

Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board
Regular Meeting
April 18, 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:

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

MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA: There were no modifications to the agenda.

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. Keenan noted under correspondence, the date for receipt of the purchase order from Sussex County should be revised from 04/28/18 to 03/28/18. On motion by Ms. Maio, seconded by Mr. Hathaway, the Minutes of the February 21, 2018 meeting, as revised, were approved on majority voice vote.

COMMUNICATIONS: The following communications have been placed on file:

- 02-22-18 Amy Rhead, Roxbury Clerk – Appointment of Mark Crowley as Roxbury representative on the Board together with Oath of Office
- 02-23-18 Stanhope Chamber of Commerce – Registration Form for Stanhope Day (June 10, 2018)
- 03-06-18 Roxbury Township – Authorized participation in USDA egg addling program
- 03-10-18 Notice to Property Owners – Amend Site Plan approvals to provide expansion of existing restaurant and bar at 124 and 128 Route 46, Netcong
- 03-15-18 Notice to Property Owners – Variance Application for addition to Polo’s Bar & Grill at 50 Route 183, Netcong
- 03-20-18 Notice to Property Owners – Site Plan Application to install stormwater management system re: 37 Flanders Road, Netcong
- 03-20-18 Selective Insurance – Commercial Liability Insurance Policy
- 03-26-18 Lowe’s – Renewal of Tax Exempt Account Due
- 03-28-18 Sussex County – Purchase Order in amount of \$5,335 re: 2018 budget contribution
- 04-13-18 New Jersey State – check in the amount of \$3,000 re: water resource planning management (WM16-047 Grant)
- 04-13-18 Stanhope Borough – Purchase Order in the amount of \$13,956.36 re: 2018 budget contribution

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Canal Society – There was no report.

Musconetcong Watershed Association – Mr. Rattner reported the MWA has been spending a lot of time with the politicians in Trenton and they have been successful in their efforts. Money has been put in the budget for the whole watershed. Also, the William Penn Foundation has granted another \$40 Million Dollars to the entire Delaware Watershed Basin. The MWA’s website contains all their activities and events. The MWA is getting more active in minor development matters, i.e. water towers. Mr. Rattner also reported this is the 50th year of Wild & Scenic and it is the 25th year of their designation.

Site Plan Review/Stream Encroachment – There was no report

Lake Awareness – Ms. Maio reported there was a hazmat spill in the lake. Chairman Riley stated he visited the site and the NJDEP was present. They told him there was no pollutants in the lake, other than some ash from the fire. Ms. Maio stated fuel oil went into the lake and it was vacuumed out of the lake. Picatinny Arsenal and the DEP worked on the clean-up of the lake. The oil was contained within the parameters of the property. Chairman Riley noted Clegg Stuart is the homeowner and he is one of the Board’s volunteers. It is a total loss of property to him and it will be a major problem to rebuild. Clegg has given a lot of his time to the lake and to the Board. A “GoFundMe” site has been set up to assist Clegg with the clean-up of his property. Chairman Riley will provide information for those interesting in donating. Ms. Maio also reported the Stanhope Spring Festival will be held on June 10th from 12: 00 noon to 4:00 p.m. The Clerk will register the Board for a table at the Stanhope Spring Festival. Mr. Hathaway noted discussion at the last meeting regarding holding another Firemen’s Challenge this year and he asked for the Board’s authorization to coordinate this event with the two fire departments. He will let the fire departments set the date. It will most likely be in August. It was suggested to him that they also invite Byram and Roxbury fire departments to join the Firemen’s Challenge. Ms. Maio expressed concern with the location of the equipment in relation to park. Mr. Hathaway responded the equipment will not be in the park, it will be at the end of the roadway, closer to Bait & Boat. The event will be a little different from last year. The Board agreed to Mr. Hathaway coordinating the event. Mr. Hathaway reported there has been a nominal fish kill. It is not like the last fish kill, but there are some fish floating in the river. Chairman Riley said he noticed a dozen or more sunfish floating along the shore. Mr. Hathaway stated he reported the issue to Melissa Castellon. Melissa, present in the public, stated Fish & Wildlife are involved in investigating the fish kill. About 1,000 fish were found in the Stanhope side of the canal. The observed some of the fish kill and, in their investigation, they determined it was from lack of oxygen under the ice in the water. They are still looking into this issue. Chairman Riley noted the last time there was a fish kill was in 2010, which was the last time the lake was drawn down for the entire winter and this year the lake was drawn down two feet until December and then brought back up only to be drawn down one foot from December to March. Chairman Riley commented an interesting fact is with the winter long draw down in 2010 and again in 2017, both resulted in a fish kill.

