

**Lake Hopatcong Commission**  
**Regular Meeting Agenda – January 22, 2018**  
**Jefferson Board of Education, Jefferson**

**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, Mark Fisch, Daniel McCarthy, Joshua Osowski, Anne Seibert-Pravs, Fred Steinbaum, Todd Stevens, Robert Tessier, Ronald Smith

Absent: Joel Servoss, David Jarvis

Alternates Present: Eric Wilsusen

With ten members present, Chairman Smith declared a quorum.

**IV. Executive Session**

Chairman Smith welcomes newly appointed Commissioner Todd Stevens. He then asks that the Commission go to executive session for discussion of the contract to Colleen L. Conover LLC, and the budget of the Commission. Commissioner Fisch moves the Commission enter executive session, Commissioner Tessier seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
Fisch	Yes	Stevens	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Osowski	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Smith	Yes

The motion passes unanimously.

Chair Smith calls the meeting back to order after a brief executive session.

**V. Minutes of Meetings**

Commissioner Steinbaum moves to approve the minutes, Commissioner Crowley seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
Fisch	Yes	Stevens	Abstain
McCarthy	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Osowski	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Smith	Yes

The motion carries 9-0-1 (1 abstentions)

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**VI. LHC Commissioners’ Comments**

Commissioner McCarthy states that if newly appointed Commissioner, Todd Stevens, were here there would be a full Commission of eleven held seats for the first time in years.

**VII. Treasurer’s Report**

Commissioner Fisch gives the Treasurer’s Report. He states that the Commission has consolidated to one account. He states that the balance is \$50,010.02. Chair Smith asks the amount of money that needs to be encumbered to receive the next disbursement according to the MOA. Colleen Conover responds that the Commission needs to spend \$50,000 to receive their next disbursement of \$65,000. Chair Smith asks that a letter be sent to NJDEP requesting the next disbursement.

**VIII. Correspondence**

There is no correspondence to report.

**IX. Lake Hopatcong Foundation**

Marty Kane invites everyone to the Foundation’s party at The Windlass on Sunday January 28<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm to thank everyone in the legislature, commission & community for their hard work to get the Lake Hopatcong Fund Bill passed. He states that the Foundation is planning a cleanup day for November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2018. However, if the Commission would rather conduct the clean-up or do something jointly the Foundation is happy to work with the Commission. The date will depend on the timing of the drawdown. He states that in order to get the proposed “quicker” schedule for the drawdown approved, the Commission/Foundation/CAC will have to formally approach NJDEP and there would be a public planning process. Commissioner Steinbaum states that recommendations were sent from both the Commission and CAC requesting a quicker drawdown. He also states that the last cleanup was held jointly between the LHF and LHC and it worked well. Marty mentions that there is a Musconetcong Watershed Cleanup day on April 14<sup>th</sup> 2018 at 9AM and the portion that Lake Hopatcong cleans up is at Hopatcong State Park. There is a picnic afterward in Asbury, NJ at the MWA office. He states that the Historic Preservation Bill passed the same day as the Lake Hopatcong Fund and so the money is available to finish the Train Station. The Foundation hopes to be in by late spring or early summer. Chair Smith thanks the Foundation for all of their support through the funding cycle.

**X. Commissioner’s Comments**

Commissioner Tessier states that now that the Commission has funding they need to plan out their next steps carefully. Commissioner Pravs states that she believes social media and online petitions helped get the message through to Trenton. No other Commissioner comments.

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

Mayor of Hopatcong Mike Francis comments that it is wonderful that the Commission is funded again. He has been working with the Lake Hopatcong Foundation to research the grass carp as an alternative to weed harvesting. They

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had a meeting at NJDEP and they are receptive to a pilot program if they can show engineering methodology to contain fish in the lake. He believes that they would be able to do this near the dam. He also mentions the \$200,000 planning grant through the Highlands Council. Chair Smith states that they met with the Highlands Council and are actively working to secure the funding. He also suggests that the Commission allow the State to continue doing the weed harvesting until they can work out the budgetary requirements of weed harvesting going forward. Chair Smith states that the State will be continuing the weed harvesting program through next year. Mayor Francis states that the alternate for Commissioner McCarthy has accepted the position so he will prepare a resolution to name Dave as an alternate.

