

**Lake Hopatcong Commission**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes – August 13th, 2018**  
**Mt. Arlington Civic Center, Mt. Arlington NJ**

**I. Opening of Meeting/Open Public Meeting Statement**

- a. In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, The Lake Hopatcong Commission has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time, and place thereof delivered or mailed or electronically mailed to the following:

*DAILY RECORD* and posted on the Lake Hopatcong Commission website (lakehopatcong.org)

**II. Salute to the Flag and Moment of Silence**

**III. Roll Call**

Present: Mark Crowley, Daniel McCarthy (arrived late), Joel Servoss, Fred Steinbaum, Todd Stevens, Robert Tessier, Ronald Smith  
 Absent: David Jarvis, Mark Fisch, Anne Seibert-Pravs, Joshua Osowski  
 Alternates Present: Eric Wilsusen, Aitor Ostolaza, Melissa Castellon  
 With eight members present, Chairman Smith declared a quorum.

**IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Chair Smith entertains a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion to approve the minutes and Alternate Commissioner Wisusen seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Tessier	Abstain
McCarthy	NA	Smith	Yes
Servoss	Abstain	Wilsusen	Yes
Steinbaum	Yes	Ostolaza	Yes
Stevens	Yes		

The motion passes 6-0-2 with two abstentions.

**V. Treasurer’s Report**

Chair Smith entertains a motion to approve the List of Bills as included in the Commissioner’s Packet. Commissioner Tessier makes a motion to approve the list of bills, Alternate Commissioner Wilsusen seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Tessier	Yes
McCarthy	NA	Smith	Yes
Servoss	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes

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Steinbaum	Yes	Ostolaza	Yes
Stevens	Yes		

The motion passes unanimously.

**VI. Correspondence**

Chair Smith asks Colleen Conover about Commission correspondence. Ms. Conover responds that the only correspondence was related to land use applications from the four townships.

**VII. Lake Hopatcong Foundation Updates**

Jessica Murphy presents an update for the Lake Hopatcong Foundation. Ms. Murphy presents copies of focus group feedback packets that she discussed at the August monthly meeting. She states that the feedback is from recreational users of the lake, and not the opinions of the Foundation or its employees. She states that the Lake-wide Cleanup will be held on November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2018. The Foundation hopes to be in the train station by the end of September

Commissioner McCarthy arrives at 7:10pm.

**VIII. Princeton Hydro Updates**

Colleen Conover states that Princeton Hydro was not able to attend the meeting, but Dr. Fred Lubnow did send an update. She reads from his update;

1. Princeton Hydro conducted the first set of cyanotoxin testing at the lake on 24th of July 2018. All tests from all 10 sampling locations were below the draft US EPA criteria for microcystins and cylindrospermopsin.
2. Depending on weather conditions, Princeton Hydro are tentatively planning to conduct the second cyanotoxin testing tomorrow.
3. Princeton Hydro conducted their aquatic plant survey on the 1st of August 2018. He will forward the report to the Commission (need to make up some site location maps identifying all 20 surveyed locations) and will provide a verbal report at the September meeting.
4. Princeton Hydro will provide the mid-year water quality report during the September meeting.
5. Princeton Hydro has initiated collecting data from the municipalities and Counties for the revised Watershed Implementation Plan.

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**IX. Commissioner Comments**

No comments from the Commissioners.

**X. Comments from the Audience (*on agenda items only, if applicable*)**

No comments from the Audience.

**XI. Chairman's Report**

Chair Smith states that he and Ms. Conover will be meeting with the Highlands Coalition. They are looking for input from the Commission, and he will report more after the meeting. He states that the Commission will be audited for FY18 due to total expenditure of \$100,000 of government funding. Ms. Conover is compiling the necessary documents for the audit.

