

Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board
Regular Meeting
September 19, 2018

Chairman Riley opened the Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m. 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 18, 2018 and was sent to the Clerks of the four municipalities, the State and the two counties.

ROLL CALL:

Thomas Bruno - present	Rosemarie Maio - present
Mark Crowley - present	Steven Rattner - absent
George Graham – absent	John Rogalo - present
Robert Hathaway - present	Lester Wright - present
Joseph Keenan - present	Earl Riley - present

MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA: Additional communication and bills listed.

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

Melissa Castellon, State Parks Superintendent, informed the Board that the 5’ drawdown at Lake Hopatcong will start at the beginning of next week, depending on the weather and water level. They will need to open some gates. The Lake Hopatcong harvesters are being removed from the lake this week. They will maintain Lake Musconetcong at the dam height. Mr. Hathaway asked about the Board’s drawdown permit. Ms. Castellon responded they are currently in discussions about the swirl chamber and that permit depends on the condition of the swirl chamber. Chairman Riley commented that in the past, the drawdown was independent of the swirl chamber and he asked if it is now going to be dependent on the swirl chamber. Ms. Castellon stated during discussion, it was one factor mentioned and if their drawdown was for control of the weeds, it would be additional discussions. Chairman Riley clarified the drawdown is for shoreline clean-up, which has been the Board’s driving factor in requesting the drawdown. Ms. Castellon stated that during the quarterly discussions, the other factors were discussed. Mr. Hathaway noted his understanding was that the discussions Ms. Castellon mentioned were continuing, but the need for the drawdown was recognized for dock maintenance and shoreline cleanup. Mr. Hathaway expressed concern if decisions are being made without the Board’s knowledge. Ms. Castellon stated they are having ongoing discussions and at the next meeting there will be a draft of the schedule. She hopes to have a meeting next month (October). Mr. Hathaway stated the drawdown must be in place for October and if they wait another month to start discussions, it will not be able to happen. Ms. Castellon stated she is not sure of the direction, but she did put through the permit for the Lake Musconetcong drawdown.

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

ACTION ON MINUTES: Mr. Rogalo noted a correction on page two under Lake Management. At the end of the paragraph regarding discussion about disposal, he asked “if the Board obtained a dredge spoil permit;” however that language is not included in the minutes. Mr. Rogalo asked that the minutes be amended to include his comment. On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Ms. Maio, the Minutes of the August 15, 2018 meeting, as amended, were approved by unanimous voice vote.

COMMUNICATIONS: The following communications have been placed on file:

08-23-18 Pat Rector – 6th Quarterly Report re: Implementation of Reduction of Total Phosphorus in Lake Musconetcong WM16-047

09-07-18 Roxbury Township – Purchase Order in the amount of \$8,578.68 and check in the amount of \$8,578.68 re: 2018 budget contribution

- 09-10-18 Byram Township – check in the amount of \$1,504.47 re: 2018 budget contribution
- 09-10-18 Integro USA Inc. – Certificate of Liability Insurance re: Solitude Lake Management, LLC
- 09-17-18 Jeff Walters – Poor condition of lake near his property
- 09-17-18 NJ Motor Vehicle Commission – CorpCode Request Form re: change of address
- 09-18-18 van den Heuvel & Fountain – Public Officials Liability Policy Renewal

Mr. Hathaway questioned the letter from Mr. Walter. Chairman Riley responded Mr. Walter send correspondence requesting it be read into the minutes; however, an individual must appear in person to be read into the record. A copy of Mr. Walters letter will be placed on file. Chairman Riley asked the Clerk to distribute a copy of Mr. Walters letter to the Board members. On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Rogalo and carried by unanimous voice vote, the communications were accepted.

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 – Ms. Maio deferred to Mr. Hathaway. Mr. Hathaway reported he cancelled the Board's attendance at Netcong Day due to the weather. The Firemen's Challenge was also cancelled due to the rain. Mr. Hathaway has been working with the Stanhope Fire Department and Netcong Fire Department to reschedule the event. The tentative date is October 14th. The event will just be a contest. The Netcong-Stanhope Rotary Club donated \$1,000 towards the event. Mr. Hathaway reported the 50/50 was a failure. Mr. Hathaway took responsibility for the failed 50/50, noting he relied on the fire departments. He had been told by both fire departments that they were on top of the event. Tickets were given to the fire departments; however, he did not follow up on the sale. He was led to believe by both fire departments that everything was going well with the ticket sales. Mr. Rogalo suggested having a donation box at the rescheduled event. The Board agreed that having a donation box was a good idea. Mr. Hathaway will inform the Board once a confirmed date has been scheduled. Mr. Hathaway noted an email the Board received from Mr. Rattner alerting them of a blue green algae bloom in Budd Lake. Mr. Hathaway stated he was confident they did not have a bloom in Lake Musconetcong. When a concern was raised about a possible bloom in Lake Musconetcong, he and Chairman Riley surveyed Lake Musconetcong. Ms. Castellon was on top of this issue and communicated with Mr. Hathaway. Ms. Castellon had suggested the Board send out a public alert. Mr. Hathaway forwarded Ms. Castellon's alert to the town managers and it was determined by the towns, to not send out the alert without knowing for sure if there was a harmful algae bloom present in the lake. Mr. Hathaway was also in communication with the LMCA regarding this issue. Mr. Hathaway stated the survey of the lake showed no signs of a bloom. There is an SOP of the DEP and the DEP's results showed no harmful algae bloom in Lake Musconetcong. Chairman Riley stated it is his opinion that the Board should not make a recommendation as to whether or not there is an algae bloom because we are not qualified; it is up to State Parks to make that determination. It should not be this Board's position to make those recommendations and announcements, it should be State Park's responsibility. Ms. Castellon stated the DEP's protocol for her is for her to notify dispatch and the on-call health department personnel. In this instance, she tried to follow protocol; however, she was not able to reach anyone which is why she contacted the Board. Chairman Riley said he appreciates the upfront notification but he is not confident that the Board should be the entity making that information public, it should be the DEP.