Earl Riley of the Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board (LMRPB) congratulates the LHC on receiving funding. He then asks the Commission if they intend to loan the small 320 harvester this year. He states that they need to know this for their upcoming budget. Commissioner Steinbaum states that the LMRPB did not use the harvester last year. Mr. Riley states that they did use it sporadically. Chair Smith states that the LHC is entering into a new MOA with the NJDEP which will outline the use of all of the machines. He states that he expects to have an answer to Earl's question at the February meeting. Mr. Riley asks if the State will run the weed harvesting program this year. Chair Smith responds that the State will continue the program for this year because the Commission will not receive funds until July 2018 and weed harvesting needs to start in May 2018.

**XII. Chairman's Report**

Chair Smith thanks everyone for their support and hard work to get the Commission and Lake Hopatcong Funded.

**XIII. Princeton Hydro Contract/ WIP Update**

Dr. Fred Lubnow of Princeton Hydro gives an update on the watershed implementation plan (WIP) as it was presented to the Highlands Council. He states that they would like to do the WIP this year, and are open to conducting a hydrologic study as well. Dr. Lubnow states that he hopes to get the full proposal to the Commission and to the Council by the end of this week. Chair Smith states that the Commission would receive the money from the Council and then pay Princeton Hydro for their services.

**XIV. NJDEP Lake Hopatcong Fund Update**

Chair Smith introduces Kerry Kirk-Pflugh the Director of Local Government Assistance at NJDEP and former liaison from the Department to the Commission. She offers congratulations to the Commission on funding for the lake. She states that funding to Lake Hopatcong becomes effective on July 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 and the state park program is willing to continue the weed harvesting program at least for this season until the Commission makes decisions about how to move forward. She states that the Park Service and NJDEP is going to draft an MOA for the upcoming season. She states that the Department is available as a partner to the Commission and will continue to support the lake and work collaboratively on the best path forward. Chair Smith thanks Ms. Kirk-Pflugh for chairing the meeting on Friday

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and providing clear answers. Commissioner McCarthy states that the Commission is trying to maximize funding opportunities for the lake and requests her help in identifying grants and advice on moving forward.

**XV. Old Business**

**STATE PARK**

**Weed Harvesting Update**

Superintendent Melissa Castellon gives the weed harvesting update. She states that four large harvesters have been taken apart and some parts have been ordered. They are putting together part lists for the harvesters and another specific list for Aquarius. They are assessing what is needed for the conveyors. She states that the small harvester is also being disassembled and the goal is to have four large harvesters and one small harvester on the water. She states that they have received hydraulic oil, and all of the harvesters have been refilled with new oil. The dump trucks are scheduled for routine maintenance in the spring. Melissa gives the funding breakdown. She states that permanent salaries, overtime and seasonal salaries account for \$239,500 of the budget. Operating account for fuel, repairs, welding, parts, and maintenance of the Franklin Building account for \$115,500. The total budget is \$355,000. She states that they have spent \$81,000 to date on hydraulic oil, parts and an Aquarius order. There is \$33,000 remaining in the budget. She states that there are currently PT employees on staff and that should give them a head start at the beginning of the summer.

**Water Level Update**

Commissioner Osowski does not have anything to report regarding the water level plan recommendations submitted by the Commission to the NJDEP. He states that he hopes to have an update by the next meeting. Commissioner Steinbaum comments that the drawdown this year was done perfectly. He then makes a comment regarding water level that relates to recommendations provided by the LHC to the NJDEP. He states temperatures rose last week and there was heavy rain. The lake rose 4 inches after the rain. He states that at that time because it was warm, ice had melted around the shoreline. The person operating the dam acted properly in lowering the water level, however temperatures fell and there was a hard freeze. He states that the new recommendation to the NJDEP by the LHC recommends that the lake level be maintained during a hard freeze to prevent damage to lake structures. He states that the lake is continuing to drop now despite a hard freeze, which is counter to what the Commission has recommended. Commissioner McCarthy states that he was out fishing and did not see damage, but did see signs of ice creep. He didn't see anything problematic and didn't think there was a hard freeze on the lake. Commissioner Steinbaum states that he did not see any damage, but believes that the potential is there for damage during a hard freeze. Commissioner Osowski states that the park is acting according to the current plan, not the recommendations by the Commission as they have not been adopted yet. Commissioner McCarthy states that the lake is supposed to be maintained at 22 inches during the winter to prevent damage. He states that if it were late February or March that he would agree with Commissioner Steinbaum. Commissioner

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Steinbaum states that he is concerned with damage due to ice creep during a hard freeze and agrees that this early in the year the lake level should be maintained at 22 inches. He states that the level should not be disturbed during a hard freeze regardless of the time of year.

