

Lake Hopatcong Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – September 9, 2024
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, Bradley Hoferkamp, Daniel McCarthy, Blanca Chevrestt, Neil Senatore, Ronald Smith, Fred Steinbaum, Todd Stevens, Robert Tessier (7:10pm), Eric Wilsusen
Absent: Ryan Gilfillan, Anne Seibert-Pravs, Karen Porfido
Alternates Present: Marie Galate, Steven Levinson, Shawn Potillo, Thomas Sellaro
With ten members present, Chair Smith declares a quorum.

IV. Executive Session

No executive session was held.

V. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chair Smith entertains a motion to approve the August minutes. Commissioner Wilsusen makes a motion to approve the minutes, Commissioner McCarthy seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Potillo	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
Chevrestt	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Hoferkamp	Yes	Tessier	NA
McCarthy	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Senatore	Yes	Smith	Yes

The motion passes unanimously (9-0-0).

VI. Treasurer’s Report

Commissioner Stevens provides the Treasurer’s report. He states that the Commission started the month with \$308,602. He states that the first quarter statutory payment from NJDEP. He reviews payroll expenses, Princeton Hydro invoices, and grant expenses. Chair Smith entertains a motion to approve the

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Treasurer’s Report. Commissioner Hoferkamp makes a motion. Commissioner Steinbaum seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
Chevrestt	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Hoferkamp	Yes	Tessier	NA
McCarthy	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Senatore	Yes	Smith	Yes

The motion passes unanimously (9-0-0).

VII. Correspondence

Mrs. Lyons states that the Commission received land use applications which are available on the Commission OneDrive account. She states that the Commission received the Planner’s monthly report, Princeton Hydro’s monthly report, and Princeton Hydro’s August Cyanotoxin Memo. They also received Beth Shustin’s Conduct on Lake Hopatcong Letter read at last month’s meeting, and an email from John Kurzman on his comments to the NJDEP Water Level Management Plan.

VIII. Chairman’s Report

Chair Smith states that he would like to hold a meeting of the Personnel Committee to discuss CDL training for weed harvesting employees and will make a recommendation to the full Commission at the October meeting.

IX. LHC Commissioner’s Comments

Commissioner Hoferkamp thanks Princeton Hydro and Mrs. Lyons for their work on the NFWF Grant for Witten Park. Commissioner Wilsusen states that he and other lake mayors met with NJDEP Commissioner LaTourette, NJ State Police Colonel Callahan, and Governor Murphy for their annual meeting. He states that he also met with the Army Corps of Engineers to discuss the sewer project. They plan to hire an outside consultant.

X. Administrator’s Update

Mrs. Lyons provides an update. She states that she Kyle Richter, Marty Kane, and Fred Lubnow attended the Highlands Council 20th Anniversary. Materials for the event were developed by the Foundation. Mrs. Lyons states that all closeout documentation for the HAB Grant will be submitted by the end of the week. NJDEP requested additional documentation for the 319 Grant reimbursement

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request. The information has been provided and is under review. She states that the Glen Brook and Musconetcong River Projects were combined into one planting project. The project was advertised and will be awarded at the October Meeting. Bids are due on October 8th. Mrs. Lyons states that The Commission received \$350,000 under the 2024 NFWF Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund to implement the Witten Park regenerative stormwater conveyance. She states that the Alum Treatment of Lake Hopatcong Project was bid under the threshold and a resolution to increase in the dosage rate for the treatment will be considered by the Commission tonight.

XI. Weed Harvesting Report

Mr. Calderio states that harvesting concluded last Friday. The machines are at the state park and will be transported to the Franklin Building. Commissioner McCarthy asks about repairs to the equipment. Mr. Calderio states that after getting the machines out of the water the repairs look minor, but they need to assess them at the Franklin Building.

XII. Lake Hopatcong Foundation Updates

Kyle Richter, Executive Director of the Lake Hopatcong Foundation provides an update on Foundation activities. He states that they are working with Princeton Hydro on the Lakeside Fields bioretention project. The Lake Loop is on October 6th. The Foundation is also working with Princeton Hydro on a grant from NJ Audubon for early detection of invasive species. Marty Kane provides an update. He states that the Foundation hosted Senator Cory Booker on the Floating Classroom. He states that the legislature will re-engage in October on Lakes Funding. He states that the Fountain at Hopatcong State Park has been turned back on. On October 8th there will be a meeting to discuss other projects in the park. Commissioner McCarthy asks if the new high school field trip curriculum includes the local schools. Mr. Richter states that it includes all local schools.

