

Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board
Regular Meeting
November 20, 2019

Chairman Riley opened the Regular Meeting at 7:00PM with a salute to the flag and a reading of the Open Public Meetings Notice which was sent to the Daily Record and New Jersey Herald on January 17, 2019 and was sent to the Clerks of the four municipalities, the State and the two counties.

ROLL CALL:

Mark Crowley – present	Greg Poff – absent
Robert Hathaway – present	Steven Ratner – absent
Joseph Keenan – present	John Rogalo – present
Rosemarie Maio – present	Lester Wright – absent
	Earl Riley – present

Chairman Riley stated Mr. Poff, Mr. Ratner and Mr. Wright all notified the Board of their absences and they are excused.

MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA: Additional communication 11-18-19 Netcong Borough Check in the Amount of \$2,300 Re: Goose Egg Addling Program

Chairman Riley stated, just as a point of interest, the two publications used by the Board are now owned by the same company, Gannett.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Chairman Riley opened the meeting to the public.

Melissa Castellon, Hopatcong State Park, stated Lake Hopatcong will be drawn down.

Seeing no one further wishing to speak, Chairman Riley closed the public portion of the meeting.

ACTION ON MINUTES: On motion by Mr. Keenan, seconded by Mr. Rogalo, the minutes of the October 16, 2019 meeting were unanimously approved by voice vote.

COMMUNICATIONS: The following communications have been placed on file:

10-21-19 Netcong Borough Purchase Order in the amount of \$2,300 Re: 2019 Goose Addling Program (Note this was corrected to read \$2,300 not \$3,200 as listed on the agenda.)

11-06-19 New Jersey State Dept. of Treasury Check in the amount of \$3,000 Re: 319 Grant

11-18-19 Netcong Borough Check in the amount of \$2,300 Re: Goose Egg Addling Program

Chairman Riley stated the 319H Grant money was received as payment for filing grant reports for quarters 7, 8 and 9. The funds were originally slated to go to Rutgers for the filing of the reports. When Pat Rector-Woods retired, she was not replaced. Chairman Riley is now filing the reports. The grant was changed from requiring the payments to go to Rutgers and is now being paid to this board to file the reports. The reports for quarters 10, 11 and 12 will be submitted by the end of December. A bill will be submitted for \$3,000 for the report filing and a check should be received in January for approximately \$4,000 which will also include reimbursement for fuel. Mr. Keenan stated the \$3,000

check was received and deposited in the regular account. There is a separate account for the 319 grant which should now be closed out.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Canal Society – There was no report.

Musconetcong Watershed Association – There was no report.

Site Plan Review/Stream Encroachment – There was no report.

Lake Awareness – There was no report.

Lake Management – Mr. Hathaway stated both pieces of equipment have been removed from the lake thanks to the Stanhope DPW, Administration and Netcong Police Department and Ray. The equipment was moved this year without Chairman Riley being present. Mr. Hathaway stated Joe and Wayne were very helpful but Chairman Riley's help was missed. It is quite an operation to move the equipment but it went without incident and the equipment is now stored at Well 3 for the winter. Chairman Riley completed the winterization process. The buoys are out of the lake and they are being stored securely on the hydrorake with a cable. The shed area was vandalized and buoys were thrown into the lake. All but one of the buoys has been retrieved. The harvester and the jon boat have been put away and Ray is taking care of the last few items. Everything looks to be in good shape and there should not be any big surprises for next year.

Mr. Hathaway stated he met with Mr. Shindler from Solitude and a substantive management plan was discussed. We did try to include the LMCA and their contractor in the discussion but they were unavailable at the last minute. Mr. Shindler has provided two strategies for managing the lake within the budgetary criteria and a third option is forthcoming. This addresses the water chestnut, Eurasian milfoil and coontail. The Eurasian milfoil and coontail are two different chemical pathways and require two different administrations. Depending on the strategy 100 to 200 acres of the lake will be able to be treated. More discussions will take place before Mr. Hathaway gives the board a recommendation. Mr. Hathaway and Mr. Riley will be meeting with Mr. Shindler on Monday. The sludge reduction will also be discussed. The report should be available for the December meeting. The report is not without merit but not what was brokered for. The report shows a phosphorous reduction though this has not been reviewed by Rutgers as yet. Mr. Hathaway stated it appears to have a 5% reduction however, Mr. Shindler has indicated the results could be better if the lake wasn't getting deeper. There is an increase of approximately 8 inches in the control areas. The bottom is moving around. Mr. Shindler is being compliant. Mr. Hathaway stated he explained to Mr. Shindler that he was disappointed with the sludge report and the investigation and how it had happened. A meeting is scheduled for Friday with Melissa Castellon, Pat Hamilton and Mark Texel to discuss a variety of topics including Lake Management, how drawdowns will be affected and the overview of pesticides. One of the outcomes of the meeting with Mr. Shindler did result in Ms. Castellon brokering with Holly and pesticide control to ensure that no applications will be made to the lake without notifying this board. Both contractors were alerted and informed that their permits will not be issued unless this board is notified. Chairman Riley stated he will also be discussing the fact that State Park funding has been promised for many years and no funding has been received.