Recalibration of Gauges

Commissioner Osowski states that he does not have an update.

Lake-wide Permit for Outfalls

Superintendent Castellon states that she is working with the Township Land-Use Departments on permit applications. Commissioner McCarthy asks if she is also working with the Mayors. She states that she has not, but intends to in the future.

**XI. New Business**

Resolution 18-01 Setting Time and Date of Regular Meetings, Resolution 18-02 Designation of an Official Newspaper, Resolution 18-03 Authorizing H. Ronald Smith as Additional Signatory for Commission Bank Accounts, Resolution 18-04 Amended contract for Colleen L Conover LLC

Chair Smith suggests that Resolutions 18-01 – 18-04 be voted on as a block rather than individually. Commissioner McCarthy moves that the resolutions be voted on as a block. Commissioner Steinbaum seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Crowley	Yes	Steinbaum	Yes
Fisch	Yes	Stevens	Yes
McCarthy	Yes	Tessier	Yes
Osowski	Yes	Wilsusen	Yes
Pravs	Yes	Smith	Yes

Special Improvement District Proposal

Commissioner Tessier explains that in the FY2018 budget there is a line item for Special Improvement Districts and the Commission has a statutory obligation to research alternative sources of funding. He states that the proposal by Benecke Economics addresses this obligation. He states that the proposal is for \$9,600. Commissioner Tessier suggestion that a committee be formed to meet with Mr. Benecke to discuss the proposal. Commissioners Steinbaum, McCarthy and Tessier will form a committee to meet with Benecke Economics. Commissioner Tessier will set up a place and time to meet. Alternate Felter states that Benecke Economics consults with Jefferson, so he is in town often. He suggests coordinating a date that he will be available locally.

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

Marty Kane introduces Alan Hunt, the Executive Director of the Musconetcong Watershed Association. He also addresses the grass eating carp and asks the Commission to think about what role they want to play going forward. Chair Smith asks that the Foundation

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and Princeton Hydro put together a small presentation to educate the Commission on carp. Commissioner McCarthy asks that the presentation include all weed harvesting options, not just carp, but also hydro raking, chemical, etc. He also asks about the results of the hydro raking study done in Landing last year. Dr. Lubnow states that the study wasn't completed and Princeton Hydro will be doing a follow-up study this spring to complete the study.

Dr. Lubnow states that they can give a presentation on grass carp and other techniques. He states that he is also sending an email to Kerry Kirk-Pflugh to confirm that the methodology used in the three proposals submitted to the Commission by Princeton Hydro meets the criteria for NJDEP and Fish and Wildlife to consider the study as pretreatment data for any weed control in the future (weed harvesting, grass carp etc.). Commissioner McCarthy inquires about cyanotoxins with Commissioner Osowski. Commissioner Osowski has nothing new to report, but there is a meeting planned for February with the health department. Dr. Lubnow states that founder of Princeton Hydro Steve Souza was asked to be on a technical committee with the NJDEP for cyanotoxins. He states that Princeton Hydro has been very involved in giving technical presentations on cyanotoxins.

Earl Riley states that Lake Musconetcong did not use the small harvester because they did not have a State Park approved location to bring their weeds until September 2017. He states that Lake Musconetcong received their grant funded hydorrake in September and used it through October 2017. He states that their results have been encouraging, but difficult to quantify. He states that it is a long slow process and the project in Lake Musconetcong is a 15-20 year-long project.

Vince Moran from Landing asks if the Commission is working on a plan on how to spend the \$500,000. Chair Smith states that they are working on a plan.

Mayor Francis suggest that the Commission write a letter to the new Director (Catherine McCaid) of the NJDEP recommending Kerry Kirk-Pflugh. Chair Smith agrees and asks Colleen Conover to draft a letter.

**XVII. Close of Meeting**

Commissioner McCarthy moves to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Steinbaum seconds the motion.

***Next Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m.***  
***Monday, February 12, 2018***  
**Hopatcong State Park, Lakeside Boulevard, Landing NJ**