

**Lake Hopatcong Commission**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes – September 9th, 2019**  
**LHF Offices, 125 Landing Ln, Landing 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 (lakehopatcongcommission.org)

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

**III. Roll Call**

Present: Mark Crowley, Mark Fisch, Daniel McCarthy, Anne Seibert-Pravs, Joel Servoss, Fred Steinbaum, Todd Stevens, Robert Tessier, Ronald Smith

Absent: David Jarvis,

Alternates Present: Melissa Castellon, Eric Wilsusen, Neil Senatore, Tom Sellaro

With eleven members present, Chair Smith declares a quorum.

**IV. Executive Session**

Chair Smith states that they will hold an executive session at the end of the meeting.

**V. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

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

Roll Call:

Castellon	Abstain	Steinbaum	Yes
Crowley	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Fisch	Yes	Tessier	Yes
McCarthy	Abstain	Wilsusen	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Smith	Yes
Servoss	Yes		

The motion passes 9-0-2 (2 abstentions)

**VI. Treasurer's Report**

Commissioner Fisch states that the Commission did not receive their bank statement in time for the meeting. He states that there are ten bills outstanding, which total \$11,780.08. Commissioner Fisch states that the Commission has not received the funding disbursement for FY2020. Ms. Lyons states that they she has

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asked two people at DEP looking into the disbursement of funding and will report back when she hears something. Chair Smith states that the auditor is writing a letter on behalf of the Commission to request that the Commission receive the disbursement in full rather than having the DEP withhold funds for weed harvesting. Commissioner Tessier suggests that when a meal is submitted under the list of bills it should include a list of attendees and what the purpose of the meeting is, then the auditor will not ask questions at the end of the year. Chair Smith entertains a motion to approve the list of bills. Commissioner Wilsusen makes a motion to approve the list of bills, Commissioner McCarthy seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Castellon	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
Crowley	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Fisch	Yes	Tessier	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Smith	Yes
Servoss	Yes		

The motion passes unanimously.

**VII. Correspondence**

Colleen Lyons provides an update on correspondence and indicates all correspondence was sent to the Commissioners prior to the meeting for review.

**VIII. Lake Hopatcong Foundation Updates**

Marty Kane provides an update for the Foundation. He states that they have been assisting the Commission and Mayors in advocating for the lake. He states that Lee's park has hired an architectural firm and is looking to convert the building into a catering facility or a restaurant. He states that they would eventually move the metal building to another site at Lee's. He is unsure if this will affect the weed harvesting program. Mr. Kane states that the Foundation is working on getting the State Park fountain back up and running. The Lake Look is on October 13<sup>th</sup> at Hopatcong State Park. Water Scouts removed about 80 plants this year, they did not have the same level of participation this year partly due to the HAB. The plants were found mostly around Liffy Island, there were no new outbreaks and the canals and Landing Channel were negative.

**IX. Princeton Hydro Presentation**

Pat Rose of Princeton Hydro provides an update in Fred Lubnow's absence. He states that Princeton Hydro is finishing up the WIP and it will be presented at

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October meeting. A presentation will be made to the Highland's Council on September 27<sup>th</sup>. He states that the cyanotoxin report from August has been submitted. Toxins were below threshold but cell counts were above threshold. Water quality testing was completed last week and baseline sampling and results will be available in a week. There will be a memo submitted after results are received. Commissioner Tessier asks if they have quantified the sediment in the cove close to the quarry. Mr. Rose states that they have not, but plan on doing it in the future. He states that June had the highest phosphorus for the season and they believe this was due to above average rainfall washing the watershed nutrients into the water. He states that a representative from Princeton Hydro will attend the mayors meeting tomorrow. Princeton Hydro is also working on a white paper to submit to NJDEP on behalf of the lakes meeting group and will include recommendations on HAB advisory guidance. Commissioner McCarthy asks about the white paper. Mr. Kane states that the idea is to get the lakes together to discuss how the HAB crisis has been handled and what could be improved upon in terms of communication. There is a general discussion of the 2019 HAB response.

**X. Chairman's Report**

Chair Smith states that legislation has been presented and as a result Commissioner Steinbaum and Ms. Lyons have put together a draft budget to send to the legislature. He states that they have also revised a letter to the Governor which will be sent out soon. He states that the second vote for the adoption of the revised bylaws will be held tonight and this includes organization of Commission committees. He states that at the next meeting he would like to appoint the committees, so for those who have not responded yet please select the committees you would like to serve on. Commissioner Crowley asks if people from the community can serve on the committees. Commissioner Steinbaum states that only commissioners can serve on the standing committees, but community members can serve on ad hoc committees. Chair Smith states that he would like to hold a short executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss the responses to the Commission's RFP for legal services.

**XI. Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Pravs thanks Assemblywoman DeCroke for presenting two bills to the legislature, A-5062, and A-5763, which will hopefully establish funding for the Commission. Commissioner Crowley states that three months ago Lou Tarascio came to the Commission meeting and discussed nuisance dust on his property that comes from the Weldon Quarry's operations. He proposes that the Commission rent a TSI Dustrak for a week or two in hopes that the data will respond to the findings. He makes a motion to rent and run a Dustrak not to exceed \$750 for monitoring the area downwind of the quarry for nuisance dust. Commissioner Tessier seconds the motion.

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Crowley	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Fisch	Yes	Tessier	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Smith	Yes
Servoss	Yes		

The motion passes unanimously.

Commissioner Crowley states that we need to continue to work now through the Spring to portray the message that Lake Hopatcong is better now than it was this summer. He states that people are worried that people who had boats on Lake Hopatcong this year may not want to come back next year. Commissioner Tessier states that no one has quantified or has a plan to address the sediment in the cove. The focus is only on the stream. Commissioner Fisch states that NBC is supposed to air a story on Lake Hopatcong this Sunday between 7:30-9:00am. Commissioner Servoss states that he went on the Miss Lotta tour with the League of Conservation voters and he comments on the effectiveness of their handout on stormwater. He suggests that the handout could be made available to the community.

