

Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board
Regular Meeting
April 16, 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 - absent
Robert Hathaway - present	Steven Rattner - present
Joseph Keenan - absent	Rudy Shlesinger -present
Rosemarie Maio - absent	Lester Wright - present
Judith McGrath - present	Earl Riley - present

MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA: Additional 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 stated the language on page 2 under Lake Management beginning on line 15 should read “Mr. Hathaway said the Board should give consideration that they need to have some form of platform for the harvester operators to access the harvester for their safety. Chairman Riley agreed, noting when accessing the harvester via the exit conveyor if it is wet, is extremely dangerous. Chairman Riley stated there have been two accidents by operators who accessed the harvester across the conveyors.” Chairman Riley also stated that, under Old Business, there is reference to Aquatic Technologies, which is the former name of Lake Management Sciences. Chairman Riley said all references to Aquatic Technologies should be corrected to read “Lake Management Sciences.” On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Rattner, the Minutes of the March 19, 2025 meeting were approved, as amended, on unanimous voice vote.

COMMUNICATIONS: The following communications have been placed on file:

03-24-25 Selective Insurance - check in the amount of \$87.00 re: overpayment
04-10-25 Morris County - Memorandum of Understanding and Purchase Order for \$7,628.13 re:
2025 budget contribution
04-11-25 Fidelity Investments - Monthly Investment Report (3/1/25-3/31/25)

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 nothing to report.

Musconetcong Watershed Association – Mr. Rattner noted the staff changes are continuing. Some of the staff are retiring. Mr. Rattner reported that the EPA is getting more involved with the PFAS in the river in the Washington area and they are checking the wells along the river in that area. Mr. Rattner also reported that there are a lot of proposed warehouses and the DEP is not giving support. They came up with something that states farms can now be classified for redevelopment if there is no building on the farm. Mr. Rattner informed the Board that the Delaware River has been recognized as the River of the Year, which the MWA is extremely happy about.

Site Plan Review/Stream Encroachment – Mr. Wright reported he continues to monitor the site on Allen Street containing the bus maintenance facility and, on his last drive-by, he counted seven vehicles. Chairman Riley noted this is a Netcong Borough enforcement issue and there is nothing the Board can do.

Lake Awareness – There was no report.

Lake Management – Mr. Hathaway stated he has not yet gotten a quote for the EZ Dock System discussed at the last meeting. He was also authorized at the last meeting to dispose of the floating docks which he has not done yet. Mr. Hathaway reported the camera system is set up and running at the Barney's Way site; however, they have run into a challenge with the cellular camera at the Allen Street location. The units that are sold by Verizon are not authorized for public entity use because they do not meet the security protocol for a public entity to use them. There is not much equipment that meets that standard and it will affect the price point of the quote. Mr. Hathaway said he spoke to the contractor and there is a piece of equipment that Verizon will provide the chip for that is authorized by the Feds to be used by public entities. Chairman Riley stated this is because this is all State property and all equipment has to meet the security requirements of the government. Chairman Riley noted it will drive the price of the camera up. Chairman Riley stated the previous price quote was about \$1,000. Mr. Hathaway noted this is a one-time expense. Chairman Riley said, as soon as they get the docks out of the way, he would like to get the harvester in the water, hopefully by mid-May and training can begin on the new harvester. They also need to get the conveyor in place. Mr. Hathaway said they also need to resolve the buoy deployment, which should happen from the harvester platform and needs to be done before Memorial Day. Mr. Hathaway stated the goose addling also needs to be done. There was a short discussion on the tasks that need to be done in the near future. Chairman Riley noted that Robert Hathaway III is now 18 years old and he would like the Board to hire him to deploy the buoys and do the goose addling. Chairman Riley noted both tasks require two people. On motion by Ms. McGrath, seconded by Mr. Shlesinger and carried by the following majority roll call vote, the Board authorized the employment of Robert Hathaway III and an 18-year-old associate to deploy the buoys before Memorial Day using the Jon boat at an amount not to exceed \$150.00:

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Hathaway - abstain
Ms. McGrath - yes
Mr. Rattner - yes

Mr. Shlesinger - yes
Mr. Wright - yes
Chairman Riley - yes

Chairman Riley stated they need someone to do the goose egg addling and he will submit the report to the USDA who then pays the Borough of Netcong and the Borough of Netcong pays the Board. Mr. Hathaway stated Netcong Borough will not be doing the goose roundup this year. He did tell them that the Board would be doing the egg addling. Chairman Riley said one of the primary reasons for that is that the other towns, mainly Stanhope and Roxbury who are impacted, have refused to share in the cost of the goose roundup so Netcong Borough has been paying the cost for over ten years. On motion by Ms. McGrath, seconded by Mr. Wright and carried by the following majority roll call vote, the Board authorized the employment of Robert Hathaway III and an 18-year-old associate to do the goose egg addling at an amount not to exceed \$150.00:

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Hathaway - abstain
Ms. McGrath - yes
Mr. Rattner - yes

Mr. Shlesinger - yes
Mr. Wright - yes
Chairman Riley - yes

Operating Budget – There was nothing to report.

CD Investment – Chairman Riley stated Mr. Wright now has access to the CD accounts and he received notification that his telephone number has been removed from the account. Ms. McGrath is also now on the account.

