

Minutes of the Lake Hopatcong Commission

July 17, 2006

A meeting of the Lake Hopatcong Commission was held on July 17, 2006 at the Roxbury Municipal Building, 1715 Route 46 West, Ledgewood, New Jersey. At 7:48 p.m., Chair Ondish called the meeting to order.

Salute to the Flag: Chair Ondish and all those in attendance joined in a salute to the flag.

Moment of Silence: Chair Ondish called for a moment of silence for our soldiers and their families.

Roll Call:

Present: Colleen DeStefano, Elizabeth Gantert, Eric Grove, Richard Hodson, David Jarvis, Ken Klipstein, Richard O'Connor, Charles Richman, Richard Zoschak and Arthur Ondish

Absent: Robert Gruber, Frank Hughes, John Risko

Alternates Present: Nicholas DePalma (Roxbury), Daniel McCarthy (Hopatcong), Robert Mitchko (Jefferson), Patricia Rector (DEP)

With ten members present at Roll Call, Chair Ondish declared a quorum.

Also present: Dr. Fred Lubnow – Princeton Hydro
Lewin Weyl, Esq.-Commission Attorney

Chair Ondish stated, in Ms. Macalle-Holly's absence, that members of the Commission wait to be recognized before speaking to assist in transcribing the minutes.

Guest Speaker

Chair Ondish introduced Richard Bunce, Council President for Hopatcong and Chair of the Hopatcong Sewer Subcommittee and Fletcher Platt of Hatch Mott MacDonald to update the Commission and the public on the status of the sewer projects in Hopatcong with a presentation. He stated at the June meeting there was a great deal of conversation regarding communication for the lake community. The Chair had a long discussion with Mr. Bunce, Council President for Hopatcong on improving communication.

Mr. Bunce stated they needed to change computers to give the presentation. The Chair suggested a change in the agenda to go to communications. Mr. Zoschak made a motion. Mr. Grove seconded the motion. All those in favor signify by saying "aye" and those opposed by saying "no".

Communications

Chair Ondish asked for questions or comments on the communications package. Mr. Zoschak asked for an explanation on the Liberty Mutual insurance surcharge. Ms. DeStefano responded it is for the New Jersey State Insurance Fund.

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Ms. DeStefano inquired about the Workers Compensation Insurance policy showing the Administrator as exclusion, even though the premium is paid for the administrator position. She was unable to reach the insurance agent today and plans to contact the insurance broker regarding this matter.

Mr. Richman questioned whether the Commission has a standard to determine the extension of impervious coverage for site plan approvals. The Chair responded the Commission has recommended not having impervious coverage but the Commission does not have that authority for that decision. He stated it is the authority of the Planning and Land Use Boards of the four towns surrounding the lake. Mr. Zoschak stated most of the site plan review letters begin with the Commission has no objection to the project. He stated the Commission should object to increase in impervious coverage. Chair Ondish read a paragraph from the Designer Homes letter regarding impervious coverage. Mr. Hodson indicated that the State regulations do not allow for an increase in the amount of stormwater runoff from lots. The Chair responded that the regulation is not in effect yet, but will be in effect soon. Ms. DeStefano questioned if the Commission should develop some type of guideline for this issue. Mr. O'Connor agreed to discuss the issue with Mr. Risko.

The Chair suggested returning to the guest speaker section of the agenda. Mr. Zoschak made a motion to go back to the guest speaker. All were in favor.

Guest Speaker

Mr. Bunce's presentation included an update of the Hopatcong sewer project for past few years, the project's status, possible future sewer expansion plans, and a report on the positive effect of the project on the lake's water quality and the quality of the Borough's daily drinking water. Mr. Bunce introduced Fletcher Platt, Chief Engineer of Hatch, Mott, McDonald (HMM), who put together the presentation.

[A copy of the Hopatcong Sewer presentation is available on file.] Mr. Platt indicated the sewer project replaces out-of-date septic systems with central sewers to residents. He stated all wastewater from Hopatcong will be treated by the Musconetcong Sewer Authority (MSA).

