

Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board
Regular Meeting
March 17, 2021

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 21, 2021 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 March 10, 2021 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	Rudy Shlesinger – present
Joseph Keenan – present	Lester Wright - present
Rosemarie Maio – present (joined at 7:13pm)	Earl Riley - present

MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA: There were no modifications to the agenda.

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. Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Rattner, the Minutes of the February 17, 2021 meeting were approved on majority voice vote. Mr. Balogh and Mr. Poff abstained.

COMMUNICATIONS: The following communications have been placed on file:
02-22-21 Daily Record – Affidavit of Publication re: February meeting change to Zoom meeting

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Canal Society – Chairman Riley reported the next meeting of the Canal Society will be March 19, 2021. The topic will be Lake Hopatcong and the Morris Canal. It will be a Zoom meeting. If you are interested in attending, let Chairman Riley know and he will provide you with the meeting information.

Musconetcong Watershed Association – Mr. Rattner reported that on March 6th they had their annual outreach to the Congressional representatives. He represented Morris County and there was also a Commissioner from Sussex County and three other people, one municipal representative and staff from Congresswoman Sherrill’s office present. The purpose of the meeting was to tell them what was going on and what the needs are and to make them aware of the issues. Mr. Rattner said the major issue on the upper reaches of the river and the watershed is the water temperature issue. There is also a problem with DOT because of road run-off that goes into the river, including a salt problem. Mr. Rattner said he told the representatives that a major use is for recreation, passive and active, along the entire watershed, adding that people need a place to go especially during the recent pandemic. Mr. Rattner noted it was a good meeting. There will be a follow up meeting to discuss algae bloom, looking for more water quality sensors for temperature changes and different partnerships. Mr. Rattner also reported that the request for

the Delaware River Basin Restoration Grant is \$15 Million Dollars. Chairman Riley reported the River Watch will be active over the new couple of weekends. There is a training session this Sunday. They will be monitoring the river on April 3rd. Chairman Riley noted this will be the first time in over a year that they will be able to monitor the location by the Waterloo Bridge due to the bridge closure, which has now been re-opened.

(Ms. Maio arrived.)

Site Plan Review/Stream Encroachment – There was no report.

Lake Awareness – Ms. Maio had no report, but suggested they plan the fishing contest. There will be no Spring Festival in Stanhope again this year due to the pandemic, but she believes the Board should still hold the fishing contest. The Board agreed they should have the fishing contest. The fishing contest will be held on Sunday, June 13th. Ms. Maio will handle the publicity and will prepare a flyer for the event. The Clerk will send a letter to Ramsey Outdoor, requesting a donation. Chairman Riley will contact John Rogalo to see if the Sportsmen Federation will give their usual \$200 donation, which is used to purchase prizes. Ms. Maio will reach out to other establishments for donations. Ms. Maio will get the flyer to the schools and will post it on the Board's website and on Facebook. Ms. Maio will look into getting use of the DOT's electronic sign. Mr. Hathaway will get use of Netcong's electronic sign to advertise the event. Ms. Maio will look into getting use of Stanhope's electronic sign. The fishing contest is open to all children, not only the children of the towns around the lake.

Lake Management – Mr. Hathaway reported they began filling the lake today and with the rain forecasted for tomorrow, the water will be going over the dam by late tomorrow. Mr. Hathaway noted that the water looks great and the fishing is even better. Mr. Hathaway stated that with the long ice coverage and the drawdown, they should be in a good situation relative to the weeds. There is work they need to do on the harvester. Mr. Hathaway noted there are two work items that need to be undertaken in the near future. They need to get the buoys out into the water. In the past they used the harvester, but that is not the proper way to do it. Mr. Hathaway said he has a boat already in the water that can be used. Mr. Hathaway will need help to get the buoys in the water. Mr. Shlesinger offered to help Mr. Hathaway. Chairman Riley will also assist. Mr. Hathaway stated the other work item is the goose management exercise that he and his son can do on his boat, but he will need Chairman Riley to provide him with the map that is used. Mr. Hathaway stated when it comes time for the addling, he will need help, especially if they intend to addle the swans. There is about 6 to 8 weeks of monitoring nesting sites and at the end of April is the time for addling. Mr. Shlesinger offered to also help Mr. Hathaway with the addling. Chairman Riley will also help and will provide Mr. Hathaway with the map. Chairman Riley said the AM 2000 will be put in the lake this year and can be used to deploy the buoys. Chairman Riley said he would like it in the lake because pictures of it on the water will help sell it. It is better to have an operational machine for a potential buyer to inspect. It will be placed in the water prior to the harvester. Mr. Hathaway will reach out to the Stanhope DPW and Netcong Police to get a date to deploy the AM 2000.

