

**Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board
Regular Meeting
November 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 two counties.

ROLL CALL:

Frances D’Auria – absent	Rosemarie Maio – present
George Graham – present (arrived @7:05pm)	Steven Rattner – absent
Robert Hathaway – present	John Rogalo – present
Joseph Keenan – present	Lester Wright – present
	Earl Riley – present

MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA: Additional bill listed.

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. Keenan, seconded by Mr. Wright, the Minutes of the October 19, 2016 meeting were approved on unanimous voice vote.

COMMUNICATIONS: The following communications were discussed and have been placed on file:

11-08-16 NJDEP – Grant Agreement for execution by Board
11-10-16 Notice to Property Owners – Use Variance to install small network node wireless communications facility on roof of Lenape Valley Regional HS

Chairman Riley stated he received the grant agreement for the Alpha Boat two days ago. The agreement is being reviewed by Attorney Lundin. Chairman Riley stated the grant specifically details the specifications for the Alpha Boat and therefore going out to bid may not be required. There is only a single source available for the purchase. There is a specific process to be followed for the maintenance of the boat and the stainless steel components. Ms. Maio stated there are two areas within Stanhope Borough where the new equipment could be stored safely.

(Mr. Graham arrived at 7:05 p.m.)

Chairman Riley stated Alpha Boats is located west of Syracuse and he may drive up to look at the boat. The contract should be signed by the end of the week and will be sent back to Trenton. Ms. Maio asked Chairman Riley to provide the board with copies of Attorney Lundin’s comments. Chairman Riley agreed to forward the information to the board.

Chairman Riley stated the grant includes \$4,000 to be paid to Rutgers. Rutgers will be responsible for providing the reports necessary for the duration of the grant. The proposal stated \$365,166 will be provided by the State, \$198,411 will be provided by LMRPB with in-kind services, volunteer hours, costs for fuel, weed disposal and weed control. The LMCA costs and

volunteer hours will also be part of the in-kind services. The grant total is \$563,577. Chairman Riley stated strict financial control will be maintained. It was suggested to have a separate checking account opened to be used specifically for this grant. Ms. Maio stated this would be acceptable as long as there are no expenses attached to opening an account.

On motion by Ms. Maio, seconded by Mr. Hathaway, approval was granted to open a checking account to be specifically used for the NJDEP grant for the Alpha Boat. Mr. Keenan will open the account when the check is received.

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 stated the local newspapers have been notified about the scheduled Clean-up Day for the lake.

Lake Management – Mr. Hathaway stated the Clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, November 20th, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Mr. Hathaway has made arrangements with the State Park to pick up the debris collected. Groups will be sent out for the clean-up and they will report back to report what was collected and where it is located. Some costs will be incurred for the purchase of donuts, hot chocolate, gloves and garbage bags. Participants will meet at the State boat launch. Mr. Hathaway stated he has walked the shoreline and it has changed significantly. There is very little muck. This could be due to the use of the probiotics or ice damming. The lake does look better. Chairman Riley presented a graph depicting there is a trend to less sludge and greater water column. This is happening throughout the lake but more so in the experimental area. Mr. Hathaway stated why this is occurring is unknown. The experimental plan will have to be revised moving forward. Mr. Hathaway suggested using a larger area such as Arbolino Park or a similar or smaller area such as “the pond” area at the cutoff by the Towpath in Netcong. This area fronts only residential properties but it could be easily defined. The board can afford to use either location. More discussion is needed.

Mr. Hathaway stated Solitude will supply further information regarding phosphorus. The board needs to eliminate the use of non-selective chemicals. It may be necessary to go back to using 24D. Financially only 50 acres would be able to be maintained.

Ms. Maio suggested the testing be conducted on the canal water which feeds the lake. Mr. Rogalo stated the water at the dead end at the turnaround does not move at all. It is completely cut off. Mr. Hathaway confirmed that would be a good experimental area.

Chairman Riley stated the efforts of the board need to be coordinated with the LMCA. Chairman Riley suggested the two groups should meet to coordinate how the lake is treated. The LMCA is using short term solutions and the lake looks great however, there are some areas where the treatment did not work. The Board is trying to implement long term solutions to benefit everyone. Aquatic Technologies, Solitude, LMCA and the LMRPB all need to work together.

Pat Marsico stated Sonarpro is an excellent product but neither group can afford the expense. Chairman Riley reiterated a long term program which is cohesive needs to be devised.

Mr. Rogalo asked Chairman Riley to send him a copy of the chart he created.

Mr. Hathaway stated the probiotic is working and he thanked Yonnie Guyre, present in the audience, for her research efforts years ago which resulted in its use.

Mr. Hathaway stated removing the equipment from the lake this year was quite an ordeal. An additional bill has been added to tonight's agenda for a load of stone which had to be purchased and was placed on the shoreline in order to move the equipment. Mr. Graham stated several years ago there was a discussion regarding the pouring of concrete. Mr. Hathaway stated a permit was approved but the plan needs to be reworked within the confines of the permit. Mr. Hathaway stated trying to pull the 20 ton machine with a 4WD backhoe does not work. Mr. Hathaway is of the opinion the old ramp should be repaired to prevent the backhoe from getting stuck. Chairman Riley stated it took three hours to remove the harvester from the water and at one point they discussed just leaving it in the water.

Chairman Riley stated he was speaking to Tom Kinney on Musconetcong Avenue who said his dock is 30 feet out. Normally when the water level is lowered he would be knee deep in muck when he walked about half way out. This year he walked out 100 feet past the end of the dock and there was no muck. Ms. Maio stated several people have commented that the lake appears to be deeper. Mr. Hathaway agreed. Chairman Riley stated at this time the lake is down 29 inches. Mr. Hathaway stated the water will be raised on December 15th.

