Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board
Regular Meeting
August 20, 2025

Chairman Riley opened the Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m. with a reading of the Open Public Meetings Notice which was sent to the Daily Record and New Jersey Herald on January 16, 2025 and was sent to the Clerks of the four municipalities, the State and the two counties.

ROLL CALL:

Jacob Hamilton - absent	Shawn Potillo - present
Robert Hathaway - present	Steven Rattner - present
Joseph Keenan - present	Rudy Shlesinger - absent
Rosemarie Maio - present	Lester Wright - present
Judith McGrath - present	Earl Riley - present

MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA: Additional new business and additional bill added.

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

Ray Guyre noted the water chestnuts at the Port Morris Park and he asked if they were sprayed. Mr. Hathaway responded this issue will be addressed later in tonight's meeting.

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 Mr. Wright, the Minutes of the July 16, 2025 meeting were approved on unanimous voice vote.

COMMUNICATIONS: The following communications have been placed on file:
07-23-25 Ready Scout, LLC - Report on Recent Survey & Applications
08-06-25 NJS Dept. of Treasury - check in the amount of $64,800.00 re: Water Resources Planning Management Lake S22-0023 Grant

Chairman Riley stated the $64,800 check from the State is the last advanced payment and that money was spent in January. This is the fourth and final advanced payment. The amount left in the grant is $57,200, which is the 10% the State holds back until the final paperwork has been completed and approved. Mr. Rattner thanked Chairman Riley for the tremendous amount of time and effort he put into this grant on behalf of the Board.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Canal Society – There was nothing to report.

Musconetcong Watershed Association – There was nothing to report.

Site Plan Review/Stream Encroachment – There was nothing to report.

Lake Awareness – There was nothing to report.

Lake Management – Mr. Hathaway reported the harvester is in the lake and they have two facilities the Board can use for the disposal of the weeds. Jefferson Recycling had required testing of the lake's water and the tests came back unchallenged so the Board can dispose at their facility, but temporarily for this year, the Morris County MUA opened to us and their price is more agreeable so we will dispose at their site this year. Mr. Hathaway said he originally thought they should dispose of one load at Jefferson Recycling; however, Chairman Riley discussed this with Jefferson Recycling and they said it is not necessary to do that and for us to use Morris County MUA this year and then use them next year. Mr. Hathaway noted that no additional testing will be required and the Board can dispose at Jefferson Recycling next year. Mr. Hathaway stated the Eagle Scout Project is completed and the area is unbelievably improved and an asset to this Board and the community by the effort of the Scout, Tyler Perry. Ms. Maio noted the photograph indicates a thank you to Sacks Paint for donating the paint, but the Board approved an $1,800 expenditure and she asked if the Board received receipts for the project. Mr. Hathaway responded that the Scouts will provide a balance sheet for the money given to them and how it was expended and if there are unexpended monies, it will be refunded to the Board. If there is an overage, the Board will pay it. Mr. Hathaway said they will get receipts for what they spent and for what was donated. Chairman Riley said, to his knowledge, they have not spent the entire amount and they will return the balance to the Board. Mr. Hathaway said he was told the person from the Scouts was not available to prepare the report, but it will be forthcoming. Mr. Potillo noted the Board gave them the money and he asked if they could give it back to the Board. Chairman Riley responded that the Board can accept donations. Mr. Hathaway clarified that the Board gave them a deposit on a budget that was given and they did not expend the entire budget amount so they will give back the money. The Board gave them the money based on the budget. Ms. Maio commented that in all her years in service to the community and as Mayor, there have been many Eagle Scout projects and the town has never given them money to complete a project. Mr. Hathaway responded that in his experiences with Eagle Scout Projects, which have been many, this one is far and away the greatest project undertaken of any project that he is aware of and it is probably because of the money that was given to allow for this undertaking. Mr. Hathaway also reported the EZ docks have been installed. There is a ramp going to only one dock at the conveyor site. The operators need to get off and travel the entirety of the side of the conveyor. It was suggested they install planks to this dock, but Mr. Hathaway reminded the Board of a couple of severe accidents and he said that watching Chairman Riley walk on the un-railed portion was concerning. Without handrails, the volunteers are not safe. Mr. Hathaway said he does not think the plank solution to the second dock is what they should do and he believes they need, for a variety of reasons, another ramp to the other dock. Mr. Hathaway noted this is on the Netcong side. Mr. Hathaway said he originally thought you would be coming off onto the shoreline; however, it is clearly unstable and the goal should be for this operation to be completely safe for the volunteers. Mr. Hathaway strongly recommended that the Board authorize the expenditure of $3,940 for the additional ramp which will be identical to the other ramp. Chairman Riley stated he will not support this unless the other dock is moved closer to the harvester. Mr. Hathaway stated he has an email from the company that states this estimate includes moving the dock as well. On motion by Mr. Potillo, seconded by Mr. Wright and carried by the following unanimous roll call vote, the Board authorized the expenditure of $3,940 to EZ Docks for the installation of an additional ramp, which includes moving the dock closer to the harvester.

