

**Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board
Regular Meeting
October 15, 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 - present	Shawn Potillo - present
Robert Hathaway - present	Steven Rattner - absent
Joseph Keenan - absent	Rudy Shlesinger - present
Rosemarie Maio - absent	Lester Wright - present
Judith McGrath - absent	Earl Riley - present

MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA: Additional bills listed.

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

Jessica Parks, President of the Netcong Recreation Commission, informed the Board of a Lantern Festival on the lake that was organized by the Recreation Commission. Ms. Parks said the Lantern Festival was a reminder of how much the lake means to everyone and she thanked the Board for all they do maintaining the lake. Ms. Parks presented the Board with a check in the amount of \$1,500 from the Recreation Commission in gratitude for all they do for the lake. The Board thanked Ms. Parks. Mr. Hathaway stated the Lantern Festival was the largest attended event in his many years living on the lake. There were over 1,000 people in attendance. Mr. Hathaway added that the Recreation Commission left the lake better than they found it. They spent a lot of time cleaning up after the event. Mr. Hathaway said this was a big undertaking and a great result. Ms. Parks stated they plan on holding the event again on October 3rd of next year.

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 September 17, 2025 meeting were approved on unanimous voice vote.

COMMUNICATIONS: The following communications have been placed on file:

09-17-25 Boy Scout Troop 91 - check in the amount of \$274.92 re: unused funds for Tyler Perry's Eagle Scout project
10-01-25 Fulton Bank - Confirmation of Address Change

On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Potillo 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 – There was no report.

Lake Management – Mr. Hathaway reported the EZ Dock ramp was installed at the conveyor site and the dock was moved to Chairman Riley's satisfaction. Mr. Hathaway noted he had expressed his concern regarding the water chestnut application in Byram Bay. Shortly after the last meeting, the water chestnut did all turn black and Chairman Riley and the operator scooped it all up. Mr. Hathaway said, as Chairman Riley reported, he does not believe any seeds reached viability. Mr. Hathaway said he is confident the SePro product did as it was warranted to do although the time of the action was much slower than he thinks even Glenn Sullivan believed. Mr. Hathaway noted at the last meeting, it was agreed that Glenn Sullivan would hold and not cash the check the Board tendered to him. Mr. Hathaway recommended that they now permit Mr. Sullivan to cash the check he is holding and we can consider this issue as settled. On motion by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Potillo and carried by the following unanimous roll call vote, the Board authorized Mr. Hathaway to inform Mr. Sullivan to cash the check previously tendered to him that he was holding.

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Hamilton - yes
Mr. Hathaway - yes
Mr. Potillo - yes

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

Mr. Hathaway pointed out how much time, energy and effort was put in by Chairman Riley and Wayne Swistek in cleaning up the water chestnut, which is the reason the lake will be successful next year. Mr. Hathaway said there was a homeowner on the lake who was very thankful they cleaned up the shoreline by his property. Chairman Riley said they took 28 harvester loads out in a very short time. They took out about 1,000 cubic yards. The dumpster is almost half to three-quarters full. They have another pull coming shortly, possibly tomorrow, and the Board will receive the bill for that next week. Mr. Hathaway also reported that the Netcong DPW assisted with taking the harvester out of the lake. Mr. Hathaway noted that it was a challenge as the new equipment is not as easy to control as the old equipment. Mr. Hathaway also reported that the buoys are out of the lake and they left the channel markers in the lake like they did last year. The Jon boat is out of the lake, in the shed and has been winterized. A bill for this service is on tonight's bills list. Mr. Hathaway noted they had trouble getting the Jon boat out of the water and they had to have Wayne Swistek help them, which he did. Mr. Potillo asked if the 1,000 cubic yards they pulled out was the total. Chairman Riley responded that it was for July, August, September and one week in October and the total for the season is more. Mr. Potillo asked if it was more or less than previous years. Chairman Riley responded it was less. There were years with large water chestnut infestation and they took out 2 million pounds of weeds. Mr. Hathaway said last year they took out less and he feels it was due to the herbicide application and the contractor that they had to take out more this year. Mr. Hathaway noted this contractor was not the low bidder and, according to the Board's attorney, they did not need to choose the lowest bidder. Mr. Hathaway expressed his opinion that they should go with the other contractor next year. He believes this year's application was not managed in a positive way. Chairman Riley noted that this year there was more than double the amount of water chestnut in the lake than they had last year and he agrees with Mr. Hathaway that it was due to the herbicide application. Mr.

Hathaway said he holds the contractor responsible for this. Chairman Riley stated that they had a hectic, but very successful weed harvesting season.

Operating Budget – There was no report.

