

**Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**March 15, 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 - present
Joseph Keenan - present	Lester Wright - absent
Rosemarie Maio - present	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:** On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Rogalo, the Minutes of the February 15, 2017 meeting were approved on unanimous voice vote.

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

- 02-21-17 Joe Zaccarino - Site Plan Application re: construction of 5,000 sq. ft. office/warehouse at 130 Allen St., Netcong
- 02-24-17 NJ Legislature 24<sup>th</sup> District – copy of letter to Commissioner Martin re: support of Board’s request for weed disposal
- 03-06-17 Ron Heymann, Esq. – Site Plan Application (full application with documents) re: FJZ Properties application to construct a 5,000 sq. ft. office/warehouse at 130 Allen St, Netcong

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 he attended the training seminar he spoke about at last month’s meeting. The Musconetcong Watershed Association will be getting 2 sensors to be placed in the upper Musconetcong to see the impact the outflow coming out of the MSA has on the lake. Chairman Riley stated Nancy Lawler of the MSA asked him to get someone else from this area to help monitor the site. Chairman Riley volunteered to do monthly monitoring of the site and he will ask someone from the River Watch to also monitor the site.

**Site Plan Review/Stream Encroachment** – Mr. Rogalo reported the Board received plans for a proposed building off Allen Street in Netcong. With respect to impact to the lake, there is concern with surface run-off as well as stormwater run-off. Mr. Rogalo noted this is already a disturbed site. Mr. Hathaway stated he is aware of the site as well as the site plan application before the Netcong Planning Board. There has been an unauthorized increase in intensity which concerns Netcong and they are now asking for additional intensity in the proposal. Drainage has been installed since the intensity increased.

The Board discussed their concern with the increased intensity and run-off and asked the Clerk to send a letter to the Netcong Planning Board outlining the Board's concerns.

**Lake Awareness** – Ms. Maio stated she did not yet have an opportunity to reach out to the Rotary about donating the cost of the trophies for the fishing contest. Mr. Hathaway stated he spoke to the Rotary and they are amenable to donating the cost of the trophies. Ms. Maio reported she may be able to get the banners discussed donated.

**Lake Management** – Mr. Hathaway reported Mr. Rattner was able to acquire a dumpster for the Board. Mr. Hathaway thanked Mr. Rattner for his efforts. Mr. Rattner stated there is a possibility he may be able to get another one for the Board. The dumpster needs to be painted and will suit the Board's needs. Mr. Hathaway also reported that, in the absence of assistance from the State of New Jersey, the Board will not be applying herbicide this year. The Board will apply for the permit; however, it does not seem feasible that they will be able to apply herbicide. Chairman Riley reported on meetings held between Board members, legislators and organizations with discussions centering around the utility of Lake Musconetcong and Lake Hopatcong and the problem with the lack of State focus on the lakes. Chairman Riley and Mr. Hathaway's discussions focused on the weed issue and Mr. Hathaway also focused discussion on uneven regulated activities on the lake. There was discussion on the control of utility and not having gone through the proper administrative process which Mr. Rogalo, attending the meeting as a representative of one of the organizations, discussed. Senator Bucco implied there will be some action. Mr. Hathaway stated it is the Board's hope they can foster some awakening of the reality of the utility argument. Mr. Hathaway said they also touched on the Board's desire to not be tethered on an agreement for weed disposal, adding they asked for a resolution. Mr. Hathaway stated the members must take a substantial look at what is important to the Board. He recommends the harvesting of weeds this season. Ms. Maio asked how the additional funding received from the towns will be handled. Mr. Hathaway responded the town monies will still go towards park frontage clean-up. It is the Board's mission to take care of the public areas and they will be made a priority. Chairman Riley reported he met with Josh Osowski prior to meeting with Melissa Castellon regarding weed disposal. Josh said they need to look at the cost and will probably put a cap on it. Chairman Riley met with Melissa and she said that every time the Board does a pull and hauls the weeds, State Parks will be directly billed. Chairman Riley noted this conversation occurred two days after the meeting with Senator Bucco. Chairman Riley said it is his understanding there is no cap. He told Melissa his estimate is at least 40 loads at 30 yards per load for \$6,500 (which is what was done last year), and on the high end because the Board will be using the hydro rake the estimate was 70 loads at a disposal cost of \$12,000. She is planning on 70 loads at a disposal cost of \$12,000. Chairman Riley noted transportation on 70 loads would be \$7,000, which amount is not in the budget. Chairman Riley met with Byram's Manager and they are concerned with the number of trips because of manpower involved as well as wear and tear on the old truck. Byram's Manager and DPW Supervisor asked if there is any other town that has a roll-off truck. Chairman Riley believes Roxbury may have one so the Board needs to reach out to Roxbury and see if they have one and what the charge would be. Ms. Maio suggested looking into a commercial company to share the burden. Mr. Hathaway said they used a commercial company in the past and that company is not interested doing it at the fee the Board is paying. Chairman Riley stated Byram is not willing to double the work because of the manpower. The Board needs to come up with a solution. Mr. Rogalo knows two contractors that he will approach. Chairman Riley stated Byram has been paid \$100 per pull in the past and they are willing to continue at the existing contingency of 40 truckloads. Chairman Riley noted if the Board increases the amount of the weeds over last year's we will not be able to truck them. Mr. Hathaway noted, without the herbicide application, there will be an increase in weeds. The Board discussed

locations to put the weeds. Most of the locations are owned by the State. Ms. Maio spoke of the possibility of Tressel Park, which is owned by the Borough of Stanhope.

