

Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board
Regular Meeting
November 18, 2020

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 16, 2020 and was sent to the Clerks of the four municipalities, the State and the two counties. Furthermore, notice of the change in the meeting to an electronic meeting via Zoom was sent to the New Jersey Herald and Daily Record on November 9, 2020 and was placed on the official website of the Board.

ROLL CALL:

Michael Balogh - present	Greg Poff - present
Mark Crowley - absent	Steven Rattner - present
Robert Hathaway – present	John Rogalo – present (dialed in @ 7:10 pm)
Joseph Keenan – present (dialed in @ 7:10 pm)	Lester Wright - present
Rosemarie Maio – present	Earl Riley - present

MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA: Additional communications and bills 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: Chairman Riley made two corrections to the Minutes. On page 3, the spelling of Wayne Swistak is incorrect. The minutes have a spelling of Swistek and should be corrected to read Wayne Swistak. In the same paragraph, the Minutes stated “They removed almost 8,000 cubic yards of weeds from the lake.” The number should be revised to read “They removed almost 2,100 cubic yards from the lake.” Chairman Riley noted the exact amount is 2,069 cubic yards that was removed from the lake. On motion by Mr. Rattner, seconded by Ms. Maio, the Minutes of the October 21, 2020 meeting were approved, as amended, by majority voice vote. Mr. Balogh and Mr. Hathaway abstained.

(Mr. Keenan and Mr. Rogalo joined the meeting.)

Chairman Riley welcomed Mr. Balogh to the Board as one of Stanhope’s representatives. Chairman Riley noted Mr. Balogh has been on the harvester a couple of times and hopefully will become an operator.

COMMUNICATIONS: The following communications have been placed on file:

10-23-20 Daily Record – Affidavit of Publication re: October meeting change to Zoom meeting

10-29-20 NJS DEP – letter re: completion of NJDEP Grant Agreement “Implementation of Reduction of Total Phosphorus in Lake Musconetcong

11-16-20 Daily Record – Affidavit of Publication re: November meeting change to Zoom meeting

On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Rattner and carried by unanimous voice vote, the communications were accepted.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Canal Society – There was no report.

Musconetcong Watershed Association – Mr. Rattner reported the Musconetcong River from Hopatcong to the Delaware River has been added to the National Scenic River Trails and is now a National Recreational Trail. Mr. Rattner also reported that the MWA received a grant from Congress to start the feasibility study on an additional dam removal which is seven miles up from the Delaware, being the Warren Glen Dam. Mr. Rattner noted that the mill being restored across from the headquarters of the MWA and MCRC is nearing completion and hopefully will be open in the near future.

Site Plan Review/Stream Encroachment – Mr. Rogalo stated he has not heard anything from the gas station tank removal discussed last month. Mr. Rattner said he contacted Stanhope's Administrator and Ellen, the Clerk about obtaining a copy of the tank removal permit. Ellen sent him an OPRA request to be completed. Mr. Rattner noted since he will be requesting the record on behalf of the Board, he would like approval to submit the OPRA request for the tank removal permit in the name of the Board. The Board has no objection to Mr. Rattner submitting the OPRA request. Chairman Riley said his concern was whether or not those tanks were leaking any petroleum into the lake. Mr. Rattner stated the tanks were replaced not too long ago, but due to new regulations and life expectancy, they needed to install new tanks even with no indication of a leak.

Lake Awareness – Ms. Maio said she would like to start looking into what they can do this spring, be it a clean-up project or something. It has been too long since the Board has done anything. She is hoping they can have the youth fishing contest. Ms. Maio reported Stanhope Day is on hold due to the recent pandemic. Mr. Rattner stated he believes the current rules will continue, at least through May 2021. Ms. Maio said she anticipates they will be able to hold the youth fishing contest with proper guidelines in place. Chairman Riley expressed his opinion that even if Stanhope Day is not held, they should go ahead with the fishing contest. The children participating are usually with their families and social distancing can be accomplished during the event. Ms. Maio stated she would like to plan for an event with the fishing contest; ideally being a Clean-Up Day. Chairman Riley noted the lake is presently down and they should think about having a Clean-Up Day within the next month. The Board agreed.

Lake Management – Mr. Hathaway noted they typically have done the lake clean-up between November and December and he agrees this is an important endeavor. They have not done a lake clean-up in three years. Mr. Hathaway said, as in the past, he will enlist State Parks for assistance in collecting the debris. Mr. Hathaway noted, he already had volunteers doing lake clean-up in areas in Netcong and the Netcong DPW collected the debris; however, there is still a great amount of debris to be cleaned up. Mr. Hathaway will work with Ms. Maio on coordinating a lake clean-up day. Mr. Hathaway reported he, Chairman Riley, John Rogalo and Wayne Swistak worked to get all of the equipment out of the lake, adding there were some major challenges. The boat ramp on the Netcong side is completely deteriorated and is nearly impossible to use. He informed Melissa Castellon, Superintendent of State Parks of the unsafe condition of the ramp and they did not indicate they would be doing anything about it. Mr. Hathaway noted if State Parks does nothing about it, the Board will not be able to get the equipment back in the lake. The hole is deeper than 2 feet and goes across the entirety of the launch. Mr. Hathaway thanked the Stanhope DPW for their assistance in getting the equipment out of the lake. Mr. Keenan asked if they could launch the equipment in Roxbury. Mr. Hathaway responded the challenge is that the weight of the machine requires a bed to roll the equipment out and he does not know the condition of the bed in that area of the lake. He believes it could be very mucky and the launch probably would not be successful. Chairman Riley asked if, he as Chairman, should address the issue of the boat launch

