

Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board
Regular Meeting
October 19, 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
Frances D'Auria – absent
George Graham - absent
Robert Hathaway - present
Joseph Keenan - present

Rosemarie Maio - present
Steven Rattner – present
John Rogalo – present
Lester Wright – present
Earl Riley - present

MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA: Additional bills listed. Chairman Riley added a presentation by Bob Schindler from Solitude Lake Management to the agenda.

PRESENTATION: Solitude Lake Management

Chairman Riley invited Bob Schindler to come forward to give a brief presentation on the herbicide application and use of probiotics in the lake. Mr. Schindler stated 24D was used extensively prior to 2016 and it was successful with the water chestnut; however, milfoil is still a problem. In 2016 we were targeting 50 acres (Byram Cove, Arbolino Cove and around the island). Four to six weeks after application we saw good control within the treatment area and some impact outside the treatment area. Later in the season, we saw an assurgent of milfoil in the treatment area. The treatment was successful through mid-season. For some reason this created a dose in the center of the lake. There is a question on the lack of residual control we had based on the dose rate applied within the treatment area. Mr. Schindler stated the Sonar application has a slow release process and by applying at a high dose rate you do not get the high dose right away. You are getting low doses which is needed for long term management. The probiotic treatment was focused in the 5-acre area by Musconetcong Park. We applied a high dose and the idea was a natural organic way of accelerating the breakdown of nutrients in the lake. The goal is to reduce the nuisance plants and algae growth. This year we did a sediment sampling and measured the depth in the area and saw a reduction in the organic depth and an increase in water depth. We also saw this in the middle of the lake. The question is why are we seeing a lake-wide impact from the natural bacteria reproducing in the lake. Mr. Schindler state most of their research was conducted in the 5-acre area and some controlled areas. He would like to propose expanding sampling into a wider area in the lake. He suggested allocating funds every year towards probiotic treatment. Mr. Schindler said he is waiting for the last set of sampling results and, after receiving the results he will prepare a more accurate report on the results of the season. He added they are seeing some positive results. Chairman Riley asked for an update on the milfoil treatment and the manufacturer's thoughts. Mr. Schindler stated they are in agreement that it was not a bad program and the manufacturer agreed we did not achieve the results they would have thought. Sonar targets the whole water volume. It does not have to be a lake-wide dose to manage the lake. We did not break up the 50 acres to pieces of the lake. We did one section and saw good results, jut not to the extent we thought. Mr. Schindler added they need to come up with a lake-wide program. The manufacturer is open to remediation methods and is willing to work with the us. Chairman Riley asked if, for the 2017 season, they will work directly with SePro in putting a management plan in place. Mr. Schindler responded it will depend on the budget. The goal for Lake Musconetcong is a unified treatment in a management plan, not management of different portions of the lake. They need to think of a 330-acre treatment area. Mr. Schindler stated the use of 24D has a lower cost, but does not

