

**Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**May 18, 2016**

Vice-Chairman Hathaway 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 -present  
Thomas Bruno - present  
Frances D'Auria – present (arrived @ 7:20 pm)  
George Graham - absent  
Robert Hathaway - present  
Joseph Keenan - present

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

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

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:** Vice-Chairman Hathaway opened the meeting to the public.

Ray Guyre, stated he attended the Lake Hopatcong Commission meeting and he informed the Board that the Commission and the State are “tweaking” the agreement but he does not think it will affect the Board. Mr. Bello said the Commission must first sign an agreement with the State before signing an agreement with the Board for the small harvester; however they voted to extend the old agreement on a month-to-month basis until the agreement is finalized. Mr. Bello stated the harvester will be delivered to the Board next week and he will coordinate with Mr. Hathaway on delivery.

Jetur Riggs asked the status of the buoys. Mr. Hathaway responded Melissa informed him the Board would be getting the buoys; however he has no details. Mr. Hathaway asked Mr. Bello to follow up with Melissa on this matter. Mr. Hathaway asked Mr. Riggs to prioritize the hazards with the existing buoys. Mr. Riggs advised the Board that he spoke to the LMCA about the lack of buoys and they set aside some funds to purchase and donate buoys to the Board. Mr. Riggs is looking into suitable buoys for the needs in the lake. Mr. Hathaway noted the small harvester will be in the water next week and Mr. Riggs could use that machine to disburse the buoys. Mr. Bello stated, during this discussion he texted Melissa and she responded that she will get back to the Board next week.

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

**ACTION ON MINUTES:** On motion by Mr. Rogalo, seconded by Mr. Bruno, the Minutes of the April 20, 2016 meeting were approved on unanimous voice vote.

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

- 4-22-16 Byram Township – Purchase Order in the amount of \$1,407.71 re: 2016 budget contribution
- 4-28-16 Selective Insurance – Commercial Insurance Policy (revised)
- 4-30-16 Katherine Marcopul, NJS Historic Preservation Office – response to letter requesting info on rehabilitation of Lake Musconetcong Dam
- 5-05-16 Cathy Burd, Morris County Administrator – MOU & Voucher for 2016 budget contribution
- 5-06-16 Netcong Day Committee – Vendor Registration for Netcong Day (Sept. 11)
- 5-09-16 Notice to Property Owners – Lot Line Adjustment re: 1,7, 11 Flanders Road and 4 Church Street, Netcong

5-18-16 Netcong Borough – check in the amount of \$7,457.86 re: 2016 budget contribution

Ms. Maio questioned the letter from Katherine Marcopul regarding information on the rehabilitation of the Lake Musconetcong dam. Vice-Chairman Hathaway read aloud the letter received from Ms. Marcopul. Ms. Maio recapped discussion at a previous meeting whereat she described the work being done.

On motion by Ms. Maio, seconded by Mr. Bello 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 the press releases about the hand pull went out. The Musconetcong News will publish the press release and the NJ Herald will publish the press release closer to the event. Vice-Chairman Hathaway noted communication from Melissa advising that the State Park Service will not be able to provide the trophies for this year's fishing contest. Vice-Chairman Hathaway spoke with Chairman Riley and they propose that the Board provide the trophies. Ms. Maio stated it is her intention to approach the Stanhope Chamber of Commerce about purchasing the trophies for the fishing contest, but she needs to know the amount. Vice-Chairman Hathaway suggested Ms. Maio contact Chairman Riley for that information. Mr. Hathaway suggested the Board authorize the purchase of the trophies in the absence of the Chamber's donation. On motion by Vice-Chairman Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Rogalo and carried by the following roll call vote, the Board authorized, if the Chamber of Commerce is not able to donate the trophies, the purchase of trophies for the fishing contest at a cost not to exceed last year's cost.