Mr. Platt provided a brief history and timeline of the sewer project. Today, the MSA has a capacity of 580,000 GPD for Hopatcong. In May 2004, the first resident connection took place. The State allowed more connections as each phase of construction was completed. He provided a summary of the funding issues, grants and loans. The project was broken into phases to better define costs. In 2001, the Borough contracted with MSA to construct a 500K gallons per day expansion of their treatment plant and there were 80K/daily available from re-rating of the plant, which the Borough purchased. Today, Hopatcong has 580K gallons of capacity available at the MSA.

Mr. Platt discussed the three phases of the project. Phase 1 and 2, is essentially existing development within the community and consists of 14 construction contracts. These 2 Phases will serve 2,850 customers of approximately 6,300 dwellings. A combination of gravity sewers and low-pressure sewers has been installed for the community. These systems include 925 grinder pumps (small pumping stations for individual residence), 4 neighborhood pumping stations and approximately 107 miles of pipe. The financing for Phase 1 and 2 totals \$59.4M and consists of a Federal grant of \$8.7M, a State grant of \$5.5M, a NJ Infrastructure Trust loan of

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\$15.8M (a low interest loan) and local funds of \$29.4M. The large amount of local financing was due to a shorter payback time of the State Infrastructure Trust loan of 20 years and the life of the sewers being 50-100 years. The local financing is stretched out over a longer period of time to reduce the cost to the users. The local financing and the temporary loan will be rolled into one long term financing in the future. Mr. Platt also discussed the financing incurred by the MSA, which the Borough of Hopatcong is required to pay back. He stated the Borough is in debt approximately \$70M to serve less than 3,000 residents of the community. He discussed the hardship to the community during the installation of the sewers.

Mr. Platt informed everyone of the status of the project as of July 1, 2006. Phase 1 is 99% complete and Phase 2 is 75% complete. Of the 2,850 connections, 2,500 have been authorized. As of July 1, 2006, the local plumbers had installed 1,985 connections and today it is 2,013 and continue to install approximately 100 connections per month. The flow to MSA from the 1,985 connections is 270,000 GPD for an average flow of 136 GPD per dwelling. The design was 200 GPD per dwelling, which is substantially less than the state design criteria.

Phase 2 should be completed by July 2007 at which time projections indicate the Borough will be using 430K GPD out of the 539K GPD capacity. He indicated that 150K GPD would not be used by the Phase 1 and 2 projects. The current cost to the users is \$1,075 per year, which does not include a connection or assessment fee). The cost of the project was minimized by having the grinder pumps owned and maintained by the Borough of Hopatcong, which made Hopatcong eligible for the NJ Infrastructure Trust Funding. Phase 3 is being evaluated for possible service areas in the Heights which discharges to Lake Musconetcong, Dupont and Elba Point. Financial assistance for Phase 3 is also under evaluation. Mr. Platt stated if the selection of the service area was solely based on costs the next phase would be in the Heights, but if considering protection of the Lake, the Borough would lean towards Dupont and Elba Point. He stated they are preparing the report for the Council's review in August 2006 and the Council continues to seek financing to minimize the burden on the residents. He thanked everyone for their attention and Dr. Lubnow for his assistance with the computer.

Mr. Hodson provided further clarification on why Infrastructure Trust was not used for the sewer project due to the burden it would have placed on the homeowner. He stated the sewer project actually began in July 1999 as a consent agenda item. The Borough locked in \$13.7 in funding in December 1999. Chair Ondish stated he hopes that Elba Point and Hudson Avenue area is sewered even though it is a difficult task. Mr. Bunce responded that the highest priority of Phase 3 is Crescent Cove at Hudson Avenue because it is one of the most polluted areas of the lake. Mr. Bunce stated that the only area of Crescent Cove that might remain not sewered would be the Elba point side and a portion of Hudson Avenue. He stated that one consideration in Phase 3 could possibly be a portion of each of the three areas. He discussed the challenges of the Elba Point section including possibly the need to run piping under the lake.

Chair Ondish thanked the Borough of Hopatcong's Council for moving forward with the project for the protection of Lake Hopatcong. There was a brief question and answer portion after the conclusion of Mr. Platt's report. The Chair opened the meeting to the public for questions relative to the sewer presentation.

John Frankle, resident on 437 Lakeside Blvd., stated the concern for proposed construction of sewer pipe under the water and to consider that plan carefully. Mr. Bunce responded that the municipality will look into another way around Crescent Cove and will consider the best solution that will be financially feasible.