Lake Management – Mr. Hathaway asked if the correspondence previously discussed to go to Olivia Glenn and Mr. Bucco regarding promises made at their meeting 2 months ago for funding were sent. Chairman Riley responded he has not yet drafted the correspondence, but will do so shortly. Mr. Hathaway reported the LMCSA has communicated to him regarding the water chestnut application. Their position is that the water chestnut has been unaffected by the treatment, to which Mr. Hathaway agreed. The water chestnut in Byram Bay have been treated twice. It is Solitude's position that the seeds are retarded, which Mr. Hathaway also agrees. Mr. Hathaway stated they are using a different chemical than the one he recommended and he is not satisfied with the results. Mr. Rogalo said he was in a canoe on the lake in that area and the plants that were there are a pale green, not the rich green color they were in the past and he noticed that very few plants had seeds. Mr. Hathaway believes the results were lackluster and he asked for Solitude's response to his email, which he has not received yet. Chairman Riley agreed that the results are different than we have seen in the past. In the past, after the treatment they turned brown. Mr. Hathaway stated he was involved in the chemical selection process and was assured the results would be the same. We were reassured this was the way to go. Mr. Hathaway is raising this issue so the Board is aware for next year. Mr. Hathaway commented he was surprised by the density this year. Pat Marsico, present in the public asked to speak. Ms. Marsico said last year was much lighter and the hand pulls were able to keep the Stanhope side 95% clear. They also pulled in Port Morris and they cleared so much that when Americorp's hand pull event occurred there was just enough left for the 40 volunteers to finish. Last year's crop was much lighter; this year's crop is very heavy. It was evident they could not handle it with a hand pull so they treated the area. Mr. Hathaway stated that in the past they used oil-based 24D and this year a water-base was used, due to price. Water-based costs half as much as oil-based and he was assured we would not see a difference. Mr. Rogalo suggested they ask Pat Rector to take some of this year's seeds and test them. Mr. Hathaway will contact Pat Rector. Mr. Hathaway also reported there have been some breakdowns which has detailed the collection of weeds. The area in Port Morris near Mr. Walters property is unacceptable. It has been his goal for the past 6 to 8 weeks to clean up that area; however, due to several breakdowns they have not been able to get it done. They are collecting weeds, but they have not been as efficient as they would like to be. Mr. Hathaway noted the resident concerns raised at the last meeting have been addressed. Mr. Hathaway reported they will need to purchase two drums of the proper hydraulic oil to go into the machine. The use of vegetable oil is clogging it. They need to flush out the system. The cost of the two drums of hydraulic oil will be about \$2,500. If that does not solve the problem, the pumps will need to be replaced which will cost about \$7,000. It is imperative that they get the vegetable oil out of the system. Mr. Hathaway stated the worse-case scenario would be replacement of both pumps at a cost of about \$7,000, possible replacement of other parts at about \$4,000 - \$5,000 and may need to replace all of the hydraulic lines which will total between \$20,000-\$25,000. The plan is to try to purge the system for a couple thousand dollars for the new oil. They will remove as much of the oil as they can, but there will be residual in areas. The oil they will be using has a detergent component that is intended to clean out and remove debris. It also has an anti-wear component. Mr. Hathaway stated most of the machine is operational. The problem presently is confined to one pump. They will need to replace two pumps to make sure. The wheel motors are only three years old and it is not likely they are gummed up. The parts they are talking about are original to the machine. Mr. Hathaway stated the inspection of the motor shows it is significantly gummed up. Mr. Hathaway noted they should proceed knowing the possibility this will be a \$10,000 expense. Chairman Riley noted they are tandem pumps so you cannot replace only one pump, you must replace both. Ms. Maio questioned where the funds will come from. Mr. Hathaway stated the contract with Solitude expires next year and the funds will come out of the herbicide budget. Mr. Hathaway added he has attended three meetings where funding to the Board was promised by Mark Texel, John Grey and most recently by Olivia Glenn. Chairman Riley noted on the positive side, since they have not been