**XII. Updates**

**Weed Harvesting and Water Level**

Alternate Commissioner Castellon provides an update on the weed harvesting program. She states that there are two permanent employees on staff, one was out on medical leave due to an injury. She states that there is a seasonal crew of 3 full-time harvester operators, two part-time seasonal harvester operators and two full-time seasonal dump truck drivers. She states that four large harvesters and one small harvester are on the water. She states that samples were collected from the weeds and came back clean, so they have resumed taking weeds to the MUA on the 27<sup>th</sup>. She states that a contractor has been selected for repairs to the roof. They will start with the Commission office first and telecommunications has been notified to move the lines. Harvesters are at Crescent Cove and Bertrand's Island and Woodport. She states that they will return to coves between Bertrand's Island and the State Park. The current weed harvesting total is 881 cubic yards, compared to last year this is about one quarter of what was completed last year. This is partly due to the HAB and lake drawdown. Chair Smith asks about the small harvester. Alternate Commissioner Castellon states that the staff has not begun work on the small harvester. She states that monitoring of the HAB by DEP continues.

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**DEP Update**

Alternate Commissioner Castellon provides an update on the expenditure report that was sent by DEP. She states that about \$27,000 was unspent from the FY2019 budget, the Commission needs to decide how this money will be handled.

**CAC Meeting**

Alternate Commissioner Castellon states that she will be meeting with Josh this week and she will discuss the CAC meeting with him at that time.

**LHC/NJDEP MOU**

Alternate Commissioner Castellon states that a draft MOU was sent to the Commission today. Ms. Lyons states that the Commissioners should review the draft MOU, specifically the budget on the last page. The other issue that needs clarification is insurance of the equipment.

**WLMP Update**

Alternate Commissioner Castellon states that the CAC meeting needs to occur before the WLMP can be updated.

**Ice Retardant Systems Committee**

Commissioner McCarthy states that the committee got off track with the HAB, and they should meet to discuss next steps.

**XIII. New Items**

**NJDEP Lake Musconetcong Harvester Proposal**

Chair Smith introduces a proposal from DEP for one of the weed harvesters to be used on Lake Musconetcong. Alternate Commissioner Castellon states that the LMRPB responded to the Commission's concerns, and are willing to help defray the costs of the collaboration by contributing \$2,000 for payroll and fuel. The LMRPB volunteers will power wash the equipment used on Lake Musconetcong. LMRPB will have a volunteer on the harvester to direct around any hazards. Commissioner Steinbaum states that the LMRPB track record has not been good and if they want to go in good faith they should have the damaged harvester repaired. He states that he recommends that all of the harvesters should be used on Lake Hopatcong. Commissioner Stevens states that the issue is money, the Commission could sell them the broken-down harvester. Commissioner Crowley states that he is also on the LMRPB and they have an annual budget of \$25,000. He states that they are a part of the watershed, and anything the LHC can do to help is positive. Commissioner Tessier states that the LHC should work to find something that is mutually beneficial. Commissioner Fisch states that if they are willing to pay for the harvester that is not working, then the Commission can loan it back to them. Commissioner McCarthy asks what the perception is when we

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need additional harvesting on Lake Hopatcong and a harvester is sent to Lake Musconetcong. Commissioner Servoss asks if there is a possibility for the Commission to use the LMRPB hydrorake on Lake Hopatcong. Dave Geodick of Lake's End Marina comments on the past use of a hydrorake near the marina. Commissioner Wilsusen states that Lake Hopatcong has its own needs and should focus on those needs. Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion to reject the proposal the way that it is currently written. Commissioner Fisch seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Castellon	Abstain	Steinbaum	Yes
Crowley	Abstain	Stevens	Abstain
Fisch	Yes	Tessier	Abstain
McCarthy	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Smith	Yes
Servoss	Yes		

The motion passes 7-0-4 (four abstentions).

**XIV. Public Comments**

John Kurzman comments on the effectiveness of a hydrorake, and thinks that a trade could be beneficial between the Commission and the LMRPB. He states that the original purpose of the Commission boat was to survey where weeds needed to be harvested. He states that the DEP should provide results of the testing that was done after the discharge.

Dennis Moran states that there are weeds that need to be harvested in Landing.

Norman Shaprin states that algae can be treated with alum and hydroxide.

Barbara Loring states that Senator Pennachio was denied an OPRA request on HAB correspondence. She states that the DEP should provide the documents to Senator Pennachio. She states that if the Commission receives funding, the DEP should not be able to control it.

John MacKenzie states that he moved to the lake in 2015. He acknowledges the Commissioners who initiate action and he would like to volunteer time to help. He asks the DEP why the areas that have been tested and reopened have not been retested. Alternate Commissioner Castellon states that the DEP responds to new reports and monitors areas that are known to be affected by the HAB. She states that there have not been any new reports so they do not monitor the areas where the advisory was lifted.

**XV. Action Items (Resolutions)**

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Chair Smith introduces the second vote on the Commission's updated bylaws. Commissioner Tessier states that on page 11, the agenda should be changed. Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion to adopt the updated bylaws. Commissioner McCarthy seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Castellon	Abstain	Steinbaum	Yes
Crowley	Yes	Stevens	Abstain
Fisch	Yes	Tessier	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Smith	Yes
Servoss	Yes		

The motion passes 9-0-2 (two abstentions)

**XVI.** Close of Meeting

Chairman Smith entertains a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Servoss makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Fisch seconds the motion. The meeting is adjourned.

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