

BOROUGH OF MOUNTAIN LAKES, NJ
LAKES MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Monthly Meeting Minutes – Quick Notes
Minutes for October 7, 2025 at 7:30 PM - Zoom

1. Call to Order

A monthly meeting of the Lakes Management Advisory Committee was held on October 7, 2025 on Zoom teleconference. It began at 7:30 PM and was presided over by chairperson Derek Jackson.

2. Attendees

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

Non-voting Members in attendance: Chris Cannon (Borough Council Liaison), Bob Schindler (Tigris Lake Management), Jackie Bay (Environment Commission Liaison), Gwyneth Buckley (Student Representative), Maxwell Hollick (Student Representative)

Members not in attendance: Lucien Foster, Andy Hilton, Mike Russo, Mitchell Stern (Borough Manager), Kelsey Dages (Student Representative), Scott Minitier (Student Representative)

Guests in attendance: None

3. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting in September of 2025 was made and unanimously agreed upon.

4. Borough Management Report

Report was presented by Derek Jackson on behalf of Mitchell Stern.

We are continuing to observe water loss in Birchwood Lake. Engineers are investigating and we expect more information by the next meeting.

Members of this committee and the community are reminded to not contact our vendors directly, this includes Tigris. Instead, they should contact Mitchell who will be a conduit to the vendor. When a vendor responds to individual complaints, it can lead to unauthorized work, and subsequent payment denials. Routing all requests through Borough office ensures services are authorized before work begins, the borough has a record of issues reported, can track and verify that each issue is adequately addressed.

There is hydro-raking on Sunset right now. ACTION: Derek to follow up with Mitchell to determine if a final plan and schedule has been established.

5. Tigris Lake Management Report

Report was presented by Bob Schindler.

This week is the normal and planned conclusion of the “summer monitoring season” for the lakes.

All of the dam areas were sprayed with herbicide to manage the plants along the structures.

All of the lakes are down at least a foot, including the small basins. Birchwood is probably in the magnitude of 26+ inches. The low water levels and elevated air temperatures are making the lake environments more hospitable for algae. Algae on Crystal and Mountain Lake has increased significantly in the last week. In both cases, an abundance of algae is clearly visible in the water column. This is likely due to the quick elevation in air temperatures. If it does not resolve itself after the rain tonight (10/7) and the following days when the temperatures normalize, the lakes will need to be treated.

Although water levels are observed to be lower across all lakes in the region, the difference in water depth decrease between the various lakes in the borough may be attributed to issues with the dams. The engineers will provide quantifiable information to support or oppose this hypothesis.

6. Old Business

By the next meeting the resident communication material will be shared with the group. It is expected to be in three forms with different target audiences. 1) A detailed and longer reference document 2) Shorter one page or less informational sheets on specific topics 3) Social media campaign “bullet points” which may link to more detailed information from points 1 and/or 2.

7. New Business

There was a lengthy conversation between the members of the committee and Bob Schindler about how our lakes and canals are losing depth and filling-in.

How run-off fills in our lakes and canal

1. **Direct** inflow of sediment, leaves, sand, rocks
2. **Indirect** excess growth and subsequent decomposition of aquatic plants due to nutrient load contained in the runoff (High level of nutrients fuel excessive growth)

Another way to evaluate sources of lake filling is per their composition, whether it is:

- Inorganic
- Organic

Assessment of location and extent of these contributors will enable targeted and more cost-effective stewardship and restoration plans. Inorganic material does not break down (in reasonable time). It just fills in the lakes and canal. Some variety of permitted dredging activity likely required for removal. Organic material may be removable without permits and require

less upfront capital investment. Further, biologics may be part of strategy to accelerate decomposition of organic material to reduce its mass without need of removal.

Assessment of Relative Source Material per 'Guesses' of Bob Schindler (Tigris)

Overall	75% Direct	25% Indirect
Olive and Shadow	25% Direct	75% Indirect
Sunset	50% Direct	50% Indirect
Mountain and Wildwood	75% Direct	25% Indirect
Bircwood	~0% Direct	Nearly 100%*

* Birchwood's organic material is largely composed of water lilies with thick rhizomes. These are far more difficult to remove than general organic material.

Bob notes that we should not guess. Instead, we should perform bottom sampling with lab confirmation of organic-inorganic composition per lake and per various locations within each lake. Allied Biological performed targeted manual probing 15 years ago to prioritize hydroraking sites each year. Bob observes that the rate of acceleration of filling-in has increased. He does not have the mechanical tools to tie together recent causes to sources.

Hydro raking is a non-permitted activity as long as immediate shoreline edge is not disturbed, not used for equipment access. It is prohibited to go across a grass area for access; this is considered shoreline disturbance. For use in Mountain Lake, we can use boat ramp and beaches. Other lakes may be problematic.

Tigris, with arrangement with Aquatic Analysts has Truxor mini hydrorake and transport barges. Bob Schindler suggests that together these could remove most of Grunden's Pond material, albeit slowly.

Potential next step actions:

- Tie in Bathymetric maps with sediment maps, potentially as part of Princeton Hydro study scope
- Consider amending schedule of Tigris water quality sampling. We have had same program for 20 years, sampling in June, July, and August. Consider broader schedule from April to October given recent temperature and rainfall patterns and their effect on water quality activity.

8. Announcements

Next meeting November 4, 2025

9. Adjournment

Derek Jackson moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was unanimously approved. The motion passed at 830 PM.