provide as much year-to-year residual control as Sonar does. With Sonar, we can get about 2 years of milfoil control. The cost for an effective plan would be approximately \$40,000 to \$50,000 for the entire lake-wide volume. The cost of using 24D for the entire lake would be 60% of the cost of Sonar. You need to apply two years and it will not provide as much of a residual result as Sonar. SePro does not produce it. Mr. Schindler spoke about other products used in the past. Mr. Schindler stated with Reward the Board is only getting spot treatment and it requires several treatments throughout the season plus you are seeing a regrowth after one or two months. Mr. Schindler said the focus must be on a long-term program. Mr. Hathaway asked about contact with the probiotic manufacturer and analyzing the core samples. Mr. Schindler responded the manufacturer has been very good about the cost of analyzing the sediment. They have not charged for the services. The manufacturers are interested in the results also and they offered to do the fourth set of sampling again at no charge. Mr. Rogalo noted the probiotics and asked the life cycle and life span of the individual bacteria. Mr. Schindler responded he was not sure about the life cycle of the concentrated bacteria, but he will follow up on the answer. Mr. Rogalo said when they die in the lake, they do not remove the nutrient. It is dropping organics down but the phosphorus is not removed and that is the basis for plant growth. Mr. Rogalo asked if anyone is checking the concentration of phosphorus in the water column. Mr. Schindler responded in the negative, adding he has not heard of a problem from anyone. Mr. Schindler said they can test the phosphorus level. Mr. Hathaway noted the water column is not stagnant; it moves. Mr. Hathaway agreed they should monitor the phosphorus. Mr. Rogalo noted the weed growth happened in spite of all the treatment. Ms. Maio expressed concern with spending \$20,000 and only getting \$3,000 worth of long-term benefit. Mr. Hathaway said the manufacturer stated the results are atypical and they are willing to make concessions to us. Mr. Hathaway also said he is not sure there is a lot of data on situations like theirs relevant to the water column and nutrients. The Board is probably at the forefront of this experiment which is why we are trying to keep it in small test areas. Mr. Hathaway added they cannot continue and redirect funds towards herbicide. Ms. Maio suggested having the manufacturer speak at a Board meeting. Mr. Schindler stated the manufacturer is willing to attend a meeting. Mr. Hathaway said the Board does not have many options for a long-term plan. Chemical remedies and the hydro-rake will be beneficial to remove nutrients in the shallow area. Chairman Riley thanked Mr. Schindler for his attendance.

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

Pat Marsico, Netcong resident and LMCA member, asked if Mr. Schindler received the communication from the LMCA regarding the use of Sonar and their observations and thoughts. Chairman Riley confirmed that he, Mr. Hathaway and Mr. Schindler received the communication. Mr. Hathaway said the LMCA conducted an independent analysis of the treatment of the lake. Ms. Marsico agreed Arbolino Cove responded well to the treatment as well as around island, but noted partial harvesting of Arbolino Cove and significant harvesting around the island contributed. Ms. Marsico asked the Board to consider the program the LMCA is conducting. Chairman Riley responded that doing so would be counter-productive to the Board's management plan. Ms. Marsico said she checked various websites and found nothing that said the Sonar product manages the problem for a year. Mr. Schindler responded their claim is based on their results. Chairman Riley stated the Board is working diligently with their professionals on a long-term management plan and they hope to have a successful plan. The Board has decided they are moving forward with Solitude Lake Management and the manufacturer of the chemicals.

Dave Hickey, 8 Spring Lane, Stanhope said "it is crazy the two entities are at odds." Chairman Riley agreed, adding it would be to the benefit of the lake if all parties agreed on a long-term maintenance plan. The short-term solutions are causing more problems for the lake.

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 Keenan, the Minutes of the September 20, 2016 meeting were approved on unanimous voice vote.

COMMUNICATIONS: There were no communications received this month.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Canal Society – There was no report.

Musconetcong Watershed Association – Chairman Riley reported the River Watch is coming up in the near future. Chairman Riley also reported that the Hughesville Dam on the Musconetcong River has just been removed. The Musconetcong River is now a wide-open river.

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

Lake Awareness – There was no report on Lake Awareness but Ms. Maio provided an update on the dam reclamation project. The Borough of Stanhope signed off on the project and granted the easement. The project was originally scheduled to begin in October; however, no work has begun. The DEP agreed to the landscaping requested by the Borough as well as keeping the path that runs from Route 183 through the Borough. Ms. Maio also said, if you are at the canal in Stanhope and facing the dam, you will see where the State is going to put a flat rock rubble wall re-enforcing the existing wall. On the other side (Netcong side) they are going to repair the existing rubble wall and repair the gate house.