CD Investment – Mr. Shlesinger reported there is a CD that will be maturing on October 23rd. Mr. Shlesinger noted that currently the equipment is out of the water and stored and the Board will not be operating it for the rest of the year. Mr. Shlesinger stated interest rates will be coming down and he suggested splitting the \$50,000 CD that is maturing into two \$25,000 CDs with one being a 3-month and one being a 6-month. Chairman Riley said the CD Committee should decide, but he wants it to roll. On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Potillo and carried by unanimous voice vote, the Board authorized the CD Investment Committee to decide on the roll over amounts and terms for the CD maturing this month.

TREASURER’S REPORT: The Treasurer’s Report was emailed to the Board. On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Potillo, and carried by unanimous voice vote, the Treasurer’s Report was accepted and placed on file.

BILLS: On motion by Mr. Potillo, seconded by Mr. Hathaway 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
Ellen Horak - Reimbursement of Expenses (telephone)	\$ 75.96

Lake Management Account:

JCP&L – electric at shed	\$ 12.86
Macmillan Oil Co. of Allentown, Inc. - hydraulic oil	\$ 472.46

Debit/Credit Card:

Optimum - internet service	\$ 40.00
Dixon Bros. Inc. - fuel	\$ 473.58
Grandpa Gus - Ultimate Mouse Control Bundle	\$ 93.80

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Hamilton - yes	Mr. Shlesinger - yes
Mr. Hathaway - yes	Mr. Wright - yes
Mr. Potillo - yes	Chairman Riley - yes

OLD BUSINESS:

\$572,000 Grant Agreement – Chairman Riley reported he is redoing every report from January to the end of this month. Chairman Riley stated he has completed the progress report. He needs to complete a progress report and a financial report. Chairman Riley stated they are very close to closing out the grant. The Board members thanked Chairman Riley for his effort and dedication on the grant. Chairman Riley stated they received almost all of the grant funds. There is \$57,200 left in the grant that the State has to pay the Board. Chairman Riley noted they are not meeting their in-kind labor amount which was \$50,000. They have about \$30,000 and are about \$20,000 short on the in-kind. He does not know what the State is going to do

with it. There is no way the Board can make up that \$20,000 in in-kind labor. Chairman Riley said he originally put \$50,000 in in-kind services in the grant and included all of the Board members and the members of the LMCA, but the State restricted it to only the operators' hours and then the State would not let us operate the harvester for six months.

2026 Budget - Chairman Riley put together a budget that he distributed to the Board. He estimated the actuals because it is not the end of the year. Chairman Riley noted the Board contributed \$28,000 last year to cover the cost of the herbicide because they did not want to pass that on to the municipalities. In the budget, it was called "Capital Offset." For the year 2026 he is proposing the Capital Offset to be \$20,000 and a 12% increase to the municipalities and counties. The 2026 budget would be \$69,840 from the municipalities and towns and \$20,000 from the Board's bank account for a total budget of \$89,840 to run the lake management program. Chairman Riley noted there will be two more years of reduction and that will bring the Board's obligation to \$0. On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Wright and carried by the following unanimous roll call vote, the Board approved the 2026 budget as presented.

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Hamilton - yes
Mr. Hathaway - yes
Mr. Potillo - yes

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Website - Mr. Hathaway said Chairman Riley disclosed to him that he is the owner of the email account that the Board is using, which should not be done. The Clerk said her email is also used for Board business. Mr. Hathaway expressed his opinion that the Board should subscribe to a web-address that is non-descript to an individual. Chairman Riley also acts as the webmaster. Mr. Hathaway said the Board should investigate having someone, possibly from one of the towns, that has knowledge of uploading on a website and handling websites. The Board would pay this individual for their service. Chairman Riley noted the State's number of \$35 per hour. Chairman Riley noted that their website is based on out of date technology and they need to build a new website. Mr. Hathaway suggested speaking with Linda from Stanhope, who handles Stanhope's website. The Clerk said Linda uploads everything onto the website; however, she did not create the website. The town used Navitend for that service and Linda works with them when necessary. Mr. Hathaway suggested Ellen speak with Linda about the responsibility and her interest and to get an estimate from Navitend to get us set up. Mr. Potillo questioned the possibility of using the services of an employee of one of the towns and giving the town a reduction in their budget contribution. Chairman Riley and Mr. Hathaway responded that would also be another way to go and asked Mr. Potillo to look into it. Mr. Potillo will bring this up to his governing body.

Tax Forms - Mr. Wright said that previously it was brought up that there was something about a tax form he has to fill out and submit as Treasurer. Chairman Riley responded that Ellen is an independent contractor and gets a 1099 tax form. There is a form that needs to be filled out regarding her that goes to the IRS. Mr. Hathaway said he believes it is a Form 99. Mr. Wright will check with Mr. Keenan on the form he sent as Treasurer.

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. Wright and carried by unanimous voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Horak, Clerk