

**Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**March 16, 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.

**OATH OF OFFICE:** Chairman Riley administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Rattner.

**ROLL CALL:**

Daniel Bello -absent

Thomas Bruno - present

Frances D'Auria - absent

George Graham - absent

Robert Hathaway - present

Joseph Keenan - present

Rosemarie Maio - present

Steven Rattner – present (arrived @ 7:05 pm)

John Rogalo - absent

Lester Wright - present

Earl Riley - present

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

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

Melyssa Garcia, AmeriCorps Watershed Ambassador, came forward to discuss the Lake Musconetcong water chestnut hand pull. Ms. Garcia advised that the event is scheduled for July 16. She distributed a flyer she prepared for the Board's review. Pat Rector wanted the information about the macrophyte on the flyer. The Board was impressed with the design of the flyer, but noted the location is not Point Morris Park, but Port Morris Park. Ms. Garcia will make the correction. Ms. Garcia noted the decrease in volunteers over the past few years and she asked if the flyer could be put on the municipal websites. Ms. Maio asked that she be provided the corrected flyer and she will have it put on Stanhope Borough's website and Facebook page. Ms. Garcia asked if the harvester would be available as it has been in the past. Chairman Riley responded in the affirmative. Ms. Garcia stated she would like to have "picnic lunch with a grill for hot dogs and hamburgers and she asked about a possible ShopRite donation. Chairman Riley explained that in past years, local restaurants donated the food and the gift card provided by ShopRite was used to purchase bottled water. The Board will pursue the ShopRite donation. Rose's and Deli Delicious provided hot dogs and buns and Mr. Graham did the grilling. Chairman Riley will ask Mr. Graham to again do the grilling. In addition to Rose's and Deli Delicious, the Board recommended Ms. Garcia reach out to Carmines and the Pantry for donations. Ms. Garcia also stated that Mr. Rogalo had asked her about the health of the river coming out of the lake. His question gave her an idea that as an Ambassador, to offer biological assessment training. She will be offering training between Lake Musconetcong and Lake Hopatcong on May 15<sup>th</sup> at the Willow Street site. Ms. Garcia invited the Board to attend the training. Chairman Riley thanked Ms. Garcia for her time.

Chairman Riley stated the Board will work with Ms. Garcia on the hand pull and he suggested Ms. Garcia speak to Pat Marsico, who runs a water scout program that does hand pulls all year. Chairman Riley also suggested that information about the hand pull be provided to the Daily Record, New Jersey Herald and Musconetcong News. Ms. Maio asked Ms. Garcia to send her a press release and she will circulate. The Board discussed the importance of press coverage, which was lacking the past few years.

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 Ms. Maio, seconded by Mr. Hathaway, the Minutes of the February 17, 2016 meeting were approved on unanimous voice vote.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** The following communications have been placed on file:

- 02-19-16 Byram Mayor & Council - Resolution Supporting the LMRPB's 319 Grant Application
- 02-19-16 Netcong Mayor & Council - Resolution Supporting the LMRPB's 319 Grant Application
- 02-23-16 Senator Oroho, Assemblyman Space & Assemblywomen Phoebus – Letter in support of the LMRPB's 319 Grant Application
- 02-23-16 Stanhope Chamber of Commerce – Registration Form for Stanhope Spring Festival
- 02-24-16 Stanhope Mayor & Council – Resolution Supporting the LMRPB's 319 Grant Application
- 03-07-16 Motor Vehicle Commission – registration for shore conveyor and registration for weed harvester trailer
- 03-11-16 Senator Bob Smith – copy of letter to Bob Martin in support of the LMRPB's 319 Grant Application
- 03-16-16 Notice to Property Owners – application for permit under freshwater wetlands protection act  
Re: Lake Musconetcong Dam