Mr. Rogalo asked if any notice has been received from the group that will be doing work on the dam. Mr. Hathaway stated notice will have to be provided to the towns when the work is to be done particularly if the lake will have to be drawn down. Ms. Maio stated she was under the impression the water level will not have to be lowered. The work was supposed to be done in late October.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Chairman Riley stated a treasurer's report was not received by the Board. Mr. Keenan stated he thought he had emailed it. Chairman Riley stated he did receive an email listing the expenses to date only. Mr. Keenan stated the checking account has a balance of \$5,220.49; the savings account has a balance of \$1,684.27 for a total of \$6,904.76. The balance does not include the bill for the Sam's Club renewal or the bill from Weldon's Quarry. Mr. Hathaway stated the bill from Weldon's Quarry was paid for on the debit card.

Chairman Riley stated with regard to Lake Management, 4,000 cubic yards of weeds were removed this year. The approximate cost for the weed disposal to AgChoice was \$6,000. This information will be included in the annual report. Mr. Rogalo stated he has been in contact with Dr. Heckman, who owns a farm in Hunterdon County, is interested in obtaining the weeds. Perhaps an arrangement can be made with Dr. Heckman to cover the cost of transporting the weeds to his farm.

Mr. Keenan stated the Sam's Club renewal is due. A discussion took place regarding the type of membership. The LMRPB received a \$50.00 cash credit this past year using the Plus Membership. The cash was given to Mr. Keenan to deposit in the LMRPB account. Mr. Hathaway stated originally three cards were issued for the Sam's Club account. Mr. Hathaway

and Ellen Horak each have a card. Mr. Hathaway will try to obtain a card for each member of the LMRPB. Everyone agreed to renew with the Sam's Club Plus Membership.

Mr. Keenan stated the receipt from Weldon Quarry indicates sales tax was charged. Mr. Hathaway stated the order was placed through Mountain Landscaping at a discounted rate. The tax charged was \$23.00 but approximately \$100 was saved by using this account for the order.

BILLS: On motion by Mr. Graham, 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
Sam's Club – Plus Membership Renewal	\$ 100.00

Lake Management Account:

JCP&L – Electric at Shed	\$ 3.17
Ag Choice – Aquatic Vegetation Removal (10/17/16 – 10/21/16)	\$ 600.00
Aquarius Systems – Oil Filter, Filter Breather Cap, Racor Element	\$ 132.75

Debit/Credit Card:

Weldon Quarry – Load of Stone for Shoreline	\$ 340.00
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ROLL CALL:

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

OLD BUSINESS:

NJDEP Grant: The members agreed once Attorney Lundin has reviewed the grant contract and gives his consent; the contract can be signed and sent to Trenton.

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

Ray Guyre, Port Morris, asked why the vegetative debris could not be disposed of at the landfill. Mr. Hathaway stated due to bureaucratic changes the LMRPB lost the opportunity to use the landfill for disposal. Mr. Hathaway stated the debris is disposed of at Ag Choice and the board did receive a better price from Ag Choice.

Pat Marsico, LMCA member, asked if the conveyor system will be the same on the new Alpha Boat. Chairman Riley reviewed the specifications for the new boat and all the accessories.

Hose Bib: Chairman Riley stated Ms. Maio was instrumental in having the hose bib repaired in order for the equipment to be cleaned when it is removed from the lake. Bollards have been installed to protect it from plow damage.

Alpha Boat: Mr. Graham asked when the boat will be delivered. Chairman Riley stated the quote was provided in 2015. Chairman Riley will have to speak with the supplier. Mr. Hathaway stated the original time frame for delivery was six months from the date of the order. Chairman Riley stated the Grant Manager has already contacted him to find out when the contract will be signed and sent back. The contract was only received two days ago. Mr. Rogalo asked if there is a mooring device. Mr. Hathaway stated this is something that will have to be

devised. Mr. Rogalo asked Chairman Riley to inform him should he decide to take a trip to Alpha Boat. He would like to accompany him.

Yonnie Guyre, LMCA member, asked if she should track the volunteer hours. Chairman Riley responded it would be in the best interest of the LMCA to do so. Chairman Riley will not need this information for the grant but does need transparency for the costs of the chemicals. Yanni stated the LMCA has locked into pricing for a three year period. The survey costs will also be provided to the LMRPB. Chairman Riley stated the in-kind services for the grant will be in place for three years. Ms. Maio stated copies of the bills would provide backup documentation. Yonnie stated she will provide copies. Chairman Riley stated once the contract is in hand, the tracking will begin.

Ann Galin, Main Street Port Morris, asked if anything is occurring downstream as a result of what is being done to the lake. Chairman Riley stated there is a monitoring area located in Roxbury and another in Hackettstown, as well as at Stevens State Park which is situated in between. All changes are reported. Mr. Rogalo stated as a result of what is being done a fine layer typically forms on the river bottom due to nutrient loading. There has been a change but it is not detrimental. Chairman Riley stated the bugs in the water are also monitored to determine the health.

Pat Marsico, LMCA member, stated the treatments being done should not be characterized as heavy treatment. Only a fraction of what is permitted is being done. Chairman Riley confirmed the board is well within the limits of what is allowed.

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

ADJOURNMENT: On motion by Ms. Maio, seconded by Mr. Hathaway, and carried by unanimous voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Horak, Clerk