

Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board
Regular Meeting
May 17, 2017

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 19, 2017 and was sent to the Clerks of the four municipalities, the State and the two counties.

ROLL CALL:

George Graham -absent	Steven Rattner - present
Robert Hathaway - present	John Rogalo - absent
Joseph Keenan - absent	Lester Wright - present
Rosemarie Maio - present	Earl Riley - present

MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA: Additional communication listed.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Chairman Riley opened the meeting to the public. Seeing no one from the public wishing to speak, Chairman Riley closed the public portion of the meeting.

ACTION ON MINUTES: On motion by Mr. Rattner, seconded by Ms. Keenan, the Minutes of the April 19, 2017 meeting were approved on unanimous voice vote.

COMMUNICATIONS: The following communications have been placed on file:

- 4-28-17 Borough of Stanhope - Voucher in the amount of \$13,320.02 re: 2017 budget contribution
- 5-01-17 Byram Township – Vendor Packet re: Byram Day (Sat., Sept. 9)
- 5-05-17 Netcong Borough – Registration for Netcong Day (Sun., Sept. 10)
- 5-10-17 Borough of Stanhope - Check in the amount of \$13,320.02 re: 2017 budget contribution
- 5-17-17 Morris County – Memorandum of Understanding and Voucher in the amount of \$4,888.33 re: 2017 budget contribution

Chairman Riley noted the budget amount requested from Morris County was \$5,091.75. Mr. Rattner will look into why the amount sent was less than the requested amount.

On motion by Ms. Maio, seconded by Mr. Hathaway and carried by unanimous voice vote, the communications were accepted.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Canal Society – There was no report.

Musconetcong Watershed Association – Chairman Riley reported the new sensors are in the Musconetcong River. One is located by the steel bridge and the other is in Byram Township by Riverside Park. They are also on-line. They are taking samples in real time every 5 minutes and phoning in the results. The goal is to have sensors the entire length of the river. Chairman Riley also reported they conducted a river watch 2 weeks ago. He monitors the site at Willow Street in Roxbury and at that location there is a person living in the area who built a dam across the river. When conducting the river watch, they removed the dam; however, the person re-built the dam and built a second one. Chairman Riley questioned if State Parks or Roxbury Township is responsible and should be informed. The person is building the dam in this location because it is where they stock. They need to address this with the person blocking the river. Chairman Riley also said that there were a number of dead fish that were found

stuck in the dam. Mr. Rattner stated the NJDEP should be notified. Chairman Riley will call the DEP Hotline about this matter.

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

Lake Awareness – Ms. Maio reported she is preparing a flyer for the fishing contest being held on Sunday, June 11. The flyers will be distributed for posting in various locations. The fishing contest will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and will be open to children between the ages of 3 to 13. Mr. Hathaway will look into having this information placed on Netcong's electronic message board. Ms. Maio will look into having the information placed on Stanhope's electronic message board. Chairman Riley will contact Mr. Rogalo about the donation from the Sportsmen's Federation. The Clerk said, as directed at the last meeting, she sent a letter to the Sportsmen's Federation requesting the donation to the fishing contest. Chairman Riley asked the Clerk to send a donation request letter to Ramsey's. Ms. Maio also reported the Board received registration forms for Netcong Day (September 10) and Byram Day (September 9). The Board needs to decide if they will register for a table at these events because the past few years manpower has been an issue. Chairman Riley and Ms. Maio offered to spend a partial day at these events. Ms. Maio noted there must be at least 2 members at the table. Chairman Riley asked members to let them know by the next meeting if they can attend these events.

Lake Management – Mr. Hathaway reported the Board received proposals from Solitude Lake Management. Mr. Hathaway also reported there are still unresolved issues with the DEP regarding disposal of the weeds and it is unlikely the Board will be able to dispose of the weeds this year. The Board should make a decision that does not include weed harvesting. There are two issues, one being the open waterways which the Board is responsible for and the back of Byram Bay which has a water chestnut issue. The Board does not have money to deal with both. We will treat 150 acres of the open waters and a secondary treatment of 120 acres which will be the majority of the open waters. Including the LMCA's contract for herbicide treatment, it will be almost the entirety of the lake. Mr. Hathaway added, we committed to 20 loads with the hydro rake and the budget only indicates 17 loads. The budget must be revised, which is what Chairman Riley has done. The Board will not take delivery of the hydro rake for 6 to 8 weeks. Mr. Hathaway asked for authorization to move forth immediately with the applicator. We need to be considerate that there is a likelihood of an algae bloom which we will then have to underwrite funds. Mr. Hathaway added he is not sure, but they may need to underwrite over \$1,000 in order to effectively manage the lake this year. Solitude submitted a proposal to use a water based, not oil based herbicide. Coontail will not be killed, but the algae can be controlled. The cost will be \$22,000 in the new (revised) budget. There are other lines items on the new budget that need to be revised. Ms. Maio noted they received 3 contracts from Solitude. Mr. Hathaway responded they are not considering contract #1 (using Weedestroy) for \$22,500. They are considering the contract using Clearcast, which is the herbicide previously used. The contract indicates \$1,800 to treat 5 acres. Mr. Hathaway stated the 3 towns (Stanhope, Netcong and Roxbury) take care of treating the area in front of their parks. Stanhope has 2 acres, Netcong has 2 acres and Roxbury has 1 acre and the State Parks has ½ acre. The Board will ask for separate contributions from the towns for the shoreline treatment of their parks and the map provided by Solitude justifies the request for \$360 per acre. Ms. Maio will request an additional \$720 from Stanhope's Council at their next meeting. Mr. Hathaway stated he would like the Board to authorize the open waters spending and the shoreline spending with the understanding we will still have work to do on the budget. Mr. Hathaway added there is sufficient money in the budget for the treatment. Mr. Hathaway also stated he arrangement they negotiated bridges 2 fiscal years so we are not "trapped." The Board's attorney will review the contract prior to execution by the Board. Netcong Borough will provide the services of their Qualified Purchasing Agent so the Board can spend over

\$22,000 without having to go out to bid. Mr. Hathaway stated the only thing they can move forward on at this time is the herbicide treatment. On motion by Ms. Maio, seconded by Mr. Hathaway and carried by the following unanimous roll call vote, the Board authorized execution of the contract with Solitude with the condition it is reviewed and approved by the Board’s attorney and confirmation it is within threshold of the Qualified Purchasing Agent.

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Hathaway – yes Mr. Rattner - yes
Ms. Maio – yes Mr. Wright – yes
Chairman Riley – yes

Chairman Riley clarified that he did not increase the budget. He only reallocated the line item amounts under Lake Management. He allocated \$23,200 for herbicide treatment. Chairman Riley added they need to ask the towns for their fair share of the parks at \$360 per acre.

Operating Budget – There was no report.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Chairman Riley noted the Treasurer’s Report was emailed to the Board. The balance in the long-term savings account is \$684.27 and the balance in the lake management account is \$11,748.16 for a total of \$12,432.43. Chairman Riley noted only Stanhope Borough has sent their 2017 budget contribution. Chairman Riley noted the bill the Board previously received from Cliff Lundin in the amount of \$1,058.25, which was approved and held pending receipt of funds. Since funds were received, the Clerk was instructed to mail the check to Mr. Lundin.

On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Wright, and carried by unanimous voice vote, the Treasurer’s Report was accepted and placed on file.

BILLS: On motion by Mr. Rattner, seconded by Ms. Maio 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
Selective Insurance Company – Liability Insurance Installment Payment	\$1,307.00
Lake Management Account:	
JCP&L – electric at shed	\$ 3.32

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Hathaway – yes Mr. Rattner - yes
Ms. Maio – yes Mr. Wright – yes
Chairman Riley – yes

OLD BUSINESS:

Weed Disposal – Chairman Riley stated he met with Melissa Castellon and Josh Osowski about the Board’s weed disposal issue. State Parks (Melissa) wanted to see if they could do testing on the weeds to prove they are okay; however, her request was denied. Chairman Riley also found out from Josh that the agreement for the State to pay for the Board’s weed disposal did not include the hydro rake. Chairman Riley added, if the Board can find a place to take the weeds, they only have to pay for transportation. Ag Choice has not yet returned Chairman Riley’s telephone calls. As of today, the Board has no place to take

the weeds. They are trying to put a total herbicide plan in effect so we can have some control over the lake this season. The harvester will not be put in the water. If we can find some place to take the weeds, they will use the small harvester. Chairman Riley stated they do not have a date for when the small harvester will be delivered. Chairman Riley said this will be an herbicide year.

NEW BUSINESS:

Duck Race – Mr. Hathaway said he is working on the “Duck Race” fundraiser. The event date was changed and it will be held on August 19th. It will be a combination with a “wet-down” event for the hydro rake. Mr. Hathaway will provide more details at the next meeting.

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

Joseph Nametko, 13 Highland Avenue, Netcong and Mayor of Netcong, asked what the contractor’s reasoning was for suggesting a water based treatment. Mr. Hathaway responded the choice was due to cost and he feels the Board received a good deal. The product chosen is acceptable for treating the Eurasian milfoil, but will not significantly affect the coontail. They are treating the entire lake which, in the past the Board spent \$50,000-\$60,000 to do and they are doing it for \$25,000 with a two-year agreement. Mayor Nametko noted an earlier comment about the State not allowing testing of the weeds and he said it is ludicrous that the State would not allow the testing, adding this is the State’s lake. Mr. Hathaway responded that we must all work together by speaking to the State representatives about the issue. He continues to work with the legislators. Ms. Maio stated she spoke to Senator Oroho and asked him to look into it. Ms. Castellon, present in the public, clarified it was not State Parks that denied the testing, it came from the DEP. Chairman Riley said the Board can test the weeds but must find someone who will accept them. If the Board can prove the issue was not the weeds, then Ag Choice will accept the weeds. Mr. Hathaway stated they do not know the cost involved with testing the weeds. Ms. Castellon stated she will provide the Board with a price list. Mayor Nametko suggested the Board add the cost of testing to the towns’ contribution.

Len Kaduto, 37 Musconetcong Avenue, Stanhope agreed with Mayor Nametko’s comment, adding it is ridiculous that the State is not paying for the test. Mr. Kaduto asked about the possibility of circulating a petition, noting the key is working through the political process. He also asked about making the politicians aware of the situation. Chairman Riley responded saying he and Mr. Hathaway have been discussing the issue with both the Morris County and Sussex County legislators. Chairman Riley explained there are DEP regulations regarding disposal of weeds. Mr. Hathaway suggested the residents contact the press and legislators. Ms. Maio expressed her opinion that the Board should look into funding the testing. Chairman Riley will work with Ms. Castellon to get the proper information on testing.

Yonnie Guyre, Landing resident, asked if they Board will be cancelling the weed pull. Chairman Riley responded in the negative.

Pat Marsico, Netcong resident, asked if the harvester will be in the water for the hand pulls that are done during the week. Mr. Hathaway responded the large harvester will not be put in the water this year. If State Parks delivers the small harvester and there are volunteers to do the hand pulls, then the small harvester will be put in the water for the hand pulls during the week.

Jetur Riggs, LMCA President, asked if the Board would compose a written statement about the plan for the use of herbicide this year for distribution to the LMCA members. Chairman Riley directed Mr. Riggs

to the Board's website and suggested he read the minutes that are contained therein. All minutes are posted once they are approved and would contain the information he is seeking.

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

GENERAL:

On motion by Ms. Maio, seconded by Mr. Hathaway and carried by the following unanimous roll call vote, the Board authorized testing of the weeds for an amount not to exceed \$500.

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Hathaway – yes	Mr. Rattner - yes
Ms. Maio – yes	Mr. Wright – yes
	Chairman Riley – yes

Mr. Hathaway asked for approval to prepare a statement outlining the Board's plan for the use of herbicide this year and to forward it to the LMCA. The Board agreed for Mr. Hathaway to prepare the statement and send it to the LMCA.

ADJOURNMENT: On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Ms. Maio and carried by unanimous voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Horak, Clerk