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

MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA: Additional bill listed.

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

Jack Sylvester, representing the Assumption Society came forward and asked the Board's permission to use the Board' site at the point on Allen Street to shoot their fireworks in August. The date for the fireworks is August 9th with a rain date of August 16th. On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Potillo and carried by unanimous voice vote, the Board granted permission to the Assumption Society to use the Board's site for their fireworks display on the date and rain date mentioned.

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. Rattner, seconded by Mr. Hathaway, the Minutes of the June 18, 2025 meeting were approved on unanimous voice vote.

COMMUNICATIONS: The following communications have been placed on file:
06-27-25 Selective Insurance - contact information re: Claim #22768925 (harvester)
06-30-25 Selective Insurance - notice re: payment of Claim #22768925 ($5,371.00 - $1,000 deductible = $4,371.00 check to be sent)
06-30-25 Notice to Property Owners - variance to install above ground pool at 13 Towpath Lane, Stanhope
07-09-25 EZ Dock Innovations - Receipt for payment for EZ Docks dock system ($12,935.00)

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Canal Society – Ms. McGrath reported Canal Day will be held on August 23rd in Wharton.

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 was repaired and is now in the water with little challenges. There have been additional buoys placed on the lake. Mr. Hathaway noted the condition of the lake is very good. There is an algae bloom on the Port Morris line by the towpath. It is not significant and he does not believe it needs to be treated at this time. Ready Scout will be back on the lake to address some areas that the herbicide did not effectively manage and there will be a substantial retreat of the water chestnut as the impact was minimal. Mr. Hathaway said he has discussed this with Ready Scout and the retreatment will happen; however, he does not know the date yet. Mr. Hathaway thinks it will be some time next week. Mr. Hathaway stated when the floating docks are installed they will have the harvester in the water and will need to have it docked at the conveyor site. They will harvest some weeds for the samples needing to be taken to use the Jefferson Recycling facility. Mr. Hathaway spoke about the timing for taking the samples. He noted the LMCA is using Tribune and he has been notified by the State that using that chemical will strip out the potential for an organic classification and will be a problem for the compost site the Board wants to use. Mr. Hathaway said he plans to take samples from the Arbolino Bay substantial weed patch. Mr. Hathaway also reported that the dumpster will be delivered after the fireworks. Chairman Riley noted they cannot bring the dumpster back until they get the docks in place. They are storing the dumpster at Frank Base's site in Port Morris, at no charge to the Board. Chairman Riley stated he has held Mr. Base off since September, adding he has had the dumpster since then and from then till now, he has not charged the Board. Chairman Riley said, as soon as the docks are in place, he will have Mr. Base bring the dumpster back. Chairman Riley expressed his hope that the Board will be able to bring the weeds to Jefferson Recycling which seems to be our last hope.

Operating Budget – Mr. Wright reported, as per the last meeting, he was going to take money out of the Fidelity money market account and put it in a 3-month, 6-month and 9-month CD, but when he got into the Fidelity account he saw that taking the money out would leave only $11,000 in the account, which he did not want to do. If they had not taken out the $28,00 for Ready Scout they could have done it, but he is not comfortable doing it now. Mr. Wright proposed taking $30,000 and putting it in a 90-day account.

CD Investment – Mr. Wright recommended taking $50,000 and putting it in certain CD's. Mr. Hathaway suggested allowing the CD Investment Committee to make the necessary decisions and report back to the Board at the next meeting. The Board agreed. Mr. Hathaway stated they should leave between $25,000 and $50,000 in the liquid money market account.