Mr. Hathaway stated Senator Bucco has asked on the record what type of funding will be targeted to this region. Hydroraking and disposal of debris will also be discussed.

Chairman Riley stated he had three more things to add. The hydrorake is stored at Well 3 and the hydraulic cylinder has a design problem and he has asked Alpha Boats for a new one. Chairman Riley stated he will remove the part over the winter and replace it. The warranty was for one year. The machine is three years old but it only has 111 hours of use on it. Mr. Hathaway stated this is not a high cost repair. Mr. Rogalo offered to assist Chairman Riley. Chairman Riley stated Ray has covered the harvester. Chairman Riley stated the harvester needs a new seat and he asked the board for permission to bring the current seat to Stephen's Upholstery in Netcong to be reupholstered. Mr. Hathaway suggested checking Tractor Supply for a new seat. Ray offered to assist Chairman Riley. Chairman Riley stated the meeting which Mr. Hathaway attended with Solitude was set up by Chairman Riley. The meeting was to include Solitude, Aquatic Technologies, the LMCA, Yonni Guyre, Pat Marsico, Mr. Hathaway and Chairman Riley. That morning Chairman Riley had eye surgery and could not attend. Pat chose not to attend as a result and cancelled having their contractor attend due to personal conflicts which have existed for a long time. Mr. Hathaway ended up meeting with Solitude alone.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's Report was emailed to the Board today by Mr. Keenan. Mr. Keenan stated \$3,000 for Solitude has been taken out already. Chairman Riley stated the current balance is almost \$10,000 and the \$2,300 check which was just received still has to be deposited. The board is in decent shape and the secretary can be paid over the winter months. Mr. Keenan asked if the funds from the hydrorake grant should be transferred. Mr. Hathaway stated the grant expires December 31st. Ms. Maio asked if there is a requirement to keep the funding separate. It was determined the account should remain separate until the grant expires and then it can be closed out in January. Chairman Riley will prepare the reports.

Chairman Riley stated he had taken the small harvester to Clinton where a suction dredge is being done. The harvester was used to pull large mats of water chestnuts and it worked well. Chairman Riley stated they own the harvester and could bring it to various locations and charge for it. Mr. Rogalo stated if it is good for that it could be a specialty use. Chairman Riley stated it pulls the water chestnuts roots and all. The harvester can hold approximately 10-12 cubic yards of material and fills up in approximately two hours.

BILLS:

Operating Account:

Ellen Horak – Clerk's Monthly Compensation	\$500.00
Fulton Bank – Safe Deposit Rental Fee	\$ 63.97

Lake Management Account:

JCP&L – Electric at Shed	\$ 3.10
Solitude Lake Management – Lake Management Services (Oct.)	\$3,000.00

Debit/Credit Card

Checkworks, Inc. – Checks	\$ 22.38
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On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Ms. Maio and carried unanimously by the following roll call vote, the bill for Solitude in the amount of \$3,000 will be held until Mr. Hathaway informs the Board that an acceptable report has been received.

Roll Call:

Mark Crowley – yes	Greg Poff – absent
Robert Hathaway – yes	Steven Ratner – absent
Joseph Keenan – yes	John Rogalo – yes
Rosemarie Maio – yes	Lester Wright – absent
	Earl Riley – yes

On motion by Mr. Keenan, seconded by Mr. Rogalo and carried unanimously by the following roll call vote the bills, with the exception of Solitude, were approved.

