

BOROUGH OF MOUNTAIN LAKES, NJ  
LAKES MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Monthly Meeting Minutes – Quick Notes  
Minutes for December 2, 2025 at 7:30 PM - Zoom

**1. Call to Order**

A monthly meeting of the Lakes Management Advisory Committee was held on December 2, 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, Wayne Roth, Mike Russo

Non-voting Members in attendance: 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, Jason Miner, Nikki Riley, Chris Cannon (Borough Council Liaison), Mitchell Stern (Borough Manager), Kelsey Dages (Student Representative), Scott Minitier (Student Representative)

Guests in attendance: Bob Dewing

**3. Approval of Minutes**

The review and approval of the November 2025 meeting minutes was delayed until the January 2026.

**4. Tigris Lake Management Report**

Annual report overview was presented by Bob Schindler.

Local weather and the associated trends continue to be a major influence on the lakes' ecosystems. With the exception of May it was a VERY dry year. Water levels were typically low across the region. While it was not as warm as some recent summers, it was still above historical averages. The weather data presented was NJ statewide, not particular to Mountain Lakes. Bob S noted that temperature and even more significantly, precipitation, has varied substantially even within close distances.

Birchwood – Low water levels due to lack of rain and the now known dam leak have had an adverse impact on the reaction and appearance of the lake. The compressor repeatedly needed to be readjusted to counter algae and aquatic plant growth. We must continue to monitor balance of diffusers. The other issues are not new and ongoing.

Crystal – After the algae blooms in 2024, we observed low oxygen levels in the lake which was likely a consequence of increase organics in the lake. This likely contributes to the increase in phosphorus and cyanobacteria. Based on the readings this year, the declining water quality

and increased organics are likely triggering the algae blooms. Broadly, these are strong indicators of the lake aging and eutrophication. Description of characteristics of a deeper lake (among those in ML): thermal barriers which lead to stratification. Overall water quality declining due to increase of organic material in deeper portions of lake. At 0-6' okay. In deeper areas at near-zero oxygen, phosphorous releases out of sediment. Cyanobacteria: not the most common type here. Dramatically and negatively affects water quality prompting shift in water clarity. Phragmites (large perennial weed) growth: Homeowners may like the privacy yet it is a threat to lake near docks.

Sunset - Achieved full pool in May, then dropped approximately 10" as season progressed. The lake will need to be monitored as actions are taken to restore the ecosystem to health. Wildwood - Milfoil again becoming a problem. Water clarity and quality were good all season. Ongoing issues with cattails and declining depth at north end. This has been and will continue to be addressed with individual homeowners so that herbicides can be applied from the shoreline.

The presentation concluded with a hope of forthcoming, useful data from the Princeton Hydro study to help identify mix and location of inorganic and organic accumulation and thus the appropriate tools to use to restore the lakes health.

## **5. Public Comment**

Bob Dewing, from the Borough Financial Advisory committee, described the Borough 10-year budgeting process. As a lakes management strategic plan is developed, the Committee and Council will want to link with the Borough Manager to feed in to the budgeting process.

## **6. Announcements**

Next meeting January 6, 2026

## **7. Adjournment**

Debra Dewing moved that the meeting be adjourned. Wayne Roth seconded the motion. The motion passed at 8:42 PM.