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Bob Brandon, resident of Roxbury and a real estate agent stated the dye tests that are run for septic in the Crescent Cove make it to the lake ahead of the inspector. He stated Arrow Crest beach near the River Styx Bridge was tested and concluded to have approximately 1,000 ppm coliform bacteria. Mr. Brandon stated the River Styx Bridge area looks terrible and it should be addressed quickly. He inquired about residents owning vacant lots are unable to hook into the sewers line. Mr. Brandon asked if there was a law that states no building on lots that have sewer lines in front of the lot. Mr. Platt responded that they are aware of the severe septic problems around the lake and try to give priority to the lakefront. The lakefront is the most expensive and difficult for construction because of elevation differences between the homes near the lake and the roads. Mr. Bunce stated existing residents with sewer lines installed must pay to hook up and owners of vacant lots can apply for a sewer connection. The Chair informed everyone to call Hopatcong Borough Hall for more details regarding the sewer projects.

Tim Clancy, resident of Lake Hopatcong, inquired whether the Hopatcong's creative financing has been discussed for the Jefferson project and inquired about the cost per household. Mr. Platt stated he compared notes on the project with Jim Coe, but was unsure how Jefferson's numbers were put together. He stated he has shared what was done for Hopatcong with their representatives for Jefferson. Mr. Clancy will ask Jefferson to inquire about the creative financing Hopatcong used.

Mr. Weyl questioned the low household usage per gallons. Mr. Platt responded that homeowners with smaller homes are in the habit of conserving water usage because of prior septic system problems.

Chair Ondish inquired if Hopatcong Borough has received grant money for the Phase 3 project. Mr. Bunce stated the Borough is searching for grant money and alternative ways of financing. He indicated the Sewer Subcommittee auditors verified that the capital investment of the sewer project and the connections, especially with the infrastructure already in place, will more than pay for itself to the users. The Chair stated increase in the sewer water flow can be from the sump pump water discharged into the sewer lines. Mr. Bunce stated Hopatcong has an ordinance that prohibits discharging sump pumps into sewer lines and he also reminds the public at many meetings not to discharge into sewers because the sump pump water needs to be put back into the ground water system. Mr. Ondish congratulated Mr. Bunce and Mr. Platt for a fantastic and beautiful job renovating Modik Park.

Mr. Jarvis questioned how the pumping stations are monitored. Mr. Platt explained there is an alarm system on the pumps that advises the owner of problems. The Borough's staff is on-call 24 hours per day when there is a problem.

Chair Ondish volunteered to be on a committee to help Jefferson learn from what his town was unable to accomplish during the sewer project when Jefferson moves forward with sewers. Mr. Bunce offered Hopatcong's assistance as well.

Russ Felter, Mayor of Jefferson Township, stated Jefferson Township has done feasibility studies and estimate sewer costs are in the \$65M range for approximately 4,000 homes of which approximately 700 of those homes are now in the Highlands and cannot be sewerred. The sewer project in Jefferson is not feasible without grant money. Mayor Felter also stated areas of Jefferson situated in the Highlands Preservation cannot be sewerred and will look into septic management systems. The Township received a \$2M grant through Congressman Frelinghuysen

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of which \$1M is being used for a sewer plant in Lake Shawnee for a school. He stated the Township is interested in sewerage, but does not want to force residents out of Towns especially since the Township just went through a re-evaluation. He addressed the use of creative financing and wants people to understand what the number will be before moving forward.

Treasurer's Report/Payment of Bills

Mr. Grove reviewed the Reconciliation Summary as of June 28, 2006. He reported an ending register balance of \$223,503.80 in the VNB account. Mr. Grove stated a big concern at the June meeting was how far the Commission's carry-over funds would last. He discussed this with Ms. Macalle-Holly and she projected by the end of July, the account will have about \$154,000 with spending approximately \$70,000 per month. Mr. Grove stated the Commission expects to receive \$400K for its FY07 budget request, which was over \$900K. Mr. Grove suggested that the Commission would need carry-over funds for 6-8 weeks to get through to the end of July and August 2007. He stated that these are trying times for the Commission because of the budget situation.