Chairman Riley read the notification regarding the application for permit regarding the dam. The request is for 1) general permit authorization (authorizes regulated activities, such as construction or development, in wetlands and adjacent transition areas) and 2) rehabilitation of existing dam to meet the NJDEP Dam Safety Standards. Ms. Maio stated Stanhope representatives met with Dan De Carlo, a representative of the NJ DEP to discuss the dam rehabilitation project because they will be doing considerable work on canal side in Stanhope. After the meeting, they went to Hopatcong State Park. The plan is to do exactly what was done at Hopatcong's dam. The Borough will be asking for a landscape plan because they will be removing four very large trees. Ms. Maio explained if you are in Salmon Park facing Route 183, they will be placing stone in the area facing you around the bridge. They will be going all the way to the Netcong side and down to the river. Mr. Hathaway questioned why Netcong did not receive notice. The Clerk stated Stanhope Borough's Clerk received the same notice that the Board received and Netcong's Clerk should have also received the notice. Ms. Maio noted work will also be done on the lake side. The portion of the park by the Enrite Station that has some rubble will be cleaned out and "re-dressed." They also indicated they are going to do work inside and out of the canal house. Chairman Riley said the notice indicates that the full application is on file in Stanhope and Netcong. Ms. Maio stated the Borough of Stanhope did not get any details in terms of plans for what they will be doing on the lake side. Chairman Riley questioned if the work will impact the historical canal section. Ms. Maio responded that according to Mr. De Carlo, the State Historic Preservation Office ("SHPO") is "on board." Apparently they sent something to SHPO to see if it was okay to do the work on the Borough's property without notifying the Borough so they have no idea what was sent to SHPO. They told Mr. De Carlo, if they do not receive a copy of what was sent to SHPO and SHPO's response, the Borough will not sign onto the project. Chairman Riley asked that the Board be provided a copy of the plans for the entire dam area as well as the SHPO response. Ms. Maio stated the Borough Engineer was at the meeting and will scan the plans and send an electronic copy to the Borough. The Clerk will forward the plans to Chairman Riley when received.

On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Bruno 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 reported she sent Mr. Bello an email containing the dates for Netcong Day and Stanhope Day. She does not have a date yet for Byram Day and needs to know if the Board will participate this year. Chairman Riley stated a determination will be made when they know the date Byram Day will be held.

**Lake Management** – Mr. Hathaway reported he attended the last LMCA meeting and discussed the Board's intention of further investigating the biological treatment in the lake. He suggested to them that a token financial contribution would benefit both parties and for them to withhold treatment in the area the Board will be doing the experiment. In turn, the Board will use the harvester to maintain the resident shorelines in that area. The Board will respond to requests for harvesting and act pro-actively. Mr. Hathaway also reported that he and Chairman Riley met with Glenn Sullivan to discuss the herbicide treatment. It is Mr. Sullivan's opinion that the Board needs to use a chemical to address the coontail bloom. The chemical is Tribune which is similar to Reward but is a coontail chemical. The Board can afford to treat 50 acres. Mr. Sullivan will prepare a map of the treatment area. The other areas will be treated for milfoil. Mr. Hathaway recommended making no arrangements now regarding the water chestnut. They may treat Byram Bay only and use the chemical "Clear Cast." There is a 3 acre minimum and the cost will be about \$1,000 to treat 3 acres. This product will be included on the permit in case needed. Mr. Hathaway noted there is a \$12,000 line item in the budget for herbicide treatment. Mr. Hathaway also stated that with Allied Biological's proposal, they will be able to do the 5 acre test area for less than \$8,000. Chairman Riley noted he mentioned at the last meeting that he found an alternate provider for the biological treatment. He was informed that Allied Biological sold its business and is now joined with a company called "Solitude Lake Management. This company has been using bacteria for a number of years. Chairman Riley asked Mr. Sullivan if he would be interested in providing a quote on using the bacteria in the test location on the lake and Mr. Sullivan responded they are interested. Mr. Hathaway noted the price quote was very agreeable to him and Chairman Riley. The cost is about \$8,000 for treatment and monitoring. Chairman Riley stated if they can get someone else to do the monitoring, other than Board members, such as an organization like Solitude, then it would be much more scientific and something the Board can stand behind. Ms. Maio questioned having the person doing the work also monitoring the work. Chairman Riley stated he and Mr. Hathaway will be present when the measurements are taken. Mr. Hathaway stated Musconetcong Park is approximately 3 acres and the Board budgeted for 5 acres. The main monitoring point is the area of the pond. There will also be a monitoring site at Arbolino Bay and in the large water area at the back end of the lake. Chairman Riley addressed the cost, adding that the product being used is different than the one previously used. The cost Mr. Sullivan quoted to treat 5 acres with four applications was \$4,098. In addition they discussed with him the monitoring program. Monitoring is needed prior to, during and after treatment. Mr. Sullivan indicated they will be using sonar to take the measurements. Mr. Hathaway spoke about the good working relationship he has with Mr. Sullivan and the trust he has for him. Chairman Riley agreed with Mr. Hathaway and added there is history with Mr. Sullivan and they know what type of work he does. The Board has been satisfied with Mr. Sullivan's work and his reports. Ms. Maio asked that references be provided from Solitude for other organizations that have used their services. Chairman Riley will request a list of references and contact those on the list to ask their opinion. Chairman Riley noted no permits will be required for this treatment. Mr. Hathaway also reported the 319 grant application has been submitted. The Board received the support of the four towns through resolutions and the entire legislative

