

**Lake Hopatcong Commission**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes –December 12, 2022**  
**125 Landing Rd, Landing NJ 07850**

**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 the NEW JERSEY HERALD* 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, Anne Seibert-Pravs, Neil Senatore, Fred Steinbaum, Todd Stevens, Robert Tessier, Ronald Smith

Absent: Ryan Gilfillan, Bill Hirschfeld, Bradley Hoferkamp, Steven Levinson, Daniel McCarthy, Joshua Osowski, Shawn Pottillo, Eric Wilsusen,

Alternates Present: Laura Franek, Karen Porfido, Thomas Sellaro

With ten members present, Chair Smith declares a quorum.

**IV. Executive Session**

Chair Smith states there is no need for an executive session.

**V. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Chair Smith entertains a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Tessier makes a motion to approve the minutes, Commissioner Steinbaum seconds the motion. Mrs. Lyons states that Commissioner Steinbaum asked for an update to the committee section of the minutes to show the Board requests the full financials in every meeting packet.

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
Franek	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Sellaro	Abstain	Smith	Yes
Senatore	Abstain		

The motion passes 7-2-0 (2 Abstentions)

**VI. Treasurer's Report**

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Commissioner Stevens provides a review of the list of bills. He reviews the expenses and states that the balance is \$517,204. He states the Commission received the second quarter statutory payment. The total is \$123,805 due to the deduction for fuel for the Weed Harvesting Program. Chair Smith entertains a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Commissioner Pravs makes a motion, Commissioner Crowley seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
Franek	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Sellaro	Yes	Smith	Yes
Senatore	Yes		

The motion passes unanimously.

**VII. Correspondence**

Colleen Lyons provides an update on the Commission correspondence. She states that land use applications are available on the Commission’s OneDrive. The commissioners also received a monthly land use report from the planner summarizing applications around the lake.

The Commission received an update on lakefront dilapidated structures for Roxbury Township from Alternate Commissioner Potillo. She states that the Commission also received a letter from the Musconetcong Watershed Association regarding the 2020 319 Grant Awards from NJDEP. MWA is requesting the Commission review the letter and consider signing on. She provides an overview of the letter and requests and comments or concerns by the end of the week.

**VIII. Chairman’s Report**

Chairman Smith states that the Commission received their quarterly statutory funding and also a grant from the state for \$1 million. He thanks Senator Bucco for his efforts to secure the Commission’s statutory funding and Lake’s Funding. Commissioner Steinbaum asks about whether there have been any updates about the Quarry Settlement. There is a general discussion and Chair Smith requests that Mrs. Lyons contact the attorney for an update.

**IX. LHC Commissioner’s Comments**

Commissioner Crowley states that he alerted the Council to the upcoming ice retardant system ordinance.

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**X. Administrator’s Update**

Colleen Lyons provides an update on her activities. She states that the Professional Liability quote increased \$50 between 2022 and 2023. The aeration systems were winterized on Thursday December 8<sup>th</sup>. She states that they will be meeting with NJDEP Commissioner LaTourette later this month. She also attended an end of season meeting with police at the end of November. She states that they reviewed the past season. She states that NJSP are working on a updated rental boat safety program and will be compiling videos for lake’s groups to share online. She states that they will also present 7-11-year-old ice safety program in the schools and there is a free PFD program available for kids. Mrs. Lyons will forward information on the program. Lastly, they mentioned that there is going to be a PFD rule update requiring that they be work from November 1<sup>st</sup> – May 1<sup>st</sup> when operating a vessel on the water or ice. She states the HABs grant is closing and we are waiting to hear back on approvals for submitted quarterly reports. She states that she also put out a press release and shared news on Facebook about the award of \$1 million in state grants.

**XI. Weed Harvesting Report**

Michael Calderio provides an update on weed harvesting activities. He states that the machines are being taken apart and he is getting quotes for repairing the harvester that was in the accident. Commissioner Tessier asks if there are any backordered goods. Mr. Calderio states that there are delays, he will have an parts list ready to order by the end of January.

**XII. Goose Management Committee**

Alternate Commissioner Porfido introduces April Simnor from the US Department of Agriculture to address the Commission’s questions on goose management. There is a general discussion of a goose management program. The Board agrees to move the discussion to committee and Commissioner Tessier and Alternate Commissioner Franek will join the committee discussion. The committee will present a proposal at the next monthly meeting.

**XIII. Lake Hopatcong Foundation Updates**

Kyle Richter provides an update on Foundation activities. Mr. Richter states that the Foundation has been working on house boat and noise ordinances for presentation to the municipalities. He states that he has been working with Kelly Ann Keyes on a shrink wrap recycling program for the lake. On Wednesday the Foundation is meeting with Congressman-elect Kean to brief him on lake activities. He states that Morris County Parks receive \$700,000 pervious pavement and stormwater mitigation Mount Arlington \$36,000 for a rain garden program.

