

**Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**February 19, 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.

OATH OF OFFICE: Chairman Riley administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Rattner

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA:** Additional bill listed.

**PRESENTATION:** Tyler Perry (Eagle Scout Project) Tyler Perry came forward. Tyler stated he is a member of Troop 91 and will be presenting his Eagle Scout Service Project proposal to the Board. His Eagle Scout project is the Lake Musconetcong Shed and Land Restoration Project. Tyler explained all elements of the project to the Board. The project will include refurbishing the shed, repairing the roof, fixing and painting the shed's exterior walls and door and clearing away all dead brush, invasive brush, removing the old buoys on the property and cleaning up the debris around the site. The site is currently in very poor condition and the completion of the project will make the site more appealing to the public as well as further the durability of the shed which will help optimise the purpose of it and fortify it from the elements. Tyler said he chose to do this project because the lake is a large part of both Stanhope and Netcong and maintaining it is a lot of work. The completion of the project will make the town look more presentable and inviting to others to come and enjoy the lake. Mr. Hathaway noted the project consists of a lot of work and the Board is very glad Tyler is taking it on. Mr. Hathaway asked Tyler to let the Board know how they can help. Chairman Riley expressed his pleasure and sincere appreciation to Tyler for taking on this project and offered to help. Mr. Shlesinger offered to help in any way, noting he lives right next to the site. Tyler said his Troop will be aiding him as well as family members. He will have about 20 people helping him. Chairman Riley noted this is a significant project and again expressed his and the Board's appreciation to Tyler. Mr. Hathaway asked about signage indicating the work has been done as an Eagle Scout Project. Mr. Hathaway would like to commemorate this, noting Tyler should be recognized for his work. Chairman Riley agreed Tyler should be recognized, noting this is a large project being undertaken by a young man. Mr. Potillo thanked Tyler for undertaking this project and said he should not hesitate to ask the support of the Board in any way, noting the supplies needed for the project. Chairman Riley said the budget for the materials for the project is \$1,800 and he would like the Board to pay for the materials. On motion by Mr. Potillo, seconded by Mr. Hathaway and carried by the following unanimous roll call vote, the Board authorized up to \$1,800 for the purchase of materials to complete the Eagle Scout Project presented by Tyler.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Chairman Riley said if Tyler should need anything else, he should come back to the Board. Tyler asked who will maintain the site after the project is completed. Mr. Hathaway responded it will be the Lake Management Committee, who is currently himself. Tyler distributed a sample of the color he chose for the walls and discussed the roof. Chairman Riley stated the roof should not be black. Tyler asked if the Board will take care of the waste oil in the bins on the property. Chairman Riley responded yes, the Board will dispose of the waste oil. The Board thanked Tyler for his presentation and expressed their appreciation for him undertaking this project.

**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 Ms. Maio, the Minutes of the January 15, 2025 Reorganization Meeting were approved on majority voice vote. Mr. Pottillo and Mr. Rattner abstained.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** The following communications have been placed on file:

- 01-21-25 Fulton Bank - Transfer of Funds Notification
- 01-27-25 Gannett LocaliQ - Affidavit of Publication re: annual meeting notice in the Daily Record
- 01-27-25 Great American Insurance Group - Accident Insurance Policy
- 01-27-25 Fidelity Investments - notice of bank wire transfer of \$92,000.00 to Fulton Bank
- 01-29-25 Sussex County Commissioners - Resolution Re: Director's Appointments for Various Department Liaisons and Committees for Calendar Year 2025 (Commissioner DeGroot Liaison to the LMRPB)
- 02-03-25 Fidelity Investments - Notice of Upcoming CD Maturity Date (2/25/25)
- 02-03-25 Fidelity Investments - 2024 Tax Reporting Statement
- 02-05-25 Selective Insurance - updated Commercial Liability Ins. Policy (includes New Holland Backhoe)
- 02-07-25 LocaliQ (NJ Herald) - Affidavit of Publication re: annual meeting notice and award of professional service contract
- 02-07-25 Fidelity Investments - Investment Report (1/1/25-1/31/25)