Lake Management – Mr. Hathaway reported the equipment is in the lake and everything is in working order. He anticipates beginning use of the hydro rake on or about May 1st. The target this season is to complete work in the Musconetcong Park area. They have been communicating with Parks Service relating to the disposal and transport and most of that has been worked out. Chairman Riley reported he signed the Special Use Permit for disposal of the material from the hydro rake and harvester at Tilcon. We can put as much material as we want there until October 31st. This is the last year the Board will be able to put the material at the Tilcon lake site, as per the Special Use Permit. The Board will need to find another location for next year. Chairman Riley state he will work with Josh Osowski and State Parks on different options. Chairman Riley intends to use State Park property

to dispose of the material. Mr. Hathaway also reported the Clerk secured the proper permit for the USDA goose addling program. They have begun the first stage of the program. Mr. Hathaway and Chairman Riley mapped, surveyed and addled some eggs. They did not invade the swan nest, but they did map it. They need three people and there were only the two of them. Mr. Hathaway noted as he mentioned at the last meeting, Netcong Borough has offered to give the fee the USDA was charging them to the Board for taking responsibility for this program. Mr. Hathaway noted the fee will be \$2,359. Netcong's Administrator has asked the Board to provide some form of purchase order/paperwork for the funds. On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Rattner and carried by unanimous voice vote, the Board accepted the amount of \$2,359 from Netcong Borough for the handling of the goose addling program. The Clerk will send a letter to Netcong's Administrator advising that the Board approved acceptance of the responsibility for the goose addling program and accepting the funds from Netcong. The Board briefly discussed the program and agreed that monetary participation from the other towns may be requested for next year. Mr. Hathaway noted there are two outstanding payments owed to Solitude and as soon as funds become available, the invoices should be paid. Mr. Hathaway said, in the absence of any State funding, the Board will need to decide what they can do this season. With anticipated revenue, he will move forward with beginning use of the hydro rake the first week of May. Chairman Riley said he and Mr. Hathaway facilitated installing the hydro rake in the water with the help of Stanhope Borough and Netcong Borough, which help was very much appreciated. Chairman Riley noted it should have been a half-hour job. They pulled the harvester from the storage area and it had two flat tires, both on the same side. They had to stop in the middle of the road and he and Mr. Hathaway crawled under the harvester to re-inflate the tires. It took four hours to get it back on its wheels and in the water. There are also serious maintenance problems on the trailer and it requires them spending money, which they do not have, so it will not be addressed this summer. Due to the harvester sitting unused for over a year, there were a lot of problems with oil and diesel fuel. Chairman Riley, Mr. Hathaway and Ray Guyre spent 8-12 hours getting it in the water and making it run, with help from Tim Salmon. Mr. Hathaway noted they are in need of more volunteers to help run the program this year. Since they do not have enough money to do herbicide treatment, they will need to do harvesting and presently they only have five volunteers, including Mr. Hathaway and Chairman Riley. Chairman Riley commented that, considering the manpower they have, they have done a tremendous job and he thanked Mr. Hathaway and Mr. Guyre for their time and effort. Chairman Riley noted the Lake Hopatcong Commission has been funded \$50,000 and State Parks will be running their weed harvesting program through the summer. Chairman Riley does not expect the Board to be getting use of the small harvester this year and he has not budgeted for it. They budgeted \$7,000 for weed disposal and if they get volunteers to run the harvester, they can meet the budget. Byram will do the pulls for \$100 per pull. Mr. Hathaway said ideally, the Board could use another 2 to 3 dumpsters, but they do have the equipment to move forward with their plan and meet their goals.