Roll Call:

Mark Crowley – yes	Greg Poff – absent
Robert Hathaway – yes	Steven Ratner – absent
Joseph Keenan – yes	John Rogalo – yes
Rosemarie Maio – yes	Lester Wright – absent
	Earl Riley – yes

UNFINISHED OLD BUSINESS: Ms. Maio stated there was a pickup truck in the lake and it was removed by someone but the State Park was apparently not notified. Ms. Castellon stated she did find out afterward that the State Park was notified. Mr. Hathaway stated he saw the truck in the lake and called 911 who in turn should have contacted the proper authorities. Mr. Hathaway went over in his boat to see if anyone needed to be rescued. No one was in the truck. Netcong Police arrived on the scene and the truck was pulled from the lake. Ms. Maio was concerned about fluids getting into the lake. Mr. Hathaway stated currently there is no SOP in place for this type of situation. The Park Police did not arrive until 30 minutes later which is not acceptable. Chairman Riley stated the SOP may have to be created by the Board and the Morris County and Sussex County Dispatch should be instructed on how to handle such a situation. Ms. Maio stated Wayne Anthony the OEM for Netcong and Stanhope should be consulted on what the procedure should be moving forward. Ms. Castellon stated calling 911 is the proper procedure and they should in turn contact the proper authorities. Mr. Hathaway stated in talking with Mr. Anthony there was a question with regard to the defining of a rescue versus recovery. Chairman Riley stated a meeting should be scheduled with Wayne Anthony, the Board and State Parks to discuss this issue. Ms. Castellon stated she will coordinate the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: Chairman Riley stated he attended a meeting with the Lake Hopatcong Commission Chairperson and Colleen Lloyd, Secretary, and Melissa Castellon, State Park, to discuss synergies of working together. Chairman Riley made some suggestions one of which was to compress the weeds before transporting them to eliminate the water. If funding is available they will look into a dumpster operation similar to ours. The hydro-rake is under-utilized on this lake and they discussed the possibility of using it on Hopatcong after the Board owns it as part of an exchange program. Ms. Lloyd asked if the Board might be interested in selling the machine. This meeting took place as result of Ms. Castellon's efforts and quarterly meetings will be held moving forward. This

has opened communications and we both have weed and disposal issues. Ms. Maio stated the difference is Hopatcong receives funding and Musconetcong does not. A meeting was held recently with the legislatures from District 24 and it was stated that funding will be given to Hopatcong and Greenwood Lake. There is no commercial application on Musconetcong and the commercial operation on Lake Hopatcong is what needs to be saved. Chairman Riley stated he would like to propose that the LMRPB, Lake Hopatcong Foundation, Lake Hopatcong Commission and the State Park prepare a proposal for a 319H grant to establish a composting facility at the Tilcon location. When the grant is over it could be turned over to the foundation or State Park and they could then utilize the material from it throughout all of the State Parks. Chairman Riley stated Commissioner Ron Smith suggested he look further into this and obtain costs. This topic will also be discussed at Friday's meeting. Ms. Maio stated there are many regulations required. Mr. Hathaway stated this was discussed previously and the cost is approximately \$3.2 million if the land is available. If all entities are interested it could work. A 319H grant would cover this type of program. This is a good long term solution. Chairman Riley stated all of the state lakes could utilize such a facility and he is trying to gather additional information. Chairman Riley would like this to be his legacy. Mr. Rogalo stated the property is owned by the State Parks. Chairman Riley stated communications have been opened and this will help everyone going forward. State Parks spent \$350,000 last year on weed management. They did 1000 cubic yards. The LMRPB did 1200 cubic yards for \$40,000. Compacting the weeds and eliminating the water makes an impact.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Ms. Castellon apologized for not informing the Board about the chamber service. Mr. Hathaway stated there were equipment issues. An attempt was made to work on the swirl chamber without telling anyone. Mr. Hathaway contacted the Netcong DPW who is doing the monitoring. The contractor was not prepared to properly remove the water in order to work on the chamber. In the past it has cost \$30,000 to clean out the chamber. It has been five years since it has been cleaned and Mr. Hathaway is of the opinion it will be budget driven as to how much gets cleaned out. The contractor is being paid by the day he has no direction on how much debris to remove.

Ms. Maio stated the "Orange Bridge" project will be going out to bid in November. The project is slated to take 305 days with work starting in March or April of 2020. The project will extend into 2021. Mr. Rogalo stated SHIPA has stated it will award a grant for a historic bridge in NJ only after this bridge is demolished. Someone in Trenton does not want this bridge restored. Ms. Maio stated they have determined it does not qualify as a historic bridge but the trusses will be cleaned up and reused. Mr. Rogalo stated there are stones there from 1865 which have survived several hurricanes but they are going to take these out and replace them with concrete which will rot away.

Seeing no one further from the public wishing to speak, Chairman Riley closed the public portion of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: On motion by Mr. Keenan, seconded by Mr. Rogalo, and carried unanimously by voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:51PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Chirip