#### **ROLL CALL:**

Mr. Bello - yes	Mr. Keenan - yes
Mr. Bruno - yes	Ms. Maio - yes
Mr. Hathaway - yes	Mr. Rogalo - yes
	Mr. Wright - yes

Vice-Chairman Hathaway asked Ms. Maio to send notice of the fishing contest to the local schools. Vice-Chairman Hathaway stated Chairman Riley suggested changing the time of the fishing contest to 8:30 – 10:30, which will give more time for the Board to set up their table at Stanhope Day. Vice-Chairman Hathaway also noted the State Park Service is not able to provide a grill for the July 10<sup>th</sup> hand pull event. He will ask Mr. Graham if he is still willing to provide the grill. Ms. Maio asked for clarification that the only change to the fishing contest is the time. Vice-Chairman Hathaway responded in the affirmative.

**Lake Management** – Vice-Chairman Hathaway reported the Board received notice from the DEP that they will no longer accept their weeds. Chairman Riley, Vice-Chairman Hathaway and Mr. Rogalo met with John Trontis, Josh Osowski, Dan Bello and Melissa Castellon to try to work on a solution. They were not able to find a solution and it will fall on the Board to resolve the issue. Chairman Riley contacted Ag Choice about disposing of the weeds at their site, which is the Grinnell Site. He also contacted Byram Township and they are willing to truck the material to Ag Choice at their expense.

Chairman Riley and Vice-Chairman Hathaway negotiated a rate with Ag Choice that is less than what the State is paying. They are anxious to assist the Board because of the Board's mission and the fact that we are volunteers. It will cost approximately \$250 per pull. The Board was previously paying \$100 per pull. Vice-Chairman Hathaway stated there is money in the budget for disposal and, although it is a hardship, the Board has sufficient money in the budget to cover the cost. Mr. Rogalo informed the Board that he spoke to Professor Joseph Heckman from Rutgers Department of Plant Biology and Pathology about the weeds from the lake and he was very interested in the material. Mr. Rogalo will bring a sample to him. Professor Heckman gave him a contact for the lab he uses for analysis and he might, through his research, possibly find an "end market" for the product. Organic farmers are always looking for this type of material. Vice-Chairman Hathaway noted this is not going to be an easy resolution and Mr. Rogalo's road is the most productive. Mr. Rogalo will have the weeds tested as Professor Heckman thinks it is a marketable product. Vice-Chairman Hathaway said he and Chairman Riley discussed going out for RFP's for a manager to handle the site since the material is valuable. This will be a multi-year endeavor and will not happen this year.

(Ms. D'Auria arrived.)

Vice-Chairman Hathaway also reported Netcong Borough removed the willow tree and the site is ready. Ray Guyre has been working on the harvester is it is almost ready to be placed in the water. The small harvester will be in the water next week. Vice-Chairman Hathaway clarified that "20 gallons of oil" list on the bills list for Lowe's is actually the compressor. Vice-Chairman Hathaway stated he and Chairman Riley have been circulating information on the probiotic treatment in the lake and they believe the Board will be the "guinea pig" if they choose to move forward. They have not been able to find any other sites similar to the lake where the product was used. Vice-Chairman Hathaway recommended authorizing an amount not to exceed \$6,000 for the probiotic treatment which is the amount of the quote received and to allow him and Chairman Riley to negotiate the amount. On motion by Vice-Chairman Hathaway, seconded by Ms. Maio and carried by the following unanimous roll call vote, the Board authorized the expenditure an amount not to exceed \$6,000 for the probiotic treatment in the lake and authorized Chairman Riley and Vice-Chairman Hathaway to negotiate the amount.