Operating Budget Committee – There was no report.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's Report was emailed to the Board. Mr. Keenan noted the outstanding invoices from Solitude that have already been approved pending sufficient funds. The Board agreed when sufficient funds come in, the bills should be paid immediately. On motion by Ms. Maio, 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. Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Wright 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

Lake Management Account:

JCP&L – electric at shed \$ 3.42

319 Grant (WM16-047)

Rutgers – Administration of Quarterly Reports 1-3 \$3,000.00

(March Bills Approved via Email Vote)

Operating Account:

Ellen Horak - Clerk's Monthly Compensation \$ 500.00

Ellen Horak – Reimbursement of Expenses \$ 21.12

Lake Management Account:

JCP&L – electric at shed \$ 3.37

Solitude Lake Management – Lake Management Services \$2,500.00

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Hathaway – yes

Mr. Rattner - yes

Mr. Keenan – yes

Mr. Wright – yes

Ms. Maio - yes

Chairman Riley – yes

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

Joseph Nametko, 13 Highland Avenue, Netcong and LMCA member stated most of the towns have passed their budgets and he asked if the Board's budget requests have been sent. The Clerk responded in the affirmative, noting the letters were sent a couple of months ago. Mr. Nametko asked the Board to let him know if there is anything he can volunteer to do for them.

Pat Marsico, Netcong resident and LMCA Chairperson noted discussion about not funding herbicide treatment and she asked if that decision can change if the Board receives State funding. Chairman Riley responded in the affirmative. Chairman Riley added, he received a verbal agreement from Mark Texel, Commissioner of Parks & Forestry, that he could authorize up to \$20,000 to the Board for us to process this year; however, he has nothing in writing about the agreement. Chairman Riley stated he has asked for, and put in the budget, \$16,000 for the State's participation. He has an agreement with Rich Boornazian, Assistant Commission of the DEP for up to \$7,000 for weed transport and disposal from last year, which the Board did not spend last year. Chairman Riley asked for \$7,000 from last year and \$7,000 for this year for a total of \$14,000 plus the \$16,000, which will make the Board whole. The Board must have some type of reserve. If the Board does not receive funds from the State, they will not have an herbicide treatment program this year. Last year the Board did not have a disposal site so they did not do weed harvesting. They only did herbicide treatment of the lake. Ms. Marsico expressed her opinion that it would be more economical to treat a certain area, i.e. a 10-acre area with herbicide and harvest other areas of the lake. Chairman Riley expressed his opinion that it is not in the best interest of the lake to treat small areas. It should be the entire lake. The Board knows harvesting is not the solution. We need to eradicate all the weeds in the lake. Chairman Riley commented that last year's treatment was the most successful treatment the Board has done in the last ten years.

John Wetzel, asked when the program will begin. Mr. Hathaway responded they will begin with the outer limits of the lake mid-June.

Joseph Nametko, Netcong Mayor, said all the Mayors of Morris County have been invited to sit with the Governor and he offered to bring up funding for the lake. Mayor Nametko asked if there is anything specific the Board would like him to ask. Chairman Riley will send a note to Mayor Nametko and let him know what to ask for.

Melissa Castellon, State Parks Superintendent, asked the Board to provide her with a volunteer flyer for the harvesting program and she will put it on their website. Ms. Castellon addressed the disposal issue and said she will be working with the Board on a disposal site for the 2019 year. Ms. Castellon spoke to the President of Ag Choice and he cleared them to go back there with the material. Ms. Castellon clarified that the \$7,000 for disposal is based on the fiscal year, being July 1st to June 30th.

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

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Mr. Hathaway clarified that the reason the Board no longer has a fund balance is because State Parks changed their policy at a point when this Board could not operate without spending its fund balance. It was an unprofessional action taken by a few who were not interested in creating a resolution to the issue, so the only resolution available to the Board was to spend our fund balance. Mr. Hathaway noted the Board has always maintained a responsible fund balance until this was done to them by the State of New Jersey.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Horak, Clerk