He stated a Bill List of \$47,412.20 was distributed for approval. Mr. Grove stated that the approval of the Bill List, as recommended by Ms. Macalle-Holly, should include approval of the Liberty Mutual Workers Compensation for the annual renewal. He also stated the Bill List approval should designate funds for reimbursement to Princeton Hydro for the DEP 319(h) and EPA Wetlands Grants and that these funds should be paid from the specific lines that have been set up for these grants. Mr. Zoschak made a motion to move the Bill List with the stipulations that Mr. Grove indicated. Ms. DeStefano seconded.

ROLL CALL:

DeStefano	Yes	Klipstein	Yes
Ganert	Yes	O'Connor	Yes
Grove	Yes	Richman	Yes
Hodson	Yes	Zoschak	Yes
Jarvis	Yes	Ondish	Yes

Motion carried 10-0-0.

The Chair introduced, an unscheduled guest speaker, Senator Bucco, and thanked him for all the work he has done with the DEP to obtain funding for the Commission. Senator Bucco thanked the Commissioners for giving their time to serve on the Commission and discussed the importance of representation from all the towns. He stated last year's Appropriation of \$500,000 and the Appropriation for 2006 were included in the State budget as a line item. The Senator informed the Commission and the public that he has been in contact with Commissioner Jackson since March discussing the critical need for funds for the lake. In a recent letter, the Senator invited Ms. Jackson to visit Lake Hopatcong to see, first-hand and to make her aware that additional monies are needed for the Commissioners and staff to continue their first-rate work around the lake. He stated it is unfortunate that the Commission employees must work with a cloud over their head not knowing whether they will be employed by the Commission in two or three months or even next year. He stated it was necessary to get the funding issue finally settled.

In discussing other issues, Senator Bucco stated he continues to work with the Morris County Park Commission to secure a permanent home for the Commission at the Lee's Park building. He expressed his disappointment after reading about the criticism toward the Commission from the June meeting. He spoke highly of the fantastic job the Commissioners and staff have done for

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the lake. He reiterated that pre-seasons weather conditions affected the low water level and weed growth of the lake. The Senator added he spoke to Commissioner Jackson about shutting the dam to cut back the flow from 7,500 MGD to 3,000 MGD. Ms. Jackson responded that due to the current regulations, the flow at the dam can not be cut back unless the Governor declares a drought. She stated she would look into trying to change the regulations for future needs other than during drought occurrences. Senator Bucco stated that it took over a year to negotiate setting up the Commission and he wants the Commission to continue to do the fantastic job they are without interference from others. He again thanked the Commissioners for their dedication and service. Chair Ondish thanked the Senator for speaking and again for all the help he has given the Commission. He also told the Senator that he has a tape of the June meeting for him.

Minutes of Meeting of June 19, 2006

Chair Ondish asked if everyone had an opportunity to review the minutes and requested a motion. Ms. Gantert made a motion to move the June minutes. Mr. Zoschak seconded the motion. There being no comment, the Chair requested a roll call vote.

ROLL CALL:

DeStefano	Yes	Klipstein	Yes
Gantert	Yes	O'Connor	Yes
Grove	Yes	Richman	Yes
Hodson	Yes	Zoschak	Yes
Jarvis	Yes	Ondish	Yes

Motion carried 10-0-0.

Public Comment

Chair Ondish stated that the first public comment period is limited to items on the agenda and asked speakers to state their name and address for the record.

John Kurzman, resident of Lake Hopatcong, inquired about the statute to maintain a high water mark of the lake during periods of critical low water levels. Mr. Kurzman inquired whether it is probable to give more authority to the person responsible for maintaining the dam. Mr. Klipstein reassured Mr. Kurzman he is not going to ignore this issue because the current water level of the lake has been normal. Mr. Klipstein stated he is seeking an answer because this statute also affects other New Jersey lakes. Ms. DeStefano stated that the Lake Hopatcong Management Plan is based on science and historical data. She stated the management plan is a guideline and not a regulation. Counsel Weyl stated that Mr. Klipstein has asked for an opinion from the Attorney General's office to determine any leeway the DEP Commissioner has, given the Lake Management Plan, existing regulations and the statutes. Mr. Klipstein stated the complication to this issue is the old statute that controls specific state-owned lakes and whether there is additional statutory authority to make changes. Ms. DeStefano questioned if the plan has shown it is effective.

