



Hudson River - Black River Regulating District

Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor

Mark M. Finkle, Chairman

Robert J. Smullen, Executive Director

Welcome!

This is the first issue of our newsletter, published by the Hudson River Black River Regulating District to provide information about the Regulating District. The mission of the Regulating District is to regulate the Hudson and Black Rivers by operating dams which control reservoirs, in order to reduce flooding, provide flow augmentation and facilitate recreation. For both the Hudson and Black River Areas, the Regulating District is honored to carry out its mission on behalf of all the public beneficiaries of its operations. We hope you find this newsletter informative and helpful.

-Robert J. Smullen, Executive Director

The geography of the Regulating District encompasses nearly six million acres in the Hudson and Black River watersheds.



Chairman's Corner

For the past three years I have had the honor of serving as Chairman of the Regulating District. During my tenure, I have advocated getting facts and information out to those people whom we serve. Knowledge is a very powerful tool to those stakeholders working together for the benefit of the public. This newsletter is another step in accomplishing this goal, and I could not be happier to see it revived after a long hiatus. I hope you enjoy reading and learning from it, and that

people will contribute content to it. The more everyone understands what we do, and the balancing act between all the interests we serve, the more likely they are to support our mission. Our goal for this newsletter is to create an informed public, with a greater understanding of our diverse mission. Enjoy!



-Mark M. Finkle

2017 Permit Renewals

Great Sacandaga Lake access permit renewals were mailed the first week of January for the upcoming year. Fees are due by March 15, 2017. One note is that the Regulating District is asking for a current email address for permit holders for routine matters. Just like Department of Motor Vehicles reminders for vehicle registrations, this will assist permit holders in their future renewals.

Scheduled Board Meetings

The next meeting of the Regulating District Board is at 10:00 am on February 14, 2017 at the Northampton Town Hall in Northville, NY in the Hudson River Area.

Why River Regulation?

The need for regulation of the flow of the streams and rivers of the state was apparent long before the session of the 1915 Legislature passed the Water Storage Law, Chapter 662 of the Laws of 1915, which provided for the creation of river regulating districts.



Albany Flooding, Early 1900's

In the early 1900's variations in flow, both low as well as the excessive, created a significant hardship on the public and were detrimental to private interests. Some of the hardships and detrimental effects are captured in the petition for the formation of the Hudson River Regulating District which enumerated several concerns attributed to "great variations of flow of this river owing to such floods and to droughts."

Conditions on the Hudson River during low flow were seen as "a menace to the general health" and "rendering habitation along said river unsanitary" primarily due to the inability to properly dispose of sewage. Prior to 1915, major freshets in both the Hudson River and Black River watershed resulted in significant flooding, leaving portions of cities, towns, and villages inundated, unsanitary, and unsafe to the health of its inhabitants, and causing millions of dollars of property damage. Excessive freshet flow was seen as an "economic waste." Power plants could not use excessive freshet flow, and during low flow were idle. Natural low flows were not sufficient to allow boats to travel through the "canalized" portion of the Hudson from the Village of Fort Edward to the City of Troy and severely limited navigation and commerce.

By 1919 the reoccurrence of disastrous floods and extremely low flow, which created unsanitary and unsafe conditions, property damage, economic waste and loss of commerce, was sufficient incentive to compel municipalities affected to successfully petition for the formation of river regulating districts to control the Hudson and Black Rivers.

Safety Corner

Sheriff Giardino of Fulton County has recommended the following 'safety tips' to use while snowmobiling on Great Sacandaga Lake:

1. Slow down (and slow down even more at night). Especially at night, it's hard to know what's out there on the lake. Whether sketchy ice, a bridge column or an ice fishing hut, you won't see it in time if you override your headlight.
2. Don't drink and ride. Drinking always impairs judgment. And whether this means not checking ice conditions or driving too fast, lack of judgment and frozen (or not frozen) water can be deadly.
3. Check the condition of the ice. Experts say there's no way to know for sure if the ice is safe. That means extreme caution is required. Snowmobiles need 5 inches of clear solid ice. Check with a trusted local source (like a bait shop) and check the ice yourself when you get there.
4. Don't ride alone. And make a ride plan. Riding with a buddy can be a lifesaver in any number of situations. Even if you are travelling with a friend, tell someone else your plan and check in when you arrive safely.
5. Know what to do if you go through. Going through the ice is a bad situation. But it doesn't have to be fatal. Review what to do before you go out, and if something should happen, stay calm but act quickly. Carry ice picks and use them to pull yourself out on the edge where you broke through, which will be the most solid edge."

The Sheriff provided a simple motto which makes sense for both Winter and Summer on our lake: "YOUR Safety is OUR #1 concern - Be safe out there!"

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Historical Spotlight
Cross Section of the Conklingville Dam

BOARD OF HUDSON RIVER REGULATING DISTRICT

J. WARD RUSSELL, *President*

THOMAS MILLER

JOHN M. MOONEY

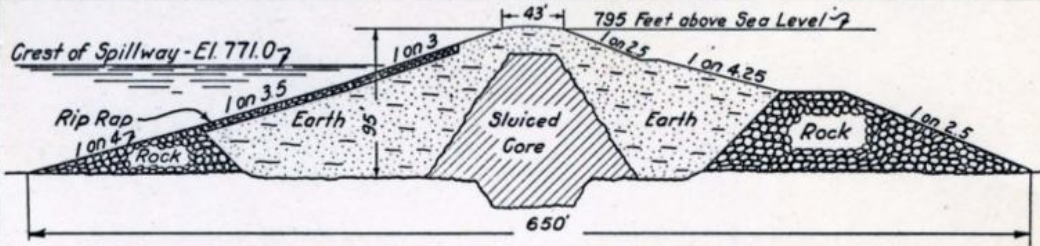
Members of the Board

ROSCOE IRWIN, *Counsel*

JOHN J. MURPHY, *Sec'y-Treas.*

EDWARD H. SARGENT, *Chief Engineer*

ALBERT S. CRANE, *Cons. Engineer*



CONKLINGVILLE DAM

670,000 Cubic Yards of Earth Fill.
 120,000 Cubic Yards of Rock Fill.
 200,000 Cubic Yards of Rock Excavation.
 15,000 Cubic Yards of Concrete
 Length of Dam 1100 feet.
 Spillway- 400' Weir and 2-8'x18' Siphons.

SACANDAGA RESERVOIR

Area- 27,000 Acres 42.3 Square Miles.
 Capacity-37.8 Billion Cubic Feet- 283 Bil. Gallons
 Length 27 Miles.
 Width - 3000 to 28000 Feet.
 Length of Shore Line-125 Miles.
 Flow Line Elevation 771.0' above Sea Level

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STAY CONNECTED:

