

**Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board
Regular Meeting
September 18, 2019**

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 17, 2019 and was sent to the Clerks of the four municipalities, the State and the two counties.

Chairman Riley asked for a moment of silence for Senator Anthony Bucco who passed away on Monday.

ROLL CALL:

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

MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA: Additional bill 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: Mr. Rattner made the following correction to the minutes for clarification: page 2, 4th paragraph, last sentence should read “The Musconetcong Watershed Association and Musconetcong River Management Council has done DNA testing on stormwater run-off into the river” instead of “testing on everything.” On motion by Mr. Rogalo, seconded by Keenan, the Minutes of the August 21, 2019 meeting were approved by majority voice vote. Mr. Hathaway abstained.

COMMUNICATIONS: The following communications have been placed on file:

- 09-10-19 Netcong Borough – Purchase Order in the amount of \$8,904.95 re: 2019 budget contribution (\$8,104.95) and herbicide treatment (\$800.00)
- 09-12-19 Byram Township – Purchase Order in the amount of \$1,529.85 re: 2019 budget contribution
- 09-12-19 NFP (formerly van den Heuvel & Fountain) – Public Officials Liability Policy (Renewal)

On motion by Mr. Rattner, seconded by Mr. Wright 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 – In Ms. Maio’s absence there was no report.

Lake Management – Mr. Hathaway reported all equipment is working and the staff is routinely harvesting the weeds. The Board has no funds left, but has enough fuel to run the equipment. They are using the hydro rake with the rake to remove water chestnut. Chairman Riley is running the hydro rake. Chairman Riley said it takes about 3 hours to fill the hydro rake since it is not as dense as it had been. Chairman Riley spoke to Pat Marsico and as soon as the HAB in the lake is clear, her hand pulling group will clean up what is left. Chairman Riley will continue to go out with the hydro rake

until such time as the lake is clear of the HAB. Mr. Hathaway also reported there was a resident complaint about debris being blown in front of his property and tires in the lake. The property is on Lloyd Avenue in Stanhope. Chairman Riley inspected the area and could not find the tires and he continues to look for the tires every time he goes out on the lake. Chairman Riley noted the cut weeds are blowing in front of the property, and they cannot be picked up with the hydro rake. Mr. Hathaway stated the equipment is in good working condition and they are doing a variety of work sets. He inspects the lake regularly and the shoreline will improve. Mr. Hathaway said the Board should take into consideration the fact that they do not have funds to pay for the disposal of any great amount of material and he is disappointed in the Board's position at the last meeting about his letter. Mr. Hathaway expressed his opinion that the problem will not be solved without the letter, which letter was requested by the legislators. The Board's refusal to endorse the letter "takes the legs out." Mr. Hathaway agreed the letter was strong and was done so because this has been one of the most lackluster campaigns and in the absence of the support of the Board, he can get nowhere. Mr. Hathaway stated he wrote another letter to State Parks Service with the assistance of Assemblyman Bucco, suggesting they task their equipment, which is being underused on Lake Hopatcong to Lake Musconetcong. Mr. Hathaway wrote the letter as a Borough Councilman. Mr. Hathaway said he has been trying to build a case about non-cooperation by the Lake Hopatcong Commission, State Parks Service and NJDEP and that the funds should be shared. He added that the chain of events displays, to those watching, that this lake is not considered part of the State Parks and there is no mind to sharing. Mr. Hathaway again expressed his disappointment in the Board's position and said he questions how he will move forward in the future given the lack of support from the members of the Board. Chairman Riley noted the Lake Hopatcong Commission is paying \$126 per ton for disposal of weeds at the Sussex County MUA for which State Parks found money to pay for that was not in the budget. Chairman Riley said that at a meeting with State Parks Service he and Mr. Hathaway discussed this and said rather than run the harvester on Lake Hopatcong, bring one harvester and a crew member to Lake Musconetcong and we could clean the entire lake in one to two weeks and it would only cost them \$7.00 per cubic yard because the weeds would be coming from Lake Musconetcong, not Lake Hopatcong. Their answer to us was "no." Mr. Rogalo asked who the State representative was at that meeting. Chairman Riley responded that Josh Osowski was present for the State. Chairman Riley also agreed with Mr. Hathaway that his letter was very strong, but the two of them have been battling this for the past two years and the Board has gone to the local legislators. Mr. Hathaway said his letter was sent to three legislative offices and was edited by two of those legislators before he signed it.

Operating Budget Committee – There was no report. Mr. Keenan asked to meet with Chairman Riley to discuss preparation of the 2020 budget. Chairman Riley agreed, noting Morris County requires their budget submission in October. Chairman Riley said he is reluctant to increase the budget to the municipalities and counties by more than 2%, but this year there is no choice but to put in a significant increase. Chairman Riley is concerned that for the past six to eight years they have been trying to keep the budget within reason; however, the Board is now broke. Chairman Riley will schedule a meeting with Mr. Keenan. Chairman Riley noted that the Board had requested \$21,000 from the State. According to the charter, the State is to provide in-kind services and since the Board received no in-kind services, they asked for funds to which the State said "no." Chairman Riley noted that since the change in State Parks and management, they have been absolutely reluctant to work with the Board and have done many things to prohibit us from functioning effectively and the municipalities and counties will have to pick-up the funding to maintain this State Lake.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's Report was emailed to the Board. Mr. Keenan stated the Board does not have sufficient funds to pay all the bills on the bills list. If the Board holds back

payment on Solitudes \$3,000 bill, all the other bills can be paid. Chairman Riley noted he is still waiting for the \$3,000 check from the State for preparation of the quarterly report under the 319 Grant, which has been approved. Mr. Rattner questioned the check from Netcong for the goose egg addling program. Chairman Riley responded here were no eggs to addle so he did not submit the bill. Mr. Hathaway stated the USDA would have billed Netcong for the services whether or not there were eggs. The Board members did go out and look for the eggs so Netcong should be billed for the services. Mr. Hathaway added that the money is in Netcong's budget. Chairman Riley said they found no geese nests and therefore, no eggs were addled. Mr. Hathaway said Netcong paid the USDA to do what the Board did and it is his opinion that a request for the funds should be submitted. Chairman Riley will go onto the USDA site and report they found no nests and he will then submit a bill to Netcong for \$2,300 for searching for nests and mapping and addling 50 swan nests. On motion by Mr. Rogalo, seconded by Mr. Hathaway and carried by unanimous voice vote, the Treasurer's Report was accepted and placed on file.

BILLS: 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, with the exception of the bill from Solitude Lake Management in the amount of \$3,000 which will be held until such time as funds are received from Netcong:

Operating Account:

Ellen Horak - Clerk's Monthly Compensation	\$ 500.00
Ellen Horak - Reimbursement of Expenses	\$ 17.99
NFP - Public Officials Liability Renewal Premium	\$ 947.05

Lake Management Account:

JCP&L - electric at shed	\$ 3.75
Aquarius Systems - Chain Coupling Assembly	\$ 22.55
Aquarius Systems - Connect Link for Pintle Chain	\$ 19.00
Ag Choice - disposal 1 load (8/26/19-8/30/19)	\$ 210.00
Ag Choice - disposal 1 load (9/2/19-9/6/19)	\$ 210.00
Rich Perry - reimbursement of expenses	\$ 21.09
Wayne Swistak - reimbursement of expenses	\$ 32.57
Solitude Lake Management - lake management services (Sept)	\$3,000.00

Debit/Credit Card

ECO Fuel - fuel	\$ 341.12
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ROLL CALL:

Mr. Hathaway - yes	Mr. Rattner - yes
Mr. Keenan - yes	Mr. Rogalo - yes
Mr. Poff - yes	Mr. Wright - yes
	Chairman Riley - yes

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Hathaway stated they are still engaged with the biological application. The final application was done this week and he asked for a full presentation to be presented to the Board at the next meeting. Rutgers, Cooperative Extension offered to review the results. He does not know if the Board will have that review by the October meeting, but should have it by the November meeting. Mr. Hathaway added that it appears the lake is getting deeper.

Chairman Riley stated they did not put the hydro rake conveyor at the lake. It is still in storage in Stanhope and will remain there until next season, when it will be put adjacent to the conveyor at the Port Morris area. Chairman Riley said he will need help remodeling the site and he asked Mr. Rogalo to meet with him to take measurements of the site for the conveyors. Chairman Riley also said when he pulled the pull starter on the engine, it came apart. He called the company it was purchased from to inquire about the warranting because it had never been used and it is broken.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Hathaway said he would like to put the Board on notice of what the likely lake management plan will be. If they get aggressive results on the micro biotic treatment, he may consider a different avenue. Mr. Hathaway noted the condition of the lake and the HAB infestation and expressed his opinion they are having trouble because of the lack of turbidity. Mr. Hathaway said they need to negotiate a whole lake treatment contract again. Chairman Riley said he discussed with Pat Marsico of the LMCA about a whole lake treatment and she is in agreement. Chairman Riley added that without a whole lake treatment with the same chemical, you are not getting the results for longevity. They need a meeting between Chairman Riley, Mr. Hathaway, Pat Marsico and the two applicators to discuss the most cost-effective solution to do a whole lake treatment. Chairman Riley proposed having the two boards meet and discuss a long-term plan using two different applicators and coordinate the application and chemical. Chairman Riley said they need to come up with a single herbicide lake treatment.

Mr. Hathaway noted the water chestnut has to be dealt with using the oil-based 24D application and in addition to whatever they do to the rest of the lake, the Board needs to provide 10 acres of funding for water chestnut. This must be part of the budget. The Board cannot allow the water chestnut to expand.

Mr. Rogalo said, regardless of everything going on with the lake this year, the water in the river is clearer than it has ever been in the past. Chairman Riley noted the lake water is also very clear.

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.

ADJOURNMENT: On motion by Mr. Rogalo, seconded by Mr. Hathaway, and carried by unanimous voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Horak