TREASURER’S REPORT: The Treasurer’s Report was distributed to the Board. Chairman Riley thanked Mr. Wright for the incredible amount of information provided. Chairman Riley noted the Board has two accounts with Fulton Bank, one a checking account and one a savings account. At a previous meeting he had suggested putting \$10,000 in a money market account. The next day the \$10,000 came out of the savings account and was put into the checking account and was never put into a money market account. Chairman Riley commented that was a good thing because currently they have under \$10,000 in the checking account and would not have been able to pay the bills. Chairman Riley noted that the Board will be receiving money from the towns and counties shortly. On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Ms. McGrath, and carried by unanimous voice vote, the Treasurer’s Report was accepted and placed on file.

BILLS: Chairman Riley noted the bill from Optimum should be \$40.00 not \$41.29. The Board will pay Optimum \$40.00 per month. On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Rattner and carried by the following unanimous roll call vote, the Board approved the bills on the Bills List, as amended:

Operating Account:

Ellen Horak - Clerk’s Monthly Compensation	\$ 550.00
Murphy McKeon P.C. - legal fees	\$ 225.00
United States Liability Insurance Company - Public Officials Liability Insurance installment payment	\$ 129.15
Selective Insurance - Commercial Liability Ins. Installment Payment	\$1,927.00
Lake Management Account:	
JCP&L – electric at shed	\$ 7.05
Advanced Integration Solutions - camera installation at Barney’s Way	\$1,300.00
Debit/Credit Card:	
Optimum - internet service	\$ 40.00

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Hathaway - yes
Ms. McGrath - yes
Mr. Rattner - yes

Mr. Shlesinger - yes
Mr. Wright - yes
Chairman Riley - yes

OLD BUSINESS:

\$572,000 Grant Agreement – Chairman Riley stated there is nothing new to report on the grant.

RFP's for Herbicide Treatment - Chairman Riley noted the Board's attorney, James Bryce is present and has prepared a resolution selecting Lake Management Sciences as the contractor. Mr. Bryce stated it is the Board's decision to choose that contractor. As an extraordinary unspecifiable service, he solicited and received quotes from Ready Scout and Lake Management Sciences. Ready Scout gave a quote of \$53,200 for the general treatment annually and a per treatment for additional services throughout the year of \$655-\$625 per acre. Mr. Bryce stated that at the last meeting the Board asked him to approach Lake Management Sciences and inquire if they would negotiate their quote. Lake Management Sciences maintained their quote of \$55,333 for the general treatment annually, but the per needed cost went down to \$660-\$625. Mr. Bryce noted there was some savings achieved with the request, but not significant. Mr. Hathaway expressed disappointment that Lake Management Sciences would not move from their point price. Chairman Riley stated Lake Management Sciences' quote is \$2,100 more than Ready Scout. Mr. Hathaway stated Ready Scout is operated by Glenn Sullivan who previously operated on the lake for more than a decade with great results. He knows what to do and how to do it. Mr. Hathaway stated Lake Management Sciences is the contractor for the LMCA which brings an added value; however, it may not be a value of over \$2,000. Chairman Riley offered the following resolution which was read in its entirety by Mr. Hathaway:

**A RESOLUTION OF THE LAKE MUSCONETCONG REGIONAL PLANNING BOARD
AUTHORIZING AN EXTRAORDINARY UNSPECIFIABLE SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH
READY SCOUT, LLC FOR LIMNOLOGICAL VEGETATION ASSESSMENT AND
MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board (hereinafter referred to as "Board") wishes to retain a specialized service for aquatic vegetation assessment and management (hereafter referred to as "Services") of Lake Musconetcong and has determined to award the contract as an extraordinary unspecifiable service without obtaining competitive bids or quotations pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5; and

WHEREAS, the Services are specialized and qualitative in nature and require expertise, extensive training and proven reputation in the field of endeavor as the Services require specialized knowledge, qualified ecological assessment and judgment, and licensure by the State of New Jersey for aquatic pesticide treatment and Lake Musconetcong, which is a public water body with ecological sensitivity; and

WHEREAS, Ready Scout, LLC (hereinafter "Contractor") has submitted a proposal for the provision of said services to the Board, which is appended hereto as Schedule A; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the aggregate value of the contract for service will exceed \$17,500.00; and

WHEREAS, the Contractor has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that it has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee for the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit it from making any reportable contributions through the term of this contract; and

WHEREAS, the Board's Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1, et seq.) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of contracts for “extraordinary unspecifiable” services without competitive bid and the contract itself must be made available for public inspection.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board, in the County of Sussex, and State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board hereby awards and authorizes the Chairman and Clerk to execute an Agreement with Ready Scout, LLC for aquatic vegetation assessment and management services, with the form, terms and provisions as found within the Contract as appended hereto as Schedule B.
2. This contract is awarded without competitive bidding as a “extraordinary unspecifiable service” in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 (1)(a)(ii) of the Local Public Contracts Law because said services are services rendered in the provision or performance of goods or services that are original and creative in character in a recognized field of artistic endeavor.
3. The Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to file the Contractor's Business Entity Disclosure Certification with a copy of this Resolution.
4. A notice of this action shall be printed once in the Board’s official newspaper as required by law.

On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Wright and unanimously carried by the following roll call vote, the foregoing resolution was duly adopted

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Hathaway - yes	Mr. Shlesinger - yes
Ms. McGrath - yes	Mr. Wright - yes
Mr. Rattner - 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. Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Rattner, and carried by unanimous voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Horak, Clerk