Jim Gallo, resident of Landing, inquired how the weed harvesters work. Mr. Gallo also inquired about an alternative way to launch the harvesters into the lake during low water levels to start harvesting weeds earlier. The Chair stated the Commission's website at www.lakehopatcong.org has lots of information regarding the weed harvesters.

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Mr. Kurzman referred to the minutes from two months ago indicating the storm drains use baffling technologies but what he actually meant was when you put in a storm drain, put baffles on the storm drains.

There being no further public comment, the Chair closed the public comment period.

Chairman's Report

Chair Ondish commented that the Lake Hopatcong Commission was opened and continued to operate during the State shut down. The Chair praised the field staff for working, during the shut down, around the obstacles that hindered the harvesting operation and for the staff's overall workmanship. Chair Ondish thanked Senator Bucco and Ms. Kinback, Chief of Staff for the Senator, helping them find a contact at the State during the shutdown. The Commission worked through the issues to gain access to their harvesting equipment at the State Park to keep harvesting during the state shutdown. Chair Ondish stated the two new hire and seasonal staff care about the work they are doing. Chair Ondish thanks Barbara from Senator Bucco's office for coordinating the DEP Commissioner's visit to Lake Hopatcong. The Chair thanked Borough of Hopatcong and Jefferson Township for lending the Commission staff trucks and fuel during the State shut down. The Commission's trucks were locked up at the State Park. Chair Ondish stated he would send a letter of appreciation to the municipalities. The Chair also thanked Todd Cruickshank of Dover Brake for his generosity to re-inspect the Commission's two trucks without waiting and at no charge to the Commission.

Old Business

Field Staff Report

In the absence of the Field Crew Foreman, Michael Calderio, the Chair introduced Barry Marke, Crew Chief. The Chair thanked Mr. Marke for stepping up while Mr. Calderio was out on vacation. Mr. Marke expressed sentiments from himself and the field staff for missing Bill Clark's everyday presence on the job. Mr. Marke provided an overview plan of the harvesting. He noted that the staff deviates from the weekly plan to attend to hot spots. This is an exceptional year for weed growth and the harvesters try to cover as many complaints as they can. This year there were 4 new members to be trained and training takes time away from harvesting. The harvesters try to stick to the weekly plan and harvest the areas that are the worse every year and then harvest other areas as they can.

Mr. Marke was unable to report the amount of aquatic vegetation removed due to a discrepancy between cubic yards and tons. Mr. Marke stated that during 2002 the most weeds were removed from the Lake because not much harvesting was done previously. He indicated that although the weeds are terrible this year, that they are not as bad as 2002. Mr. Marke responded that the harvesters are finishing up in Crescent Cove and one day had to stop harvesting due to a tornado watch.

Chair Ondish asked the residents to be understanding about the harvesting schedule because it is not a fixed schedule. The Chair explained there are conditions which occur that cause the schedule to change. Those changes could be equipment breakdowns and time to repair the equipment, weather conditions and the normal slow process of harvesting the 9 miles of lake. The Chair commended the harvesting staff for cooperating and getting the job done without the leadership of Bill Clark. Mr. Marke stated that Mr. Calderio is doing a very good job and that Mr.

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Clark setup a strong chain of command in the event that something happens, the Commission's work could continue. Ms. DeStefano reiterated that training new people takes time away from harvesting and lack of funding has impact on the harvesting process. Chair Ondish concurred that when there is a personnel change it takes away from how much harvesting can be done. Mr. Marke discussed how the Commission could work to clean more storm drains if it had its own vacuum truck. Chair Ondish stated that the Commission could work with the towns to clean the storm drains with their vacuum trucks and the towns will need to be cleaning the storm drains regularly as part of the new stormwater regulations. Mr. Zoschak stated that the Share Services is working out very well.

Chair Ondish returned to the Chairman's Report with two important issues. One issue was the value of the electronic message boards which are like real-time communication to the public. The Chair stated one example for the electronic signs was the recent confusion when the wake restriction was relaxed. The Chair's other issue was the lack of law enforcement of the no-wake on the lake by the State police. He also stated, during the last no-wake restriction, the marinas and storeowners displayed signs and the towns were notified via fax. Electronic signs are a better way to communicate important information to the public. The Chair readdressed lack of enforcement and suggested the need for emergency coverage for everyone's safety. He has seen firsthand people taking advantage of the high water level by causing property damage.