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**XIV. Princeton Hydro Updates**

Dr. Fred Lubnow provides an update on water quality monitoring and cyanotoxin monitoring. He states that they also completed activities related to the HAB grant but need to complete the addendum to the final report. He states they completed the internal load assessment and are working to complete the other projects associated with the 319 grants. He states that the Mount Arlington Beach Restoration Plan was completed and sent to Mount Arlington, they have also provided data to the Highlands Council on the Trout Study. He states that the scope of work for the Lake Restoration Grant. The Commission originally requested \$1,030,000 but were only awarded \$1 million. He states that the projects included under the grant are nutrient inactivation of the internal phosphorus load (alum), stormwater outfall maintenance sediment removal, and two years of biochar installations around the lake. He states that Princeton Hydro is also working on a scope of work for dredging Landing Channel and has submitted documentation to Roxbury. They are also working with the municipalities on an economic study through Jefferson Township and are in the beginning stages of an aeration feasibility study.

Dr. Lubnow provides an overview of water quality data. He states the water temperatures are continuing to increase year-to-year. He states that July 2022 was the fourth warmest on the record. 2018 was a cool year, but has been warm since. He shows the loss of dissolved oxygen in the deepest parts of the lake. He states that the loss of dissolved oxygen allows nutrients to come up from the sediments and can fuel algae blooms on the lake. He states that there has been a reduction in surface water phosphorus concentrations through recent projects, however there has been an increase in deep water phosphorus concentrations due to increased water temperatures from climate change. He states that the anoxic (no oxygen) concentrations are sustained for longer periods of time because water temperatures have increased and the lake stratifies earlier in the season and remains stratified longer into the fall. During the extended stratification the sediments leach additional nutrients into the water column that can sustain cyanobacteria. He states that prior to 2019 the mid-lake secchi was at or greater than two meters. Since the 2019 HAB water clarity has gone down. In the northern end of the lake Princeton Hydro noticed high phosphorus and photosynthesis from algae growth. He states that there were not cyanotoxins although there were cyanobacteria present in the lake. He states that the nearshore aeration systems also helped to control cyanobacteria within the zone of influence. Dr. Lubnow reviews changes to the 2023 water quality and cyanotoxin monitoring programs.

**XV. Updates**

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**State Park Updates**

Alternate Commissioner Franek states that water level is at 7.38 feet and outflow is 119cfs. The lake should reach 7.17 feet on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

**CAC Meeting**

Alternate Commissioner Franek states that due to the holidays the committee will reconvene in January.

**Committee Updates**

**Land Use Committee Update**

Chair Tessier provides an overview of land use applications in the watershed over the past month.

**Budget**

Chair Steinbaum provides an overview of financial statements. He states that the committee will be meeting to discuss the FY24 budget.

**Finance**

Chair Stevens has no updates.

**Bylaws**

Chair Crowley has no updates.

**Planning**

Chair McCarthy is not present and has no new updates.

**Public Outreach**

Chair Pravs has no updates.

**Weed Harvesting**

This update was provided earlier in the meeting.

**Ice Retardant**

Chair McCarthy provided a written update in his absence. He hopes that the Commission will be ready to discuss the proposed ice retardant ordinance at the January meeting.

**Ad-Hoc Trout Stocking**

Chair McCarthy provided a written update in his absence. The committee met and heard preliminary results from Princeton Hydro. The tentative stocking date is

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Saturday March 25, 2023. The next committee meeting will be on January 18, 2023.

**Ad Hoc Goose Management**

Chair Porfido provided an update earlier in the meeting.

**XVI. New Items**

Proposed 2023 Meeting Dates

Proposed 2023 meeting dates were provided in the monthly meeting packet. Mrs. Lyons asks the commissioners to review the dates prior to approval at next month's meeting.

Professional Liability Insurance

Covered earlier in the meeting.

**XVII. Public Comments**

Tim Clancy, Jefferson Township – states that there will be a slight increase in cost for trout stocking. He states that the increase will be \$900 split over three organizations. He asks if the pilot program for 22” drawdown is now permanent. Alternate Commissioner Franek states that the pilot program has not been made permanent. Mr. Clancy states that the goose management program should include ad-dling before any additional action is taken.

Marty Kane – states that the goose committee should speak with Greenwood Lake and Picatinny Arsenal. He states that the \$90 million for sewers in Jefferson is in the Water Resource Development Act. Senator Bucco is drafting legislation for a 2023 Lake's Funding Bill.

**XVIII. Action Items**

RES – 22-14 Employment Agreement – Maintenance Supervisor

Chair Smith entertains a motion to approve Resolution 22-14 the employment agreement for the position of Maintenance Supervisor. Commissioner Steinbaum makes a motion, Commissioner Tessier seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
Franek	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Sellaro	Yes	Smith	Yes
Senatore	Yes		

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The motion passes unanimously.

**XIX. Close of Meeting**

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

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