

**Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**July 20, 2016**

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 21, 2016 and was sent to the Clerks of the four municipalities, the State and the two counties.

**ROLL CALL:**

Daniel Bello -absent  
Thomas Bruno - absent  
Frances D’Auria – absent  
George Graham - present  
Robert Hathaway - present  
Joseph Keenan - present

Rosemarie Maio - present  
Steven Rattner – present  
John Rogalo – present (arrived @ 7:06 pm)  
Lester Wright – absent  
Earl Riley - present

**MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA:** Additional communication and bills listed.

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

Jetur Riggs, LMCA member and Stanhope resident, asked if the Board will be discussing the progress of a winter drawdown and if there is a plan. Chairman Riley responded he attended the Lake Hopatcong Commission meeting on Monday at which Lisa Barno and a State representative were present. He spoke to Ms. Barno and told her of the Board’s interest in beginning discussions now about a winter drawdown. Ms. Barno said she would be open to discussing the matter. Discussions on a possible winter drawdown will begin shortly. Mr. Riggs stated he would be in favor of a winter drawdown to control the weeds.

Yonnie Guyre, Landing resident, stated she would not be in favor of a winter drawdown because Port Morris only has wells and the water table is low.

Melissa Castellon, State Parks, asked the past practice regarding the drawdown. Mr. Hathaway responded historically there has been a drawdown that allows for dock repairs and shoreline clean-up. The Board requested a winter-long drawdown, as was done 4 years ago. The Board believes the winter-long drawdown made a substantial difference in control of water chestnut. Fisheries is opposed to the winter-long drawdown. Mr. Hathaway stated the Board would like to at least have an annual “maintenance drawdown” that would allow for dock repairs and shoreline clean-up.

Len Kaduto, Stanhope resident, asked for an update on the probiotic experiment and if there is any truth to the rumor he heard that the Board acquired a dredging machine. Mr. Kaduto also asked why the weed harvester was not in his cove and if there is a schedule. At the last meeting he was told that the cove would be done. Mr. Kaduto spoke about the bad condition of the cove and difficulty getting around in the cove. Chairman Riley responded the schedule is prepared by Mr. Hathaway. They did a small amount of harvesting in the cove in the beginning of the season, but not since the probiotic treatment was done. Chairman Riley assured Mr. Kaduto that the cove will be done. With respect to an update on the probiotic treatment, there is nothing substantial to report on yet. Additional measurements of the treatment area will be taken tomorrow and they will then have some preliminary results. Chairman Riley addressed the rumor about the dredging machine and advised that the Board will be adopting a resolution tonight authorizing the execution of a grant agreement with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for the purchase of a hydro rake. The Board has not yet received formal notice of the grant award, but they expect the grant to be processed within the next month or two. The machine will not be

on the lake this year. They have to go through the State process and then order the equipment. The Board hopes to have the machine ready for a late spring deployment next season. Mr. Hathaway said he was not aware that the condition of the cove was so difficult and he will immediately schedule the harvester for that area.

Geraldine Hickey, 8 Spring Lane, Stanhope spoke about the problem with lily pads in front of her house. The harvester was to go down her area, but it did not. Mr. Hathaway was not aware the harvester did not do that area and he will have it done this Friday.

Jim Fredericks, 7 Spring Lane, Stanhope asked if the grant will pay for training on the new equipment. Chairman Riley responded in the affirmative. The senior operators will be trained first and they will then train the other operators. Mr. Fredericks asked if arrangements have been made for storage of the machine. Ms. Maio responded there is room at several places in Stanhope for storage of the machine and she is looking into it. Chairman Riley assured the public that the new machine will be stored in a safe location. Mr. Fredericks thanked all those involved with obtaining the grant. Chairman Riley said that in addition to the Board and Pat Rector, the entire community assisted as well as State Legislators.

Pat Marsico, Netcong resident, said Richard Zoschak of the Lake Hopatcong Commission attended the last LMCA meeting and he informed them that he just received an email from the DEP stating cutting the flow into the river from 12 cubic feet to 8.5 cubic feet was granted to Lake Hopatcong. Chairman Riley said a presentation was made by the DEP at the meeting he attended. There is a proposal to change the drawdown of Lake Hopatcong from a 26-inch drawdown to a 22-inch drawdown. The reason is doing so will allow the refill to happen faster and more complete. It is now just a proposal to change the outflow from 12 cubic feet per second to 8 cubic feet per second. They indicate that 8 cubic feet is sufficient to allow the MSA and other sewerage treatment facilities to continue their operation at 100%. There is a public hearing scheduled for September 19, at a location to be determined. The hearing will give the public the opportunity to ask questions or make comments about the proposal. Nothing has been changed as of today. Chairman Riley expressed his personal opinion that the change will not impact Lake Musconetcong. Chairman Riley added that Melissa Castellon controls the outflow at the direction of the legislators for both Lake Hopatcong and Lake Musconetcong.

