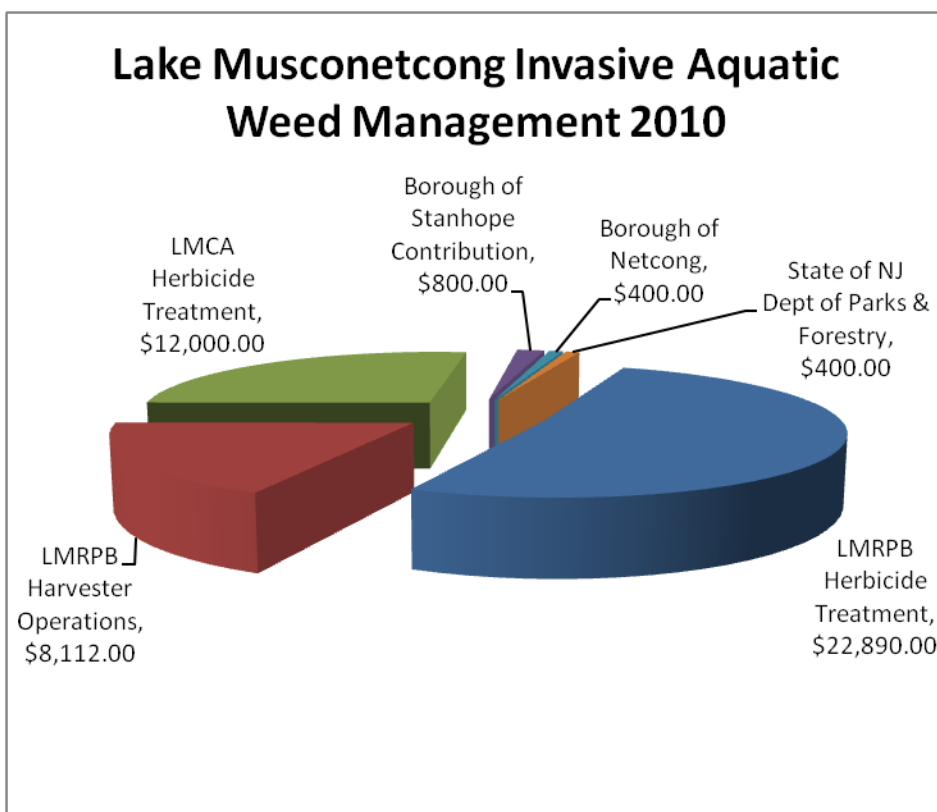
GRANTS RECEIPTS

State three-year harvesting grant (Totaling \$45,000 over three years)

Payment #1 received in 2009:	\$20,640.36
Payment #2 received in 2010:	\$17,106.23

Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board Invasive Aquatic Weed Management 2010

<i>LMRPB Herbicide Treatment</i>	\$ 22,890.00
<i>LMRPB Harvester Operations</i>	\$ 8,112.00
<i>LMCA Herbicide Treatment</i>	\$ 12,000.00
<i>Borough of Stanhope Contribution</i>	\$ 800.00
<i>Borough of Netcong</i>	\$ 400.00
<i>State of NJ Dept of Parks & Forestry</i>	\$ 400.00
	\$ 44,602.00



<i>Volunteer Hours (Harvester Only)</i>	312
<i>Harvester Loads Removed</i>	137
<i>Cubic Yards of weed Removed</i>	4,110
<i>Pounds of weed Removed (wet weight)</i>	2,301,600
<i>Phosphorus Removed (pounds)</i>	411