On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Keenan and carried by unanimous voice vote, the communications were accepted. Chairman Riley noted the communication from Sussex County on the appointment of Commissioner DeGroot to the Board. The Clerk clarified that the appointment is only as the County liaison to the Board, not an appointed member as the County's representative. Chairman Riley noted there is still no Sussex County representative on the Board. Chairman Riley also noted the communication from Selective Insurance regarding the Commercial Liability Insurance Policy. When he reviewed the policy he noticed the 1989 backhoe was still listed. The Clerk contacted the insurance agent and that backhoe has been removed from the policy. Chairman Riley stated the cost of the insurance with the new equipment has gone from about \$6,000 per year to over \$8,000 per year.

#### **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:**

**Canal Society** – There was no report.

**Musconetcong Watershed Association** – Mr. Rattner reported the MWA held their monthly meeting last night and one of the things that is being affected by everything happening in Washington is a

lot of the funding has been cut until they can re-evaluate it. Nothing came up that indicates anyone's job is at risk. Mr. Rattner also reported the MWA is working on different projects, one being the MWA Vision Plan that when completed, it will be the first one in the State. Mr. Rattner reported the River Management Council will have direct links to all the resources on their website. They want to make sure that the different communities get a direct link so they can see what is going on. The MWA is also looking at the PFAS in the river and they are also studying and have universities looking at the HAB issues.

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

**Lake Awareness** – Ms. Maio reported she will be meeting with members of the Elks Club to discuss the combined fishing contest and will make them understand how the Board operates the fishing contest.

**Lake Management** – Mr. Hathaway reported they took delivery of the new backhoe. It is currently at the Allen Street site. Mr. Hathaway noted the lake is completely frozen and historically, when they have this amount of ice for a long time, it bodes well for the condition of the lake in the spring. Mr. Hathaway said he will engage the Board Attorney to solicit the same three vendors they solicited last year with similar specifications for the herbicide treatment. Mr. Hathaway also reported that, as directed by the Board at the last meeting, he solicited quotes for camera systems at the Allen Street location and the Barney's Way location, which were forwarded to the Board. He got a quote to electrify the Allen Street location and it will cost \$3,000 to bring electrical service to the location in addition to the cost of the cameras. Mr. Hathaway said he received a quote for the Allen Street site for a solar supported cell based camera and it does not appear there is another way to manage that site and have connectivity and long recording lineage if they notice something happened. This is reflected in the price. The maintenance is about \$40.00 a month for the cell supported through Verizon, which will be a subscription. Mr. Hathaway said the electric service was \$3,000 and would require approvals from the State and it would be a challenging process and it would not lower the subscription fee. Mr. Hathaway noted the solar cellular system is cheaper and no approvals are needed. Mr. Hathaway got two proposals for the Barney's Way site. One is the professional system that would have all the bells and whistles. The second proposal is much less expensive and is a wifi system which would be similar to the ring system. It will be Planet Network on the Barney's Way location and Verizon on the Allen Street location. There will be two cameras at the Barney's Way location and one camera at the Allen Street location. The cost is \$3,093.19 for both locations. Mr. Shlesinger questioned looking into having electricity installed on the Allen Street site. Chairman Riley noted electricity is not needed at that site to justify the cost, noting since he has been on the Board, they only needed electricity about three times, at which they used the generator. Mr. Hathaway stated it will also require approval from the State which would not happen immediately and which Mr. Hamilton previously indicated to him, it would be at least a six month process. Chairman Riley asked the Board if they felt camera coverage was needed at the Allen Street site. Mr. Hathaway noted previously equipment at that site has been vandalized. The Board agreed security cameras should be installed at both locations. Mr. Hathaway stated the Board will need to install a post for the camera to be installed on at the Allen Street location. Mr. Rattner noted the Board may receive a discount on insurance if security is installed. On motion by Ms. Maio, seconded by Mr. Hathaway and carried by the following unanimous roll call vote, the Board authorized moving forward with the security cameras as described in the quotes for an amount not to exceed \$3,500 for both locations:

ROLL CALL:

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

Mr. Potillo asked if it has been reported by fishermen about a lack of fish this year. Mr. Hathaway responded in the affirmative. Mr. Potillo stated it has also been reported in Lake Hopatcong. Mr. Hathaway said there have been some big fish caught on Lake Musconetcong, but he has been told that the fishing has been off this year. Mr. Hathaway noted the wind runs over the top of the ice on the lake and makes a sound that the fish can hear and he thinks that is one of the major factors on the diminishing fish. Mr. Hathaway said they should expect an impacted fish population from the herbicide treatment because there will be less coverage for the fish. Chairman Riley spoke about an Electro Fish Survey that was done by the NJDEP about ten years ago and asked the Board to allow him to contact the NJDEP and ask them about doing another Electro Fish Survey. The Board agreed to have Chairman Riley contact the NJDEP.

**Operating Budget** – Mr. Wright stated he needs to have Mr. Keenan's name removed from the Fidelity account. He also had issues bringing up the check balances in the Fulton account. Fulton Bank is asking for another verification that requires him to go in person to the bank and to change the password. Chairman Riley said Mr. Keenan took care of all of the accounts and changed passwords when needed. Chairman Riley said he must be informed of any new passwords because he needs access to the account.

**CD Investment** – In Ms. McGrath's absence, Mr. Shlesinger reported interest rates are remaining the same, between 4.25% to 4.35%.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The Treasurer's Report was emailed to the Board. Chairman Riley noted this is a short Treasurer's Report and Mr. Wright needs some time to get up to speed on the various reports. Chairman Riley noted there are several reports Mr. Keenan prepared and he would like those reports to continue. On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Ms. Maio, and carried by unanimous voice vote, the Treasurer's Report was accepted and placed on file.

**BILLS:** On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Wright 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
Selective Insurance - Commercial Liability Ins. Installment Payment	\$1,811.00
Selective Insurance - Policy Change re: additional equipment	\$ 303.00
Gannett New York-New Jersey LocaliQ - Annual Meeting Notice and Award of Professional Service Contract (NJ Herald) and Annual Meeting Notice (Daily Record)	\$ 101.19

Lake Management Account:

JCP&L – electric at shed	\$ 4.65
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**ROLL CALL:**

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

\$572,000 Grant Agreement – Chairman Riley reported the latest financial paperwork and progress report has been submitted and he is waiting for the NJDEP to accept the reports. Chairman Riley said, for the financial report, they can submit the insurance bills and any additional bills the Board may have. They have been permitted to include the insurance costs as part of the Board's in-kind cash contribution.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Security Cameras - Chairman Riley noted this topic was already discussed earlier in the meeting.

Netcong Borough Meet and Greet - Chairman Riley informed the Board that Netcong Borough is having a meet and greet this Saturday at noon for all of the organizations within the Borough to get together and solicit public input. Chairman Riley said he plans on attending the meet and greet. He has a brochure he has updated and will hand out. He will also have a volunteer sign-up sheet for additional harvester operators. Chairman Riley noted they currently only have 4-5 operators. All operators must be 18 years old or older. Volunteers will also be solicited for maintenance work.

Netcong and Roxbury Property - Mr. Hathaway reported Netcong is in the process of annexing property from Roxbury for the property on Allen Street on which the Board keeps their equipment. This will have no effect on the Board's operations. Mr. Hathaway noted that before the summer, that piece of property will become Netcong's property and will no longer be Roxbury's property. Mr. Potillo said looking at the information given to Roxbury the plan is to build a seawall that goes around past the parking lot to the area where the equipment is stored. Mr. Potillo said he wants to make sure the Board does not lose any access by the plan between Roxbury and Netcong. Mr. Hathaway said the plan Mr. Potillo is seeing is a conceptual plan. Mr. Hathaway noted there is an existing bulkhead. Mr. Hathaway stated the thinking is that the Board's area would be finished in gravel and be made wider so it can future facilitate the fireworks show. Chairman Riley stated the area the Board's equipment occupies is State property.

**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 Ms. Maio, and carried by unanimous voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Horak, Clerk