with the “higher ups” beyond Ms. Castellon. Mr. Hathaway noted Josh Osowski and Mark Texel would be the next step up. He does not know the name of the new person in the State above Mark Texel. Mr. Hathaway noted the condition of the launch is unsafe not just for the Board’s equipment, but any equipment to be launched there. Chairman Riley will send a letter to the person in charge of State Parks in the State of New Jersey stating the Board’s concern and the concern for the safety of the general public due to the unsafe condition of the launch. Mr. Hathaway also reported there were also challenges at the other ramp and run-off has caused it to deteriorate. Through the efforts of Chairman Riley and Wayne Swistak, they were able to remove the equipment from the lake. Mr. Hathaway noted there were real challenges and real effort on the part of the volunteers to get the equipment out of the lake. Chairman Riley stated there were several unfortunate events during the whole process of getting the harvester out of the lake. The harvester slid off the trailer and ended up half on the trailer and half on the ground. They had no way to resolve the problem with their limited resources. They contacted Bunky’s Towing in Dover to help put the harvester back on the trailer. Chairman Riley stated Bunky’s Towing helped put the harvester on the trailer and when he asked what they owed him, he said “don’t worry about it, you guys serve enough, there is no charge.” Chairman Riley thanked Bunky’s Towing and said he would highly recommend them, if ever needed.

Operating Budget Committee – Mr. Keenan noted the Chairman emailed the proposed 2021 budget which shows no increase. Chairman Riley questioned if the Board received the funds from Netcong for this year’s goose addling. Mr. Hathaway stated he and his son did the annual goose nest inspections, but did no addling this year. All of the nests previously addled were empty. Mr. Hathaway noted that previously they addled a large number of swan nests, but was not able to do that this year. At least two adults are needed to addle the swan nests. The Board Secretary will check to see if the Board received the \$2,300 from Netcong for the addling program. Chairman Riley noted the Board has not received the \$4,000 final payment from the hydro rake grant. He sent another email today asking when the funds will be sent. Chairman Riley asked if they should include the \$4,000 as revenue for next year. Chairman Riley noted the Board has met all the requirements of the grant and they received an email from the State stating the Board has completed all the requirements. Mr. Keenan asked if the check should be deposited in the hydro rake grant account when it is received. Chairman Riley expressed his opinion that they should close the grant account and roll those funds into the general fund. There is no reason to have a separate grant account since the Board received an email from the department head that states the grant has been completely complied with and that the equipment belongs to the Board. Chairman Riley asked if any member had an objection to closing the grant account and moving those funds into the general account. There was no objection by the Board.

TREASURER’S REPORT: The Treasurer’s Report was emailed to the Board. The total balance in the accounts is \$17,264.24. On motion by Mr. Rattner, seconded by Mr. Hathaway and carried by unanimous voice vote the Treasurer’s Report was accepted and placed on file.

BILLS: Ms. Maio asked if the Board is done with the services of Solitude Lake Management or do they still owe them money. Mr. Hathaway responded he believes they have six months left from the last meeting, being November, December, January, February, March and April. Chairman Riley noted the services are in the budget. On motion by Ms. Maio, 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
Earl Riley – Reimbursement re: Zoom Mtg Annual Fee	\$ 127.86
Daily Record – legal notice re: October mtg change to Zoom mtg	\$ 19.78
Daily Record – legal notice & aff of publication re: Nov mtg change to Zoom mtg	\$ 53.49
Times Herald (NJ Herald) – legal notice re: Nov. mtg change to Zoom	\$ 16.80

Lake Management Account:

JCP&L – electric at shed	\$ 3.40
Solitude Lake Management- Lake Management Services (11/01)	\$2,249.00
NAPA Auto Parts – parts	\$ 89.94

ROLL CALL:

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Sale of AM 2000 (Hydro Rake) – Chairman Riley stated he has not heard from the Board Attorney, Eileen Born. The Clerk sent Ms. Born a complete copy of the grant agreement and the email from the head of the State grant department stating we complied with all the requirements and have free and clear ownership of the equipment. Chairman Riley noted at the last meeting we agreed to a minimum bid of \$250,000 for the equipment, if we received the attorney's okay. Chairman Riley said he will take pictures and post the equipment on govdeals. Chairman Riley explained the bidding process for govdeals. Ms. Maio asked when the attorney was sent the documents. Chairman Riley responded they were sent about three weeks ago. Ms. Maio suggested contacting the attorney for a status update. Chairman Riley will reach out to Ms. Born tomorrow.

NEW BUSINESS:

2021 Budget – Chairman Riley emailed the proposed 2021 Budget to the Board for review. Mr. Hathaway said his only comment was the goose addling funds from Netcong. The lake management budget accurately reflects what he believes they will need next year. Chairman Riley said he wanted to keep a flat budget from last year's budget because for the first time in several years, it seems they will have a little money left at the end of the year so they will not be starting next year in a deficit. Chairman Riley will revise the budget to include the \$2,300 from Netcong for the goose addling program as well as the \$4,000 from the State for the hydro rake grant. Mr. Hathaway noted they will have additional transportation costs next year and he suggesting putting those missing amounts in to that line item. Mr. Hathaway noted the Board will be selling the equipment and will have that money so he does not see any reason not to keep the budget flat. On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Rogalo and carried by the following unanimous roll call vote, the Board approved the 2021 Budget presented by the Chairman and amended to include \$2,300 for the goose addling program and \$4,000 from the State for the hydro rake grant. The Clerk will send the budget request to the towns and counties.

ROLL CALL:

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

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.

ADJOURNMENT: On motion by Mr. Rogalo, seconded by Mr. Hathaway, and carried by unanimous voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Horak