Lake Management – Mr. Hathaway reported Melissa Castellon assisted him in getting the permit to draw down the lake. The Board is permitted the drawdown between November 1st and December 15th. It will be a 2-foot drawdown. Mr. Hathaway will work with Melissa to authorize the drawdown the week of November 1st. The lake will remain at the reduced level to December 15th. Mr. Hathaway proposed a lake shoreline clean-up on November 20th. Mr. Hathaway will organize the event. He will contact the LMCA about the event and will coordinate with the State Park for debris clean-up. The Board agreed to the date of November 20th for the shoreline clean-up. Chairman Riley asked Mr. Hathaway to coordinate with Jetur Riggs on the removal of the buoys. Mr. Hathaway also reported he did not authorize taking of core samples of the lake, as discussed at the last meeting. If the Board gets a promise and cooperation, then he will allow it to happen. Mr. Hathaway noted the presentation by Mr. Schindler wherein he stated there is a promise of cooperation from SePro of remediation of the lack luster results. We are considering Fluridone. Chairman Riley and Mr. Hathaway have been in communication with Mr. Schindler about this matter. Mr. Hathaway further reported they will begin to winterize the machines once they are pulled from the water. The harvesters will be pulled from the water the week of Halloween, probably that Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. He will then have Melissa begin to lower the lake. Mr. Hathaway reported there was an issue with the conveyor. Thanks to Chairman Riley and many volunteers who disassembled and reassembled the conveyor, which was a huge project.

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 report does not include the \$294 bill from Elston. On motion by Mr. Hathaway,

seconded by Ms. Maio, 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:

Operating Account:

Ellen Horak - Clerk’s Monthly Compensation \$ 500.00

Lake Management Account:

JCP&L – electric at shed \$ 2.98

Solitude Lake Management – Aquafix monitoring \$2,400.00

Aquarius Systems – connect link for PK-202, pintle chain \$ 297.50

Ag Choice – aquatic vegetation removal 9/6 \$ 180.00

Ag Choice – aquatic vegetation removal 9/12 & 9/16 \$ 360.00

Ag Choice – aquatic vegetation removal 9/19 - 9/23 \$ 180.00

Ag Choice – aquatic vegetation removal 9/23 – 9/30 \$ 180.00

Ag Choice – aquatic vegetation removal 10/3 – 10/4 \$ 180.00

Debit/Credit Card

Sam’s Club – vegetable oil \$ 56.48

Enrite – gas for conveyor \$ 11.74

Elston Oil – fuel \$ 294.12

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Hathaway– yes

Mr. Rattner- yes

Mr. Keenan – yes

Mr. Rogalo - yes

Ms. Maio – yes

Mr. Wright - yes

Chairman Riley - yes

OLD BUSINESS:

Dumpsters: Chairman Riley spoke to Raimo’s about acquiring a 30-yard dumpster. They are not sure if they have a 30-yard dumpster, but they will look and let him know. Chairman Riley also asked them about a donation rather than a sale.

319 Grant: Chairman Riley stated all documentation requested has been provided; however, the Board has not yet received the contract. Once received the contract will be reviewed by the Board’s attorney. Depending on how the grant is written, the Board may not need to go out to bid. This will also be discussed with the Board’s attorney.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Maio asked when the Board will prepare it’s 2017 budget. The Borough of Stanhope has begun their budget process. Chairman Riley responded he has not started work on the budget. Mr. Keenan will provide numbers for Chairman Riley to begin the process.

Chairman Riley stated he attended a Lake Hopatcong Commission meeting and there was an issue brought up about residents blowing their leaves into the lake. Chairman Riley questioned if this is also happening on Lake Musconetcong. He suggested advising the general public that they should not be

blowing leaves into the lake because it adds to the biomass. Mr. Hathaway and Ms. Maio both said they have not seen evidence of this in their towns, but will notice the residents.

Chairman Riley stated he has been informed, but has not received official notice, that Dan Bello was reassigned by the State and will no longer be the Board representative. Chairman Riley will contact Josh Osowski and ask for an official notification. Mr. Hathaway recommended the Board request the appointment of Melissa Castellon as the State's representative on the Board. Melissa has been a great help to the Board. The Board agreed. The Clerk was instructed to send a letter to Mr. Osowski requesting the appointment of Melissa Castellon.

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

Pat Marsico, LMCA member, asked if the 319 grant is state or federal money. Chairman Riley responded it is a federal grant. Ms. Marsico asked if the LMCA should publish a notice about the leaves in the lake. Chairman Riley responded in the affirmative.

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

ADJOURNMENT: On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Graham, and carried by unanimous voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Horak, Clerk