**XII. Updates**

**Water Level Update**

Alternate Commissioner Castellon gives an update from the NJDEP. She states that the water is currently over the dam. She states that last week there was a wake restriction due to the high-water level. Commissioner Steinbaum asks if there is a notification system when there is a wake restriction. Ms. Castellon states that the NJ State Police contacted her to let her know that they would be out enforcing the wake restriction, but she does not have a notification system. Ms. Murphy states that USGS.com does have a notification system that people can sign up for. Commissioner Steinbaum states that when he went to Lee's Park they were unaware of the wake restriction. He states that Lee's Park is where the highest number of boats enter the lake through their boat ramps. Ms. Castellon states that in the future there will be a govdelivery email system for alerts from Lake Hopatcong. However, people would have to sign up for it. Commissioner McCarthy states that the Hopatcong notification system could be used to deliver messages to Hopatcong residents.

**State Park Weed Harvesting Update**

Alternate Commissioner Castellon states that there are 2 large harvesters, 1 shore conveyor, 2 dump trucks, and one pick up at Lee's County/Crescent Cove. There are 2 large harvesters and one small harvester at East Shore Estates, and one shore conveyor at Ashley Cove/Woodport. She states that one of the dump trucks was down for a couple weeks, but is back now. They are harvesting in Brady channel, Prospect Point, Raccoon Island, Halsey Island, East of Brady Bridge and Benedict Cove. They will not return to Crescent Cove because they focused a lot of attention there early in the season. She states that the harvesters will be pulled off of the lake at the end of September or early October. Commissioner Steinbaum asks Ms. Castellon for a comparison between last year and this year. She states that less weeds have been harvested, and this may be a result of there being less weeds due to high

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water. She states that there were 2,542 cy harvested this year compared to about 4,000 cy last year. Commissioner Steinbaum states that it is the best year for weeds in a long time. Ms. Murphy states that at the shore there are flags that indicate conditions at the beach. She states that the marinas could provide notification with flags for wake restrictions. Commissioner McCarthy states that in the past there were discussions of a buoy system for notifications, but there was an issue of funding and man power. Commissioner Steinbaum states that except for private homeowners, marinas have one on one contact with the people who launch boats into the lake. An member of the public suggests that gas stations and marinas should have a way to post announcements. Commissioner Tessier encourages the marinas to sign up for the USGS.com lake level notification.

**Five Year Drawdown – Stormwater Maintenance Permit**

Chair Smith asks Alternate Commissioner Castellon if there is anything new to report on the drawdown. She states that the drawdown will start on or soon after September 22<sup>nd</sup>. She states that she has been working with Ms. Conover on a lake-wide stormwater outfall clean out permit

**Recalibration of Gauges – USGS**

Alternate Commissioner Castellon states that she has contacted the person at USGS who is responsible for the USGS gauge reading calibration. She states that the reading fluctuates based on what is in the area at the time. They took 8-10 readings before they made the decision to change the flow. She states that USGS will be sending documentation for the process.

**NJDEP Updates - Budget**

Alternate Commissioner Castellon asks Ms. Conover if the Commission is requesting additional information after she sent the budget breakdown. Ms. Conover states that it is her understanding that the Commission would like to see a very detailed breakdown of previous year's budgets so that they could see why there was an increase from \$355K to \$435K in one year. She states that what the Commission received was a very basic breakdown of expenditures. Chair Smith states that he would like a breakdown of the benefits. Ms. Castellon introduces Marlen Dooley who works in Natural and Historic Resources in the Assistant Commissioners office in Trenton. Ms. Dooley states that she has been working with Joshua Osowski to review the MOA and presents a document to Chair Smith which details employee benefit expenditures. Ms. Conover asks Ms. Dooley if the Commission would be able to take advantage of the same government funding that the NJDEP used to cover fringe benefits in the past. Ms. Dooley indicates that she does not know. Chair Smith requests information on the employer share of the pension, employer share of FICA, and the medical insurance premiums for full-time employees.

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**Alternate Appointments – Sussex County**

Colleen Conover received a response from the Sussex County Board of Chosen Freeholders and they are working on finding an alternate for Commissioner Ser-voss.