Princeton Hydro Updates

Fred Lubnow of Princeton Hydro provides an update on their activities. He states that the August water quality event was completed on August 6th. He states that the cyanotoxin monitoring event was held on August 20th. Princeton Hydro submitted responses to comments provided by Roxbury Township on the Landing Channel Engineering Report. They continued to conduct trout habitat monitoring in July and August. Dr. Lubnow states that Princeton Hydro continues their work on the NJ Highlands Council aeration grant through Morris County, as well as the National Fish and Wildlife Grant and Lakes Restoration Grant. Princeton Hydro initiated work on the NJDEP Stormwater Management Grant awarded to the Foundation for

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a Bioretention System in Jefferson and on the NJ Audubon Grant for early detection of aquatic invasive species also awarded to the Foundation.

XIII. Updates

State Park Updates

Commissioner Chevrestt states that the water level is 8.96 feet.

CAC Meeting

Commissioner Chevrestt states that she does not have any new information on the Water Level Management Plan, but NJDEP is currently reviewing comments. Commissioner Steinbaum asks when the Commission will take over the Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC). Commissioner Chevrestt states once the NJDEP has finished their review.

Committee Updates

Land Use Committee Update

Committee Chair Tessier provides an overview of the planner's monthly report. He states that there is also a new contract for consideration from the Planner, Russell Stern.

Budget

Commissioner Steinbaum provides an overview of the financial reports included in the meeting packet. He states that the fiscal year is approximately 16% complete.

Finance

No update.

Bylaws

No update.

Planning

No updates.

Public Outreach

No update.

Ad-Hoc Ice Retardant

Committee Chair McCarthy states that the ordinance was submitted to the municipalities, and they are waiting for feedback. Commissioner Wilsusen states that he will check with Jefferson's administrator.

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Ad-Hoc Boating Safety

Commissioner Steinbaum comments on recent activities on the lake. He states that a recent parade included a lot of boats and may not have had a permit. He plans to discuss this at the next committee meeting. He states tha the committee will also respond to Beth Schustin’s letter and Carole Sovocool’s letter as well as review personal buoys on the lake.

Ad-Hoc Trout Habitat

Committee Chair McCarthy states that the committee and Princeton Hydro are seeking grant funding to continue monitoring.

Ad Hoc Goose Management

Commissioner Tessier states that the committee met with USDA. He states that they addled 112 eggs from 24 nests in 2024, which is less than in 2023. He states that they have requested pricing for addling and molt capture for 2025.

XIV. New Items

CDL Training for Weed Harvesting Program staff. Chair Smith addressed this topic earlier in the meeting.

XV. Public Comments

Sam DeAlba, Lake Hopatcong states that he sent comments to NJDEP on the WLMP but received no confirmation.

John Kurzman, Lake Hopatcong states that after the five-year drawdown the lake has less weeds. He comments on the Water Level Management Plan and his comments to NJDEP.

XVI. Action Items

Chair Smith introduces Resolutions 24-18, 24-19, and 24-20. He suggests the resolutions be voted on separately.

Commissioner Wilsusen makes a motion on RES 24-18 Alum Treatment of Lake Hopatcong Change Order; Commissioner McCarthy seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
Chevrestt	Abstain	Stevens	Yes
Hoferkamp	Yes	Tessier	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes

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Senatore	Yes	Smith	Yes
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The motion passes 9-0-1 (one abstention).

Commissioner Wilsusen makes a motion on RES 24-19 Adoption of the LHC Employee Handbook, Commissioner McCarthy seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
Chevrestt	Yes	Stevens	Yes
Hoferkamp	Yes	Tessier	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Senatore	Yes	Smith	Yes

The motion passes unanimously (10-0-0).

Commissioner Wilsusen makes a motion on RES 24-20 Planning Professional Contract; Commissioner McCarthy seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
Chevrestt	Abstain	Stevens	Yes
Hoferkamp	Yes	Tessier	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Senatore	Yes	Smith	Yes

The motion passes 9-0-1 (one abstention).

XVII. Close of Meeting

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

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