#### ROLL CALL:

Mr. Bello - yes	Mr. Keenan - yes
Mr. Bruno - yes	Ms. Maio - yes
Ms. D'Auria - yes	Mr. Rogalo - yes
Mr. Hathaway - yes	Mr. Wright - yes

Ms. Maio asked for clarification on if the \$6,000 was for the Board to purchase the material. Vice-Chairman Hathaway responded it is the cost for the vendor to do everything. He and Chairman Riley will supervise and do independent measuring and discuss the results with the Board at the monthly meetings. Vice-Chairman Hathaway noted there is \$14,000 in the budget for the herbicide treatment and he asked authorization to spend an amount not to exceed \$14,000 to engage Solitude Lake Management to treat the needed areas with herbicide. On motion by Vice-Chairman Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Bruno and carried by the following unanimous roll call vote, the Board authorized Vice-Chairman Hathaway to enter into an agreement with Solitude Lake Management to treat certain areas of the lake with herbicide at a cost not to exceed \$14,000.

**ROLL CALL:**

Mr. Bello - yes	Mr. Keenan - yes
Mr. Bruno— yes	Ms. Maio - yes
Ms. D'Auria – yes	Mr. Rogalo - yes
Mr. Hathaway - yes	Mr. Wright - yes

Mr. Bello noted the weed disposal situation and stated the MUA is the only establishment that has a compost permit, which allows them to take the weeds. Ag Choice does not actually have a permit to take the weeds, but they are a research project and must feed solid waste information. They are under a research pilot program that can end at any time. Vice-Chairman Hathaway stated this is a solution for this year and they are aware that it may not be available to the Board next year. Vice-Chairman Hathaway noted the MUA is at capacity by taking the weeds from Lake Hopatcong and there is no longer any room at the site. Mr. Bello cautioned the Board about going to Ag Choice because there was a problem towards the end of the season last year where trucks were made to travel through messy mud which caused damage and costs money for the repair of the trucks. Mr. Bello informed Ag Choice of his concern and he suggested the Board warn Byram of the possibility of a repeat of last year's problem. Mr. Bello also noted discussion at the last meeting about asking the DEP to better notify the Board of applications prior to the DEP issuing the permits. He spoke to a representative of Land Use and they agreed to provide him with notice of applications prior to issuance. He recently received notice of a permit application in Roxbury. The Board discussed the need to be noticed when the towns receive applications affecting the lake. The Clerk will send a letter to the four towns reminding them that they should send notice to the Board of all applications affecting the lake.

Mr. Rogalo commented he lives downstream of the river and over the last week the river has gone crystal clear due to the weed growth. Mr. Rogalo asked that the Board take parameters before starting any active treatment in the lake. Vice-Chairman Hathaway agreed this should be done.

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

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Vice-Chairman Hathaway noted the Treasurer's Report was emailed to the Board. Mr. Keenan stated the report does not include the check from Netcong or the \$100 donation made last month. On motion by Ms. Maio, seconded by Mr. Rogalo the Treasurer's Report was accepted and placed on file.

**BILLS:** On motion by Mr. Bruno, seconded by Mr. Bello 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	\$ 2.97
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**Debit/Credit Card**

Lowe's – oil free compressor	\$200.00
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**ROLL CALL:**

Mr. Bello - yes	Mr. Keenan - yes
Mr. Bruno— yes	Ms. Maio - yes
Ms. D'Auria – yes	Mr. Rogalo - yes
Mr. Hathaway - yes	Mr. Wright - yes

**NEW BUSINESS**

Dredging Workshop – Vice-Chairman Hathaway stated the Board received an email about a Dredging Workshop that is being held on June 2 from 1:00 to 3:00 at the Hopatcong Yacht Club. Anyone interested in attending should let the Clerk know and she will respond that you will attend. Chairman Riley, Vice-Chairman Hathaway, Ms. Maio and Mr. Rogalo will be attending the workshop.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:** Vice-Chairman Hathaway opened the meeting to the public.

Jetur Riggs asked if there is a schedule on the probiotic treatment. Vice-Chairman Hathaway responded in the negative adding he will let Jetur know when the date is set. He believes it will be the beginning of July.

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

**ADJOURNMENT:** On motion by Ms. Maio, seconded by Mr. Rogalo, and carried by unanimous voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Ellen Horak, Clerk