**Ice Retardant System Committee Updates**

Commissioner McCarthy states that the committee had a meeting with Jefferson Township Administrator James Leach. He states that they are familiar with the issue, one idea that was mentioned to gain compliance was to revise the uniform ordinance. In both the Hopatcong and Jefferson meetings the idea of registration for the devices was mentioned. He states that there would be no fee with the registration and there would be oversight with the zoning officers. The most important part is to push for education of residents. He states that if they change one ordinance they should change all of them and try to keep them as consistent as possible. Commissioner Crowley states that Roxbury just updated the ordinance last year. He asks who will pay for the registration and oversee the registration because it may cost the town extra money. Commissioner Tessier states that most registrations do charge a small fee so that it doesn't cost the township additional money. There is a general discussion of ice retardant system registration and outreach.

**Commission Boat**

Commissioner Steinbaum gives an update on the Commission boat. He states that he checked the boat over and did not notice any obvious problems. After the heavy rains, there were some issues with the bilge pumps, impellor, and batteries. He states that the total cost of boat repairs was \$1212.50. He states that the boat was moved to another slip at Lee's Park. Alternate Commissioner Castellon states that they have not been using the boat. Commissioner Steinbaum states that Mike Calderio has been using the boat.

**Accounting updates**

Commissioner Stevens gives an update on the accounting. He states that with his help Ms. Conover has been working on Quickbooks. He states that he is looking for input on what reports the Commission is interested in. Chair Smith states that he wants to get the audit done.

**FY 2019 Budget**

Commissioner Steinbaum presents a preliminary budget for FY19. He states that the budget total is 500K directly from the legislature as well as 109K from the Highlands Council. The Highlands Council funding will pass through the Commission to Princeton Hydro for the WIP. He goes through the budget and states that there was a big saving in the rent and utilities and he thanks the NJDEP for the use of the building. He states that professional services are for the consultant who is

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acting as an administrator, and explains expenditures for consulting studies, weed control, and the Highlands Council Funding/Watershed Implementation Plan. No action is taken on the budget during the meeting.

**Notification Systems**

This was already covered earlier in the meeting.

**XIII. Action Items (Resolutions)**

Chair Smith introduces action items including the purchase of a projector. Ms. Conover states that the Commission has used the Foundation’s projector several times and feels that the Commission should purchase their own projector. She states that she also purchased a land use administration handbook as suggested by Commissioner Tessier. She states that she would like to place the Optimum bills on automatic payment. Commissioner Crowley makes a motion to approve the action items. Commissioner McCarthy seconds the motion.

Castellon	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Crowley	Yes	Tessier	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Servoss	Yes	Ostolaza	Yes
Steinbaum	Yes	Smith	Yes

**XIV. Public Comments** *(please refer to Section V “Public participation shall be governed by the following rules:”)*

August Wistner of Jefferson asks how the Commission proposes to enforce the ice retardant systems. He states that he uses a timer and thermometer and the wind will open the lake in front of his dock. Commissioner McCarthy states that there are several different devices and depending on the device they can keep water open for several hundred feet. He states that some people run devices that are more than they need or for longer than needed, but it can also depend on where you live. He states that he has also seen them running in the Spring on opening day of fishing season. He states that if someone is injured or falls in there are additional issues including lawsuits and insurance. He states that many of the issues can be address through public outreach. Commissioner McCarthy asks if zoning officers can enter a person’s property to inspect a system. There is a general discussion of the rules and ordinance.

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Mr. Moran from Landing asks the Commissioners to go over the dates for the 60” drawdown. Alternate Commissioner Castellon states that the drawdown will begin on or soon after September 22<sup>nd</sup> dependent on the lake level. Commissioner McCarthy states that the information is in the 2011 Water Level Management Plan on page 30. He states that it will drop 1.5 inches per day and should be fully lowered by November 4<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Mccarthy seconds the motion. The meeting is adjourned.

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