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

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** Chairman Riley noted the Treasurer’s Report was emailed to the Board. Mr. Keenan reported the balance in the savings account is \$684.27 and the balance in the operating account is \$641.78 for a total balance of \$1,326.05. Mr. Keenan informed the Board there will be an insurance bill due in April.

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

**BILLS:** On motion by Mr. Rogalo, 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

Lake Management Account:

JCP&L – electric at shed \$ 3.32

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Chairman Riley advised the Board that during his conversation with Melissa Castellon, she committed to take the bills for all loads taken to Ag Choice. Chairman Riley expressed concern about the material to be removed with the hydro rake and the need to confirm that Ag Choice is willing to accept the material because it is different than the weeds that they have taken. Mr. Rogalo stated Hopatcong contracted with Princeton Hydro to do work with a hydro rake. Mr. Hathaway said he believes they are taking the material to Ag Choice. Chairman Riley asked for confirmation that Ag Choice is accepting the material.

Chairman Riley spoke about a meeting he and Mr. Rogalo had with Pat Rector and Dr. Heckman. They discussed the lab results that Mr. Rogalo arranged at a cost of \$50 to examine the material taken out of the lake. Mr. Rogalo reported the carbon nitro ratio showed completely broken down with no phd’s. Dr. Heckman put them in touch with Dr. Uta Krogmann, whose expertise lies in composting and she has direct ties to NJDEP. Chairman Riley will be reaching out to Dr. Krogmann to see if she will work with the Board to talk to the DEP about their requirements for composting aquatic weeds. Chairman Riley stated there is no information on any differential in the DEP requirements. They do not differentiate between aquatic weeds versus terrestrial weeds (i.e. grass clippings). Dr. Heckman suggested the Board take a 5-gallon bucket, put a tomato seed in it and if the tomato grows, the material in the lake are ok because tomatoes will not grow in soil that is troublesome. Mr. Rogalo stated Dr. Heckman and Dr. Krogmann will conduct a test with the material taken from the lake. Chairman Riley stated the goal is to change the rules of NJDEP and, with the right science, it can be done and then the Board can tell the State

Park they do not have to compost the material and we can then dispose of the material at their site. Chairman Riley added, if everything goes right, it will be at least a year away before the goal is reached.

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

Taran Sayal, Americorps Watershed Ambassador came forward. Taran will be coordinating this year's water chestnut hand pull event. The hand pull will be held on July 15<sup>th</sup>. She has reached out to a number of organizations for assistance. She has been in contact with Pat Rector who gave her a list of organizations to get in touch with. Taran stated she is in process of gathering volunteers for the day as well as canoes to be used. She created a flyer for the event which she will email to Chairman Riley for distribution to the Board. Chairman Riley told Taran about the importance of having press coverage of the event and suggested she contact a reporter from one of the local newspapers. Mr. Hathaway suggested she contact the Netcong-Stanhope Rotary and to also send copies of the flyer to the local schools prior to their summer closing. Ms. Maio suggested she contact Lenape Valley Green Club and Interact Club. Also, high school students need community service credit for graduation. Mr. Hathaway suggested she contact the Boy Scout organization. They are willing to help however; in the past, they were not notified. Chairman Riley thanked Taran for her efforts.

Yonnie Guyre, asked the Board to clarify that they will use herbicide in the area of the parks. Chairman Riley responded they need to check the budget. There are funds set aside for herbicide, but may be needed for disposal costs. If there are sufficient funds, the 2 parks in Stanhope, 2 parks in Netcong and the Port Morris park will be done.

Ray Guyre asked the status of the Board's follow up with the herbicide company and the lack of cooperation experienced. Mr. Hathaway responded he has had some conversations, but nothing has happened as of yet. Chairman Riley stated he received an email from Solitude Lake Management and they sent a contract for herbicide application this year. The email contained an apology and noted they have not heard back from Aquafix, but they did not address the SePro issue. Chairman Riley will not be signing the contract. Mr. Hathaway assured the Board that he will deal with Solitude Lake Management on this issue. He has significant questions about the experiment that remain unanswered, which only the manufacturer can answer. Chairman Riley stated he told Solitude that if the manufacturer wants to do an experiment at their cost the Board will provide a location; however, the Board will not pay for it.

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

**DISCUSSION:** Chairman Riley stated there needs to be a coordinated effort between the Board and the LMCA. The two entities are not working together and they need to coordinate herbicide application if the Board does any this year. Chairman Riley noted in addition to Board members, the State Park is also asking why the two entities are not coordinating efforts. Chairman Riley asked Yonnie and Ray Guyre, present in the public and members of the LMCA, to bring this concern to the LMCA and try to make this happen. Yonnie stated Chairman Riley should be receiving an email shortly from Jetur Riggs expressing the same opinion. Mr. Hathaway stated he has attempted to initiate conversations with the LMCA. Mr. Hathaway added that when the LMCA was formed by Doug Zellman the real intention was to have an organization with a 501c designation that could raise funds to be used for the lake.

Mr. Hathaway spoke about an idea for the Board's Lake Awareness Day since Stanhope Day will not happen this year. A while back a former Councilwoman in Netcong approached the Board about holding a "duck race" with the fire department from Netcong and Stanhope participating. Mr. Hathaway proposed holding a similar event, sponsored by the Board and the LMCA. It would be a common cause between the two entities. Chairman Riley noted they are running out of time to coordinate the event. He reached out to the LMCA about the idea; however, has not received a response. Chairman Riley asked Yonnie and Ray Guyre to bring the message back to the LMCA about working together as well as the idea for the duck race. Mr. Hathaway added the Board has made significant outreach to the LMCA on a number of topics and they are either not responded to or returned back in a forum not complacent to this Board.

**ADJOURNMENT:** On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Ms. Maio and carried by unanimous voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Horak, Clerk