Operating Budget – There was no report.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mr. Keenan noted the Treasurer's Report was emailed to the Board. Mr. Keenan stated the Board has not received any purchase orders other than from Netcong. Ms. Maio noted all of the budgets have not been adopted yet. Once the budgets are adopted, purchase orders will be sent.

On motion by Ms. Maio, 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. Wright 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
Daily Record – legal notice re: February meeting change to Zoom	\$ 54.78
Times Herald Record (NJ Herald) – legal notice re: February meeting change to Zoom (\$17.40) and award contract to Cliff Lundin (\$11.40)	\$ 28.80

Lake Management Account:

JCP&L – electric at shed	\$ 3.15
Solitude Lake Management- Lake Management Services (03/01)	\$2,249.00

Chairman Riley stated they should be close to the end of the contract with Solitude. Mr. Hathaway said he believes there are three payments remaining, including this bill, which will go through May.

ROLL CALL:

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

UNFINISHED (OLD) BUSINESS:

Sale of AM 2000 (Hydro Rake) – Chairman Riley stated Cliff Lundin has reviewed the grant agreement and he has come up with a few questions as to the involvement of the federal government. It is money given by the EPA to the State of New Jersey to distribute through the NJDEP. The Board received the grant from the NJDEP, but within the grant are federal regulations that tie up the money. At this time, it is not clear as to whether or not, according to federal standards, we are able to sell the equipment. Chairman Riley stated he has to contact the NJDEP Grant Management Unit and tell them of the Board's desire to sell the equipment because it cannot be utilized as we intended to and as they approved in the grant. If the DEP has an issue with the Board selling the equipment, they can bring it up to the federal government. If over \$5,000, you need some type of permission from the federal government to dispose of the equipment. Chairman Riley stated they need to take these steps before they can proceed with the sale of the AM 2000. Chairman Riley will call the DEP and tell them the situation. Ms. Maio expressed concern that once this issue gets to the DEP, from their perspective they may determine that we should give it, or sell it at a low price, to Lake Hopatcong or Swartswood Lake or one of the other State lakes. Ms. Maio asked if the Board has a price of its current value. Chairman Riley responded that he spoke to a representative of Alpha Boat and he was told that for used equipment like the Board's, he could probably broker it for about \$200,000. Chairman Riley stated they will not let the equipment go for anything less than that, adding the Board paid \$350,000 for the equipment. Ms. Maio asked if there is an estimate of the run time. Chairman Riley responded he knows the exact run time which is 195 hours. Chairman Riley explained the grant states, when the Board is done with it, the DEP can take it back unless we have it in writing from them that they do not want it back and then the equipment is the Boards. He requested a

letter from the DEP saying that at the end of the grant, they give the Board clear title to the equipment. He received an email from the DEP saying they do not want it back and that the equipment is the Boards. Chairman Riley noted there may be EPA restrictions. Mr. Rattner suggested being ready with a response if asked what the Board will do with the proceeds from the sale. Chairman Riley stated they know harvesting is more productive than that equipment sitting on a trailer and they could possibly purchase a small harvester with the funds, or use the funds to do a proven technology for probiotic treatment of the lake bottom and the muck. Mr. Shlesinger questioned the possibility of exchanging the equipment for something that may serve the Board better. Chairman Riley said he could not in good conscience recommend to any entity in the State of New Jersey to have the equipment be used as a hydro rake because the DEP has not made up its mind as to what hydro raking is. They have changed their mind twice so far. The Board agreed it would be best to sell the equipment for as much as they can get and utilize the funds for probiotic treatment or the purchase of a small harvester. Mr. Hathaway said another option is an entire lake herbicide treatment that would last two years. Ms. Maio noted harvesting is a long-term solution not only a two-year solution. Mr. Hathaway noted a smaller harvester could get into the smaller bays and would be helpful with the harvesting program. Chairman Riley expressed his hope that at some time this season, they will be able to facilitate the sale of the equipment.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Hathaway said he would like the Board to give him authority to negotiate the herbicide agreement with Solitude Lake Management. The chemical and cost will be similar to before. He would authorize them to do the survey and he will bring an advisory to the Board. On motion by Ms. Maio, seconded by Mr. Keenan and carried by unanimous voice vote, the Board authorized Mr. Hathaway to negotiate the herbicide treatment agreement with Solitude Lake Management.

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. Keenan, and carried by unanimous voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Horak, Clerk