The Chair indicated he has received positive feedback and suggestions for the electronic signs. Some suggestions were to display the Commission's website, safety courses and boating regulations. The Chair explained the message boards are expensive but there are ways to pay for them. In a meeting with Congressman Frelinghuysen, the Congressman told Chair Ondish that FEMA is reorganizing their emergency warning system, including electronic signs, and money will become available. The Chair requested forming a sign committee to research electronic signs for use around the lake. He mentioned the committee would work closely with Senator Bucco and Senator Littell's offices with FEMA to obtain grant funding. Ms. Gantert asked whether the Auxiliary Coast Guard was out on the lake during the no-wake restriction period. Sal Cottone, a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, reassured Mr. Gantert that the Coast Guard was on the lake to inform everyone of the restriction. Ms. Gantert also stated people were calling her suggesting the use of signs to advise the public. Mr. Hodson spoke of signs on the harvesters but was concerned these signs could block the operator's view. Mr. Hodson suggested a folding sign, like the one the State Park uses, that are not large and the message is changeable. The Chair named Mr. Hodson, Ms. Gantert and Mr. DePalma to serve on the Sign Committee and Chair Ondish as committee chairperson.

The Chair apologized for any inconvenience due to the extended display of the no-wake message on the electronic signs in Mount Arlington after the no-wake restriction was lifted during the July 4 weekend.

Lake Hopatcong Water Level

The Chair stated the water level issue was previously discussed. Mr. Hodson stated the current water level data for Lake Hopatcong is available on Commission's website and Hopatcong's site. Chair Ondish stated it was on Mt. Arlington website as well.

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FY07 Budget Request

Chair Ondish stated Senator Bucco spoke earlier regarding his work in trying to obtain funds to help the Commission's 2006 budget. The Chair summarized Mr. Grove's earlier discussion on the status of the 2006 fragile budget and hopes the State can come through with funding for the FY07 Budget. The Commission needs to receive the \$400K appropriation as soon as possible.

Princeton Hydro Report

Dr. Lubnow provided a mid-year report that summarized the water quality of the lake and answered resident's questions discussed at last month's meeting. Dr. Lubnow reported on the following:

Regarding the 319 grant, a meeting was held with Pat Rector of DEP, engineers from Princeton Hydro, Borough of Hopatcong, Jefferson Township, and Dr. Lubnow to identify specific details of the storm water sites. Upon receipt of survey information from each municipality, the design of the storm water structures will begin.

PH provided tributary monitoring training for the Commission staff. The staff learned how to collect data from the streams and inlets flowing into the lake for the State. The goal is to educate the staff to respond to questions and issues about the streams or inlets from residents or consultants.

Dr. Lubnow stated he and Ms. Macalle-Holly are still working on responding to EPA's questions regarding the work plan and Quality Assurance Protection Plan for the Targeted Watershed Grant.

Dr. Lubnow stated PH had a sampling team out today to collect water quality and plant samples. Princeton Hydro is conducting an analysis of the plants to determine the quantity of phosphorus the weed harvester's are removing. The Commission can receive credit for these results, which is part of the TMDL. Dr. Lubnow emphasized this is one of the reasons why the Commission relies on harvesting because phosphorous is physically removed from the Lake. With the application of chemicals you do not have the opportunity to remove the phosphorus.

Dr. Lubnow stated next week he would be doing the water quality sampling with some Commission staff and possibly Ms. Rector from DEP. He stated this team goes out once a year to identify issues that arise at the height of the summer.

Dr. Lubnow stated he has received calls about the color of the lake. The field staff confirmed that the northern part had a brownish color and the southern part had a greenish color. Last month, Dr. Lubnow found a bloom of a diatom, called Fragilaria, which can make the water look a little brown. He will look at current algae samples to find out what kind of algae that is causing the problem. As soon as Dr. Lubnow receives the results, he will relay it to the Commission. The Chair inquired what issues will be expected with the 100 degree temperatures. Dr. Lubnow responded the algae and weed growth will increase. It is now mid-season when the blue - green algae grow. This alga causes awful odors and the micro-organisms can not feed on and need high phosphorus concentrations. The current phosphorus concentration of the lake is .04 mg/L and the aim is .03 mg/L. He stated 1-lb. of phosphorus equals 1100 lbs. of wet algae. The goals of the TMDL and the watershed program are to reduce the phosphorus loads and have an average phosphorus concentration that either eliminates or minimizes algae booms and weed growth. Mr.