Melissa Castellon clarified that the proposal for the change in outflow is only for the spring time; up until April and then it goes back to 12 cubic feet per second.

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

**ACTION ON MINUTES:** On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Graham, the Minutes of the June 15, 2016 meeting were approved on unanimous voice vote.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** The following communications have been placed on file:  
06-22-16 Byram Township – Vendor Registration Packet for Byram Day (Sept. 24, 2016)  
07-15-16 Motor Vehicle Commission – Registration for weed harvester  
07-15-16 Motor Vehicle Commission – Registration for 1988 Ford Backhoe  
07-19-16 Sussex County – check in the amount of \$4,991.88 re: 2016 budget contribution

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

## **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:**

**Canal Society** – Mr. Graham reported Heritage Days are scheduled at Waterloo Village for July 23, August 6 and 20, September 17 and 24 and October 8 and 22. Mr. Graham encouraged the Board and public to attend and visit the buildings that are open to the public. Chairman Riley said he and Mr. Graham are involved with the Friend of Waterloo Village, which recently paid to have 2 buildings cleaned and made ready to be opened to the public; however, the State has not allowed them to be opened. Anyone interested in the Friends of Waterloo Village should contact Chairman Riley or Mr. Graham.

**Musconetcong Watershed Association** – Chairman Riley reported the quarterly river watch will be conducted on July 30. Chairman Riley monitors the Willow Street site. They monitor the health of the river going from Lake Hopatcong into Lake Musconetcong. There are 5 additional locations down the river to the Delaware where monitoring is done. Anyone interested in assisting with the river watch should contact Chairman Riley,

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

**Lake Awareness** – Ms. Maio reported the water chestnut hand pull event was held this past weekend. She was not able to attend; however, was advised that it was a success. Mr. Hathaway reported they had about 40 volunteers and about 10,000 pounds of water chestnut was removed from the lake. Chairman Riley stated the AmeriCorps volunteer did an outstanding job coordinating and running the event. There was also press coverage of the event. Ms. Maio asked if the Board has an interest in having a table at Byram Day on September 24<sup>th</sup>. The Board did not attend Byram Day last year. Chairman Riley stated he will be at Byram Day with Friends of Waterloo Village and would be willing to also be at the Board's table; however, he cannot do it alone. Ms. Maio said Byram Day is the same day as Stanhope's annual Clean-Up Day. Ms. Maio and Mr. Rogalo will be helping with the Clean-Up Day. Mr. Graham offered to help Chairman Riley at the Board's table. Chairman Riley asked for additional volunteers, noting it would be difficult with only two people at the table all day. After a brief discussion it was agreed not to have a table at Byram Day. Chairman Riley will display the Board's banner, volunteer sign-up sheet and brochures at the Friends of Waterloo Village table.

**Lake Management** – Mr. Hathaway reported the contractor will be taking samples of the probiotic treatment area tomorrow and will forward the information to him. The water column and water clarity will be measured. Mr. Hathaway will supervise the contractor. Mr. Hathaway stated he has been reviewing all information received. Mr. Hathaway also reported the harvester has been pulling a lot of weeds from the lake due to the change in strategy with the herbicide treatment. The contractor applied a boost in one area that was not responding as desired (the area behind the island). There was no cost to the Board for the "boost." Other areas in the lake are problematic and the harvester has been pulling a lot of weeds. They are working very aggressively with the harvester which may be the reason for the oversight of the areas mentioned by the public. Mr. Hathaway reported the Board has received the buoys and they will be deployed in the near future. Mr. Hathaway spoke about the work he has done over the past 2 years on the hydro-rake project. With the help of the politicians and community the Board was awarded a \$365,000 319 grant. Next year the Board will begin on a mission of lake improvement. Ms. Maio asked if guidelines will be established on where and how the machine will be used prior to receipt of the equipment. Mr. Hathaway responded in the affirmative adding he has created a plan. The area in front of "Lakeside Park" in Stanhope will be the location to start with the machine. At this location they can monitor and observe the equipment and results. Mr. Hathaway will draft a substantive management plan for the use of the machine and they will have a rigorous training program. Ms. Maio asked if the machine

can be used to clear the fire lanes around the lake. The fire departments in both Stanhope and Netcong have voiced concern over the fire lanes and have requested they be cleared. Mr. Hathaway agreed the fire lanes should be cleared, adding it would be an easy task for the machine. Mr. Hathaway distributed an information flyer on the Model AM-2000 Hydro Mate Universal Water Management Boat (the hydro-rake). Mr. Rogalo noted the hull is steel, not stainless steel and he cautioned the Board on the problems of rust that may occur. It will require a rigorous annual maintenance program. Mr. Hathaway stated he spec'd stainless steel, but is not sure if it was a given option, adding he understands Mr. Rogalo's concern. Mr. Hathaway will look into whether or not it is stainless steel.