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. Rattner 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
Murphy McKeon, P.C. - legal services	$ 45.00
Lake Management Account:	
JCP&L – electric at shed	$ 11.76

Ready Scout, LLC - water chestnut treatment	$ 6,550.00
Ready Scout, LLC - Assessment of Aquatic Vegetation	$13,300.00
Debit/Credit Card:	
Optimum - internet service	$ 40.00
Netcong Hardware - keys for new door at shed at Barney's Way	$ 17.94

ROLL CALL:

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

OLD BUSINESS:

$572,000 Grant Agreement – Chairman Riley reported he is waiting for final approval on the multiple submissions he has done since January regarding the financial reports. He cannot submit everything the Board has experienced since January, including the purchase of the backhoe until he gets last year's approved. Chairman Riley said he is communicating on a weekly basis with NJDEP and the grant managers. The Board has two primary grant managers and they wanted to come up and go out on the harvester to see how the operation works. The visit was scheduled for July 8th, but they cancelled because of the weather and unforeseen circumstances. There were six people from grant management who were coming and they would like to reschedule. Chairman Riley stated he communicated today with Amelia, the Board's primary grant manager, and she asked about the Board's weed disposal options. Chairman Riley informed her of the seven facilities the Board reached out to. Chairman Riley noted there are two Board members (Mr. Potillo and Mr. Hamilton) who are members of the Lake Hopatcong Commission. Chairman Riley said he reached out to Michael Calderio to see if the Board could piggyback on Lake Hopatcong's weed disposal. They take their weeds to a certain property and dewater them and then take them to the Morris County MUA. Chairman Riley asked the Board's two members of the Commission if his request was ever discussed. Mr. Potillo responded it was not discussed at last month's meeting. Chairman Riley asked Mr. Potillo and Mr. Hamilton to bring his request to the attention of the Commission. Mr. Potillo said he regularly speaks to Mark Crowley, who is also a Lake Hopatcong Commission member, about the Board's issues and he did not bring up to him that it was discussed by the Commission. It was noted that Mr. Calderio who runs the maintenance operation of all of the harvesters may not be the person to reach out to. Mr. Potillo recommended that they reach out to Colleen Lyons. Mr. Rattner noted that Morris County also has a representative appointed to the Commission and he offered to reach out to him and request he speak to the Commission about it. Chairman Riley said he would be happy to attend the next Lake Hopatcong Commission meeting and discuss this. Chairman Riley expressed his frustration that the Board has no place to take the weeds. Mr. Hathaway expressed his opinion that trying to dovetail on any operation where it is not clear on how expenses are covered is unrealistic and he does not think it will happen. Mr. Hathaway stated they have the option of using Jefferson Recycling and the Board will need to see what happens with them. Chairman Riley noted they need to find a disposal site and he asked the Board members to reach out to any possible entity. Chairman Riley also expressed frustration with the NJDEP because he was informed they cannot harvest weeds between August and October because of the fish reproduction process. Chairman Riley stated he will continue to work on the grant.

Eagle Scout Project- Mr. Hathaway stated the shed area done as the Eagle Scout Project under Tyler Perry's direction is nothing short of remarkable and it has to be the most expansive Eagle Scout Project that he has ever encountered. Mr. Hathaway said he would like the Board to consider putting a plaque on the shed to recognize Tyler Perry, the Scout Troop and the donors, i.e. the donor of paint which was over $15,000. Tyler is also restoring the Barney's Way sign. On motion by Mr. Potillo, seconded by Mr. Wright and carried by the following unanimous roll call vote, the Board authorized a plaque be placed on the shed in the name of Tyler Perry and any significant contributors and donors to the project at a cost not to exceed $500:

ROLL CALL:

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

Mr. Hathaway noted the project is largely completed with only a few items remaining. Tyler will be attending the next meeting to make his presentation on the completion of the project/

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Riley said he received an email from Mr. Shlesinger that stated there is no light on the shed. Chairman Riley agreed there is no light on the shed, and said he had given Mr. Shlesinger a light to put on the shed awhile ago. Mr. Shlesinger stated he will put the light on the shed. Chairman Riley said Mr. Shlesinger's email also said he would like to have a discussion tonight about having signs posted. Mr. Hamilton responded that whatever signage there would be, should be in line with the standard signs that the State Park has and it would have to be approved by State Parks. There was a brief discussion about the signage. Mr. Hathaway said it was told to Netcong Borough by State Parks that posting signage on State Park property is prohibited.

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 7:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Horak, Clerk