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Mr. Hodson questioned if there were any correlations that could be made before and after sewerage. Dr. Lubnow responded the monitoring program was expanded for the 319 grant. He explained where the three in lake and near shore sampling stations were located. Princeton Hydro collection of additional samples does not require a consulting fee but requires an analysis fee for approximately \$13-15 for a phosphorus samples.

Mr. Zoschak suggested that Dr. Lubnow's superb and informative answers to the public questions from the June meeting be added to the Commission's website, www.lakehopatcong.org under a section entitled, "Frequently Asked Questions." The Chair reiterated PH reports are always in the minutes on the Commission's website and are a great tool for public communication.

Sub-Committees

Mr. Hodson stated the By-Laws Committee has made progress but have two issues to overcome. Mr. Hodson stated the By-Laws Committee should meet prior to the next Commission meeting. He also stated the remainder of the document is almost finished and should be available by the next meeting with the exception of two items that are being dealt with.

New Business

Public Official Insurance

Ms. DeStefano stated the policy expires on July 31, 2006, the Commission has not received a quote and the policy must be renewed before the end of July. Ms. DeStefano made a motion to authorize the Chairman and Ms. DeStefano to review the quotes for the Public Officials Insurance Policy and to authorize the Chair to approve the policy for upcoming year. Mr. Zoschak seconded the motion. Mr. Zoschak inquired whether the Commission is covered under their municipal insurance coverage. Ms. DeStefano stated she was not covered under Jefferson Township's insurance. Mr. Hodson stated he believed Counsel Chudzik looked into this previously and it was necessary to have this coverage. The Chair and Ms. DeStefano also recalled that Counsel Chudzik said it was necessary to have this coverage. Mr. Zoschak stated he was looking for ways to save money. The Chair explained to the public why it is important to have this type of insurance for the Commission. The Chair requested a roll call vote.

ROLL CALL:

DeStefano	Yes	Klipstein	Yes
Ganert	Yes	O'Connor	Yes
Grove	Yes	Richman	Yes
Hodson	Yes	Zoschak	Yes
Jarvis	Yes	Ondish	Yes

Motion carried 10-0-0.

The Chair stated that the public are welcomed to join the committee for electronic signs and for those interested to contact the Chair.

Public Comment

Richard Bunce, Council President of Hopatcong, stated he is working on setting up a time and date for the public official boat tour of the lake. Mr. Bunce explained the purpose of the tour is to show the State officials some of the problem areas of the lake. He will run a press release to

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inform the press of the tour. Mr. Bunce welcomed council members and mayors from the surrounding communities including Legislators and Freeholder from Sussex County to attend the boat tour.

Selma Reichert, resident of Hopatcong, stated the electronic signs are a wonderful idea and she volunteered for the sign committee. The Chair thanked her for offering to serve on the Committee.

Estelle Klein, Council for Hopatcong, stated the River Styx residents commended Chris Young, the staff's new employee, for a job well done harvesting the weeds. Ms. Klein also stated she was unable to give a copy of last month's meeting tape to Senator Bucco due to a malfunction of the copying equipment.

John Frankle, resident of 437 Lakeside Blvd., spoke about a few issues. He stated that the sewer pipe under the Lake should not even be an option. He suggested another message for the electronic signs could be a tornado warning. He also suggested that boats on Lake Hopatcong be required to have a radio with an emergency channel. Mr. Frankle explained how professionally treated weeds is a great option because the weeds are gone for the season and it costs a little over \$165. He inquired how much it costs to run a harvester by each home on the lake. The Chair reiterated the Commission cannot treat the weeds with State funding, however, residents can obtain a permit to have a professional company provide the treatment. He also stated the Commission tries to work with lake associations to remove the weeds before the weeds are chemically treated. Harvesting in those areas are incorporated in harvesting schedule because treated weeds die and become phosphorus-feeding matter.