**Operating Budget** – There was no report.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Chairman Riley noted the Treasurer's Report was emailed to the Board. Mr. Keenan stated the Treasurer's Report does not include the additional bill or check from Sussex County. On motion by Mr. Graham, seconded by Mr. Hathaway the Treasurer's Report was accepted and placed on file.

**BILLS:** Chairman Riley noted the bill from Solitude Lake Management indicates the amount of \$18,059, which is incorrect. The Board had authorized \$7,000 plus for the biological treatment and up to \$13,000 for the herbicide treatment. The bill should be broken down into two separate bills. The Clerk was asked to contact Solitude Lake Management and request two bills. The Board agreed to pull the bill from Solitude Lake Management from the Bills List. On motion by Ms., Maio, seconded by Mr. Hathaway 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 – insurance installment payment	\$ 1,264.00
US Postal Service – annual post office box fee	\$ 170.00

Lake Management Account:

JCP&L – electric at shed	\$ 3.79
Ag Choice –aquatic vegetation disposal (6/13/16-6/17/16)	\$ 360.00
Ag Choice –aquatic vegetation disposal (6/20/16-6/24/16)	\$ 330.00
Ag Choice –aquatic vegetation disposal (6/27/16-7/01/16)	\$ 180.00
Ag Choice –aquatic vegetation disposal (7/06/16-7/13/16)	\$ 540.00

Debit/Credit Card

Amazon.com – 17 Buoys	\$ 473.62
Eco Fuel – diesel	\$ 234.22
Enrite – gasoline	\$ 10.10
County Welding – oxygen for welding	\$ 21.14
Todd Elston – fuel	\$ 268.05

**ROLL CALL:**

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Mr. Graham – yes   | Ms. Maio - yes       |
| Mr. Hathaway – yes | Mr. Rattner - yes    |
| Mr. Keenan – yes   | Mr. Rogalo – yes     |
|                    | Chairman Riley - yes |

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Chairman Riley stated he received 17 buoys from Amazon and with the 10 the Board already has; they now have 27 buoys. Chairman Riley asked Jetur Riggs, present in the public, if the LMCA purchased buoys. Mr. Riggs responded they are working with Amazon on acceptance of payment.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Chairman Riley said he received an email from Tom Bruno informing him that he needed to resign his position on the Board since he will not be a resident of Stanhope. Ms. Maio confirmed she was aware of Mr. Bruno's intent to resign and the Borough is awaiting his official letter of resignation.

Mr. Hathaway stated Netcong Council has been approached about inter-connecting trails around the lake. There are quite a few people interested and grant money may be available. A meeting of individuals interested in creating the trails will be held on August 16, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at Netcong Borough Hall. Ms. Maio stated Stanhope is currently awaiting approval from State Parks for completion of a trail they started. Ms. Maio added Stanhope will do nothing until approved by State Parks. Mr. Hathaway stated it is his intent to have trails go around the lake. Ms. Maio expressed her opinion that this is not within the scope of the Board's responsibility and it should be done outside the realm of this Board. Mr. Hathaway said any interested parties may attend the meeting.

Resolution re: 319(h) Grant

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, The Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board (LMRPB) submitted a 319(g) grant application to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) in the amount of \$365,166 for the purpose of reducing the Total Phosphorous internal loading to Lake Musconetcong in accordance with the TMDL as adopted in the Upper Delaware Water Quality Management Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the LMRPB received notification from the NJDEP that the LMRBP was awarded grant funding in the amount of \$365,166; and

**WHEREAS**, said purpose of the grant will be met through the purchase of equipment to be utilized for the reduction of total organic matter in the lake through a technique known as 'Hydro-raking' and an increase in the number and frequency of municipal clean out of catch basins connected to the lake;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board that the Chairman, Earl Riley and Ellen Horak, the Clerk of the Board, are hereby authorized to sign and execute said Grant Agreement on behalf of the LMRPB, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that LMRPB hereby agrees to accept and to be bound by and to comply with the terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement, subject to Counsel review, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the LMRPB hereby agrees to carry out the Grant Agreement so as to comply with the stated purposes, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a certified copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Chairman Riley opened for discussion on the Resolution. Ms. Maio questioned if the Resolution can be acted on without official written notification of the grant award. Chairman Riley responded the Clerk spoke with the Board Attorney and he advised that the resolution can be adopted. Mr. Graham suggested wording be added to the end of the third paragraph from the bottom indicating “subject to Counsel review.” The Board agreed the additional wording should be added.

On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Rogalo and carried by the following unanimous roll call vote, the above resolution, as amended was adopted.

**ROLL CALL:**

Mr. Graham – yes	Ms. Maio - yes
Mr. Hathaway – yes	Mr. Rattner - yes
Mr. Keenan – yes	Mr. Rogalo – yes
	Chairman Riley – yes

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

Yonnie Guyre, Landing resident, ask if the new machine will be made available for residents to rent. Chairman Riley responded in the negative. Ms. Guyre asked if the decrease in water level will impact the Board’s study. Mr. Hathaway responded in the negative.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Horak, Clerk