able to harvest or use the hydro rake, cost have been minimal. They have not spent as much on maintenance and fuel so there will be extra money in the budget that can be used towards the purchase of the oil. Chairman Riley will contact Olivia Glenn about the \$16,000 the Board was promised. Mr. Bruno reported he spoke to Rich Schindler regarding disposal at Saxton Falls. He had to give some assurances that the Board will secure the permit. There is a possibility that he may be interested. Mr. Hathaway noted two promises were made – the first was that funding was going to be given to the Board for disposal and the second that the permits would be taken care of by the DEP and all would be in order for us for next year. These issues must be resolved shortly. Mr. Hathaway also reported they rebuilding the lake management staff. They have two new volunteers in training and one additional on-deck plus Mr. Bruno has returned. Chairman Riley stated the owner of the dumpster that has been on loan to us has given the Board to the end of the month to return the dumpster or purchase it for \$800. Chairman Riley expressed his opinion that \$800 is too much for the dumpster. Mr. Hathaway agreed, adding it is possibly worth about \$400. Ms. Maio suggested reaching out to Blue Diamond or Waste Management, both who service the area, and ask them about donating a dumpster. Stanhope and Roxbury use the services of Blue Diamond. Chairman Riley will reach out to Blue Diamond and request a donation of a 20-yard dumpster. Mr. Rogalo commented the river and the water in the lake is clearer than it has been in years. Mr. Hathaway agreed that the water quality is outstanding and he believes it is due to the probiotic put in the lake.

Operating Budget Committee – Mr. Keenan and Chairman Riley will create a preliminary budget for review at the October meeting.

TREASURER’S REPORT: The Treasurer’s Report was emailed to the Board. Mr. Keenan reported the balance in the report does not reflect the two checks received totaling about \$10,000 and the \$947 insurance invoice plus the \$250 check not delivered for the DJ at the Firemen’s Challenge. The balance in the account is approximately \$25,000. On motion by Ms. Maio, seconded by Mr. Hathaway and carried by unanimous voice vote, the Treasurer’s Report was accepted and placed on file.

BILLS: The bill from Mike Justus in the amount of \$250 for DJ services for the Firemen’s Challenge was removed from the bills list. On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Rogalo and carried by the following unanimous roll call vote, the following bills are to be paid if and when funds are available:

Operating Account:

Ellen Horak - Clerk’s Monthly Compensation	\$ 500.00
Van den Heuvel & Fountain – Public Officials Liability Ins.	\$ 947.05

Lake Management Account:

Solitude Lake Management – Lake Management Services	\$2,575.00
Solitude Lake Management – Water Chestnut Treatment	\$ 799.69
JCP&L – electric at shed	\$ 3.94
Ray Guyre – reimbursement of expenses (STTC receipt)	\$ 69.31

Debit/Credit Card

Amazon	\$ 145.99
Amazon	\$ 31.92

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Bruno – yes	Ms. Maio - yes
Mr. Crowley – yes	Mr. Rogalo - yes
Mr. Hathaway – yes	Mr. Wright – yes
Mr. Keenan – yes	Chairman Riley - yes

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no Old Business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no New Business to discuss.

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

Yonnie Guyre, LMCA Treasurer, presented the Board with check number 2136 in the amount of \$750 to cover the water chestnut in Byram Bay.

Melissa Castellon, State Parks Superintendent, stated she is still trying to work with the recycling unit of the DEP regarding disposal. A representative from the unit may do a site visit. Mr. Hathaway suggested Ms. Castellon look into using Saxton Falls for Lake Hopatcong's weeds. Lake Hopatcong Commission presently pays for disposal so the owner of Saxton Falls will get paid to take that material. The Board is looking to have the material taken at no cost to the Board. Chairman Riley stated Ag Choice refused to take the material because they could not identify the source of the pollutant. They have since identified the source and they are willing to take our weeds, but he is not sure that they will take the muck from the hydro rake. Mr. Hathaway stated Ag Choice can only take so much and it might be an opportunity for all three parties to help each other. Mr. Hathaway strongly urged that this opportunity be investigated. Mr. Bruno will speak with Melissa further about this and will follow up with Mr. Schindler. Chairman Riley will give Mr. Bruno a copy of the lab report showing the results of the material they had tested. Chairman Riley offered to meet with Mr. Bruno and Mr. Schindler.

Pat Marsico, LMCA Member, spoke about a new product to treat water lilies. The product is called ProcellaCor. The LMCA was granted approval in late June and the product was applied on July 20th. They treated two locations - in Stanhope and Netcong. Within four days of application, they were almost gone and it took them down to the lake bed. Within a week they were gone. The product does not kill the tuber. Next year they will apply earlier. To some degree it was very beneficial to giving relief to some areas. Mr. Hathaway suggested Ms. Marsico reach out to the DEP and inform them it did not kill the tubers. They may be able to get approval for greater usage. Ms. Marsico stated she also observed success with the milfoil and added four other weeds are developing: eel grass, small leaf pondweed, large leaf pondweed and naiad. In 2016 large leaf pondweed was first documented, but the other three were never noted until this year. Ms. Marsico also stated the lake looked very good for most of the season. She would like to get together to coordinate treatments again.

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

ADJOURNMENT: On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Ms. Maio, and carried by unanimous voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Horak