Mr. Jarvis suggested an option for removing weeds by hydro raking which is a mechanical process to remove biomass from the bottom of the lake. He would find out the cost and suggested forming a committee to work on funding this type of process. Mr. Jarvis has contacted other lake communities that divide the cost of hydro ranking among the residents and is waiting for a reply. Mr. Jarvis stated hydro raking is more lake friendly and less expensive than Sonar. Chair Ondish suggested that the Commission should find a rental company that would buy a hydro-rank for rental.

The Chair stated eutrophication is a part of the lake aging process. Dr. Lubnow agreed and stated urban eutrophication accelerates the process. The Chair noted that the harvesting is slowing the aging process of the lake. Dr. Lubnow stated harvesting over time reduces the aging rate.

John Kurzman, resident of Lake Hopatcong, spoke of several issues that included chemically treating weeds, electronic water level gauge, and the New Jersey Clean Marine Program. Mr. Kurzman stated applying chemicals to the weeds in the beginning of the season years ago, took care of the weeds for the season. Mr. Kurzman finds that today, multiple species of weeds survive warm and cold weather temperatures. Mr. Kurzman found out from the chemical companies that treat the lake, that if early season weeds are treated at the beginning of the season, then it is a matter of time before the late season weeds could grow sooner. He stated retreating weeds is not an easy task.

Mr. Kurzman addressed the electronic gauges for the water level is more accurate than including water level information on an electronic sign. Water sports such as waterskiing need the detailed information of a gauge and to consider the use of these signs for water sports carefully. Mr. Hodson stated that after a wake restriction is relaxed, the signs must be changed immediately so

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there is not repeat confusion. Mr. Kurzman stated the website that stores the data from the water gauge is not working. Mr. Kurzman summarized an article from the Daily Record regarding a New Jersey Clean Marina program. Mr. Kurzman suggested, during the off season, the Commission could look into the program and apply it to Lake Hopatcong marinas. He submitted the article to Ms. Horack. The Clean Marina program certifies businesses, golf courses, etc.

Mr. McCarthy, Hopatcong Alternate, stated his concern for public safety on the lake and the absence of the State police during high water level. He suggested looking into setting up an inter-local services agreement for emergencies. The responding town would get reimbursed by State police when they are not patrolling Lake Hopatcong. Mr. McCarthy also implored the need for law enforcement on the lake for emergencies. Additional funding is needed for more law enforcement which is a joint effort for the needs of the Commission and the State police. Mr. McCarthy referred to the Commission Legislature that the State police are suppose to submit an annual report to the Commission. He suggested a presentation from the State police would suffice. Chair Ondish stated Senator Bucco and himself spoke to the State police regarding law enforcement but it comes down to funding. Mr. McCarthy stated the DEP are also suppose to submit an annual report to the Commission of environments violations.

Mr. Hodson discussed the concern with local police patrolling the water because they are not trained in marine safety. The Chair discussed that Lake Hopatcong is a State Park with State Rangers who are trained in law enforcement for State parks. Mr. Zoschak indicated having the State Park contact Morris County Parks and Recreation to provide a boat for the lake and perhaps help supplement patrolling of the Lake. Chair Ondish stated Sheriff Rochford, Morris County Sheriff, suggested the County is willing to help. McCarthy commended all the jurisdictions and communities for their willingness to be involved with issues such as the electronic signs.

Mr. Hodson informed the Commission that even though it is July, it is necessary to discuss the 2007 calendar scheduling. He stated two main scheduling issues must be addressed such as, selecting a better day of the week and central location for all the Commission meetings. The Chair noted it is the Alternate's responsibility to attend meetings when Commission members are unable. Mr. Hodson responded that Monday meetings would excluded him at least two times. He requested that all Commissioners think about a better meeting night by the October meeting. At the same time, the Chair will have Ms. Macalle-Holly or Ms. Dowhan research municipal schedules and advise the Commission of the results.

Chair Ondish asked if there were any further topics to discuss. Mr. Zoschak made a motion to adjourn at 10:50 p.m. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gantert. All those in favor signify by saying "aye" and those opposed by saying "no". There being a unanimous "aye", the motion was carried and the meeting adjourned.

Submitted by: Donna Macalle-Holly and Lori Dowhan