

**BOROUGH OF MOUNTAIN LAKES, NJ**  
**LAKES MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Monthly Meeting Minutes – Quick Notes**  
Minutes for June 11, 2024 at 8:00 PM - Zoom

**1. Call to Order**

A monthly meeting of the Lakes Management Advisory Committee was held on June 11, 2024 on Zoom teleconference. It began at 8:00 PM and was presided over by chairperson Derek Jackson.

**2. Attendees**

Voting Members in attendance: Alpesh Amin, Debra Dewing, Andy Hilton, Derek Jackson, Jason Miner, Wayne Roth

Non-voting Members in attendance: Mitchell Stern (Borough Manager), Bob Schindler (Tigris Lake Management), Jack Buckley (Student Representative)

Members not in attendance: Lucien Foster, Nikki Riley, Mike Russo, Billy Barrett (Student Representative), John Corbo (Student Representative), Connor Higgins (Student Representative), Chris Richter (Borough Council Liaison), Jackie Bay (Environment Commission Liaison),

Guests in attendance: None

**3. Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on May 7, 2024 was made by Debra Dewing and seconded by Andy Hilton.

**4. Borough Management Report**

Report was presented by Mitchell Stern.

- Sunset Dam project should complete by the end of the month.
- Independent Consultant / Advisor and Grant Application should be submitted within the next two weeks.

**5. Tigris Lake Management Report**

Report was presented by Bob Schindler.

Tigris has been treating the lakes. Birchwood was looking good to start the year (see May 2024 minutes). Andy noted that over the last few weeks the growth in the north end of the lake has been tremendous. Tigris has not done herbicide treatments in the northern end of Birchwood Lake. There will be two treatments done in the near future.

Two weeks ago, water chestnut was found in the swim lanes in Birchwood. It was immediately treated. This will need to be monitored closely due to the potential growth that can come from this species. Right now, the assumption is that it was brought in by migrating wildlife.

Crystal had a small algae bloom with a low count. There were also water lilies in the northern end, but were treated. It appears to have cleared up.

The smaller bodies of water (Olive and Shadow) have looked OK. They have had minimal treatment despite the change in waterflow from Sunset.

Mountain Lake looks good. A few weeks ago, the perimeter of the lake was done. Wildwood also looks good.

## **6. Old Business**

- Wildlife Study/Audit Update – In early May Wayne started studying the lakes. He broke the lakes into quadrants and monitored them with observation, sonar and fishing. The effort has reminded him how beautiful and important the lakes are to the community. Wayne believes this will continue for several more weeks and we will have some reasonable data from it.

## **7. New Business**

- New NJ HAB Permits and its impact – Over the last few years DEP has been looking at the bacteria used in lake and pond management. This includes aluminum sulfate. DEP Division of Water has been doing studies and created a draft permit. Once the new permit is effective in July, it will be expensive and time consuming to receive approval. For the remainder of the season, this will limit many of the treatment options that have historically been used in the lake management industry, and specifically on the Mountain Lakes bodies of water. It could result in a greater reliance on pesticides, herbicides and algacides.
- Testing lakes' water – Several residents over history have experience skin rashes or discoloration, sinus issues and swelling. There was a suggestion that the Borough should try to test the water to better understand the reason(s) for this to inform future treatments and/or communication to the residents. Bob noted that it is not uncommon to hear of reactions to environment, micro-organisms, bacteria, pollutants etc. In his experience, these tend to be individual sensitivity rather than overall risk to the population. There is at least one lake that requests copper treatments as a treatment for this. However, there is nothing conclusive to link the symptom, treatment and outcome. It was noted that if anything is communicated to residents, we will need to be careful about the messaging to not create an alarmist culture.
- Lake Conditions
  - Fishing – Many residents have been commenting about how good the fishing is in Mountain Lake. It has probably improved because of the ~1000 fish that moved from Sunset Lake.
  - Water Quality – Weather has been favorable to control algae growth this year.
- The regular meeting cadence will align our July meeting with the Mountain Lakes Independence Day Fireworks. We should plan to schedule around that event.

## **8. Announcements**

Next meeting July 9, 2024. The meeting will be in-person, location TBD.

## **9. Adjournment**

Derek Jackson moved that the meeting be adjourned. Debra Dewing seconded the motion. The motion passed at 8:50 PM.