

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Progress in the Musconetcong River Restoration: Warren Mill Dam Removal Initiative

Asbury, NJ – The Musconetcong Watershed Association (MWA), in collaboration with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), International Process Plants and Equipment (IPPE), and other stakeholders, announces a significant step towards the removal of the Warren Mill Dam. This initiative, vital for the Musconetcong River's natural flow restoration in Holland and Pohatcong Townships, underscores a collective commitment to environmental restoration and community safety.

In a pivotal event on February 29, 2024, the MWA presented NJDEP with a \$210,000 check, signifying nationally appropriated funding from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for preliminary studies necessary for the dam's removal. This gesture, marking a crucial phase in the project, was accompanied by a tour of the historic Asbury Mill and Musconetcong Island Park, led by MWA Executive Director Tom Dallessio, NJDEP Commissioner Shawn LaTourette, Warren County Commissioner Director Jim Kern, and others, showcasing the collaborative effort towards conservation.

NJDEP Commissioner Shawn M. LaTourette remarked, "The removal of the Warren Mill Dam represents a major step forward in helping to restore the Musconetcong River to its natural free-flowing condition. The Musconetcong is one of New Jersey's wildest and most beautiful rivers and is a critical resource for the people and wildlife who inhabit its watershed, as well as the outdoor enthusiasts who enjoy the recreational opportunities it provides. This project would not happen if it weren't for the many partners working together collaboratively and innovatively to restore and protect this wonderful natural resource, and the DEP is proud to be part of this effort."

The removal of the Warren Mill Dam, a 37.5-foot high hazard Class I Dam, addresses safety concerns by eliminating risks posed by structural vulnerabilities and facilitating the restoration of migratory fish habitats. This endeavor will enhance recreational access and ecological resilience, benefiting the community and the environment.

MWA's commitment to the Musconetcong River's stewardship has led to the removal of six dams, showcasing the power of partnership in achieving environmental restoration. "Together, we can look forward to a future where the river flows freely, supporting a rich diversity of aquatic life and providing enhanced recreational opportunities for generations to come," stated MWA Executive Director Tom Dallessio.

For further details about the Warren Mill Dam project and to support MWA's efforts, contact Steven Gransky at info@musconetcong.org or (908) 537-7060.

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MWA Mission: The Musconetcong Watershed Association (MWA) is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and improving the Musconetcong Watershed and its waters for people and nature.