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Hathaway - yes	Mr. Potillo - yes
Mr. Keenan - yes	Mr. Rattner - yes
Ms. Maio - yes	Mr. Wright - yes
Ms. McGrath - yes	Chairman Riley - yes

Mr. Hathaway also reported they had Ready Scout return for a guaranteed application which they did effect, but he feels they had a miscommunication. Mr. Hathaway said he thought he was clear on the methodology and the explanation. There was a misunderstanding as to the area. The area he was looking at would put them in excess of the area of 10 acres to about 16 acres. That was never called out by Ready Scout that what he was asking for was in addition. Mr. Hathaway said he was monitoring their application of which was not completely effective. We are in a situation where we have about a 12-acre area with very significant water chestnut, 6 acres of which is completely Ready Scout's responsibility. This acreage will be over and about the 10-acre contract. Mr. Hathaway said the 6 acres was not attended to because it was over the 10 acres in the contract which was not explained to him. Mr. Hathaway spoke about the chemicals to use and suggested a chemical made by SePro that is supposed to last for years. Mr. Hathaway said this is the only "game in town" for a late season control. The estimated cost is $3,990 and they will do 6 acres with the same chemical and it is guaranteed. Ready Scout will apply the SePro product to the entire 12 acres. The Board will be billed for only 6 acres and the other 6 acres is Ready Scout's responsibility. The area is being retreated with a much more expensive chemical. Mr. Hathaway noted that this application must happen as soon as possible to make sure the seeds do not get floriconized. Mr. Hathaway recommended this as not an option, but something that must be undertaken. Mr. Hathaway said they will not have to retreat this next year because this SePro product is for two years. Chairman Riley said he will continue to harvest until the application of the chemical. Mr. Hathaway noted this is a fast-acting chemical. On motion by Mr. Potillo, seconded by Ms. McGrath and carried by the following unanimous roll call vote, the Board authorized the expenditure of $3,990 for the treatment of 6 acres with the SePro product.

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Hathaway - yes	Mr. Potillo - yes
Mr. Keenan - yes	Mr. Rattner - yes
Ms. Maio - yes	Mr. Wright - yes
Ms. McGrath - yes	Chairman Riley - yes

Mr. Hathaway commented that the operation is in the best stead since his tenure on the Board with the security measures put in place, the Eagle Scout project and the quality of the lake. The usage of the lake is at the highest he has ever seen and there have been 2 large bass tournaments on the lake, with one being televised. There have also been multiple micro tournaments. Chairman Riley spoke about the new equipment, noting he and Wayne have been the only two operators. Al Cook is getting close to being able to operate the new machine and Ms. McGrath was on it once and will be going out again. Chairman Riley noted two people are needed for the operation, with one on the harvester and one for land support.

Operating Budget – Mr. Wright reported there is $96,000 in the account and he questioned if that amount should be kept in the checking account. Mr. Wright noted the number of bills that have been coming in. The Board agreed the money should be kept in the checking account.

CD Investment – Mr. Wright reported that at the last meeting they discussed taking $50,000 and investing it. He got hold of the person at the investment bank and decided to go with a 3-month CD at the rate of 4.25%. When he went to do the second one for 9 months, the rate had dropped so he did the second one for 3-months also.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's Report was emailed to the Board. On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Rattner, 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. Potillo and carried by the following unanimous roll call vote, the Board approved the bills on the Bills List:

Operating Account:	
Ellen Horak - Clerk's Monthly Compensation	$ 550.00
United States Liability Insurance Company - Public Officials Liability Insurance Installment Payment	$ 406.25
Selective Insurance - Commercial :Liability Police Installment Payment	$1,919.00
Lake Management Account:	
JCP&L – electric at shed	$ 12.31
Debit/Credit Card:	
Optimum - internet service	$ 40.00
Netcong Hardware - 5 gal. bucket for weed evaluation at the Lab	$ 11.48
Dixon Oil - fuel	$ 473.58

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Hathaway - yes	Mr. Potillo - yes
Mr. Keenan - yes	Mr. Rattner - yes
Ms. Maio - yes	Mr. Wright - yes
Ms. McGrath - yes	Chairman Riley - yes

OLD BUSINESS:

$572,000 Grant Agreement – Chairman Riley reported he is close to submitting the last six months report. He is waiting for Mr. Wright to provide him with copies of the checks. The NJDEP changed their requirements and now require copies of the front and back of the checks plus a copy of the original invoice for everything. Chairman Riley is compiling the required paperwork. As soon as this report is submitted they will be completely up to date. This is the financial report he is doing. There is one more report he needs to do, after which the Board will get the $57,200 grant money the State is holding back.

NEW BUSINESS:

EZ Dock Estimate for Additional Ramp ($3,940.00) - This was discussed under Lake Management.

Water Chestnut Infestation Treatment ($3,990.00) - This was discussed under Lake Management.

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

Tyler Perry came forward and presented pictures of his completed Eagle Scout Project. Chairman Riley stated the Board is extremely pleased with the outcome of the project. Mr. Potillo congratulated Tyler on becoming an Eagle Scout, noting his commitment and thanking him for his project. Mr. Rattner noted Tyler's accomplishment and thanked him. Chairman Riley said, as mentioned early by Mr. Hathaway, that this is one of the most significant projects they have ever seen. The Board thanked Tyler for the incredible work he did.

Yonnie Guyre asked if the water chestnuts being sprayed are part of the shoreline by Port Morris. Mr. Hathaway responded in the affirmative. Ms. Guyre said that in the past the LMCA used SePro and the year they applied it, they did not get a second-year growth.

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 Ms. McGrath and carried by unanimous voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Horak, Clerk