district. Mr. Hathaway said he was also promised a letter of support from Senator Booker and he is working with Senator Mendez's office for a letter of support. The decision on the grant application will be made in May. Mr. Hathaway informed the Board that, as previously discussed, he looked into the purchase of an outboard motor for the jon boat. Originally he was searching for a Mercury motor because they are high quality. The Board usually deals with Morris County Marine, who is also a Yamaha dealer. After checking the Yamaha, he believes it is a better motor and significantly cheaper than the Mercury. The dealer is willing to sell the Board the Yamaha motor at his cost which is \$2,100. Mr. Hathaway recommended the Board authorize the purchase of the Yamaha motor. On motion by Ms. Maio, seconded by Mr. Bruno and carried by the following unanimous roll call vote, the Board authorized Mr. Hathaway to purchase the Yamaha motor at a cost not to exceed \$2,100.

**ROLL CALL:**

Mr. Bruno— yes	Ms. Maio - yes
Mr. Hathaway – abstained	Mr. Rattner - yes
Mr. Keenan - yes	Mr. Wright- yes
	Chairman Riley – yes

Chairman Riley spoke about the 319 grant and commented that Pat Rector went above and beyond in working on the grant. She wrote the grant for the Board and should be thanked. Chairman Riley also stated Mr. Hathaway spent many hours working on the grant and he thanked him for his time and effort. Chairman Riley noted they reached out to everyone they could and hopefully the NJDEP will see to it that the Board is awarded the grant. The decision will be made on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Riley added that the grant is not designed for this area. It is focused in the Raritan River Basin, but hopefully, with the support of the legislature, the Board will be awarded funding. Chairman Riley again thanked Ms. Rector and Mr. Hathaway for their work on the grant.

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

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Chairman Riley noted the Treasurer's Report was emailed to the Board. On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Ms. Maio the Treasurer's Report was accepted and placed on file.

**BILLS:** On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Bruno 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
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**Lake Management Account:**

JCP&L – electric at shed	\$ 2.85
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**ROLL CALL:**

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Maio asked the status of the shoreline disturbance at the shed. Melissa Castellon, present in the public, stated she reached out to Armand Perez of Land Use Enforcement and she is waiting for a

response from him. Mr. Bello inspected the site and acknowledged the disturbance. Ms. Castellon will pull a tax map and share it with Armand so he has documentation as to where the State property is. She will keep the Board informed. Ms. Maio stated the homeowner has a permit to remove an in-ground pool, but there have also been a number of trees removed. Chairman Riley stated the homeowner is using the area between the shed and the lake to transport equipment and has caused significant disruption to the ground adjacent to the shed. Chairman Riley noted the other issue is the drain that looks new. Mr. Maio responded Bill Storms, Stanhope's DPW Superintendent said the drain pipe was their last year. Chairman Riley said now that the area has been cleared the 4 inch pipe is more visible. Ms. Castellon stated they are aware of the situation and Armand will make a site visit. Mr. Hathaway commented on the good working relationship between the Board and Ms. Castellon. There have been several incidents that needed her action and she promptly responded and helped with the situation.

Chairman Riley stated the Board sent letters to the four towns requesting \$1,000 for the sludge reduction program. Byram declined to contribute the \$1,000 for the program. He received a call from Chris Rath of Roxbury, who informed him Roxbury officials do not want to set precedence by contributing to a specific program on the lake because they are being asked to fund similar things on Lake Hopatcong at a higher cost. They are not opposed to adding the amount to their annual assessment. Chairman Riley questioned if they should redo the budget and include the \$6,000 they were requesting in the budget and distribute it by the ratio. Ms. Maio stated the budget request has already been sent out. Mr. Hathaway noted this is still only an experiment and, if successful, they could add it to the budget and have it based on shoreline percentage. After a brief discussion it was agreed not to change the budget this year.

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

Jetur Riggs, LMCA member, noted discussion on the biological treatment and he asked if there would be restrictions on their herbicide treatment because of other locations mentioned. Mr. Hathaway responded the "other locations" will only be for monitoring. Mr. Riggs asked if the herbicide affects the biological treatment. Mr. Hathaway responded they are not sure; however, other vendors have said herbicide is ill-advised in the same area. Mr. Riggs also asked if he could be provided with a map of the area not to be treated. Chairman Riley responded they do not have the map prepared yet, but will provide Mr. Riggs with a copy when it is ready. Mr. Riggs asked if the residents in those areas will receive notification. Mr. Hathaway will inform the residents that only the harvester will be used in the area to maintain their shoreline. Mr. Riggs also stated that, before the LMCA can make a decision about a monetary contribution, they would like additional information. Chairman Riley will ask Glenn Sullivan to attend the LMCA meeting and speak to them about the product.

Seeing no one further from the public wishing to speak, Mr. Hathaway 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 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Ellen Horak, Clerk