Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board
Regular Meeting
June 18, 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 - absent
Robert Hathaway - present	Steven Rattner - present
Joseph Keenan - present	Rudy Shlesinger -present
Rosemarie Maio - present	Lester Wright - present
Judith McGrath - present	Earl Riley - present

MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA: Additional communications, bills and new business 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: On motion by Mr. Rattner, seconded by Mr. Wright the Minutes of the May 21, 2025 meeting were approved on majority voice vote. Mr. Hathaway abstained

COMMUNICATIONS: The following communications have been placed on file:

05-22-25 Morris County - Signed Memorandum of Understanding and check in the amount of $7,628.13 re: 2025 budget contribution

06-02-25 Stanhope Borough - Check in the amount of $20,705.18 re: 2025 budget contribution ($19,955.18) and herbicide treatment ($750.00)

06-06-25 Fulton Bank - Notice of Insufficient Funds ($13,300 check to Ready Scout)

06-08-25 Lake Musconetcong Community Association - check in the amount of $98.00 for the fishing contest trophies

06-16-25 Morris County Sportsmen Federation - check in the amount of $200 re: donation for fishing contest

06-16-25 Netcong Borough - check in the amount of $15,997.00 re: 2025 budget contribution, herbicide treatment and goose addling program

06-16-25 People First Casualty - Public Officials Liability Renewal (expires Sept.)

On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Rattner and carried by unanimous voice vote, the communications were accepted. Chairman Riley explained the reason for the letter from Fulton Bank regarding insufficient funds to cover the $13,300 check to Ready Scout was that the new Treasurer thought that when he enters something in Quickbooks, it automatically goes into the bank account. He transferred monies in Quickbook which did not happen automatically which is why the check to Ready Scout was returned for insufficient funds. The Board Secretary informed the Board that the check from Netcong Borough in the amount of $15,997.00 for the budget contribution ($11,396.42), herbicide treatment ($800) and egg addling program ($2,400) is $1,400.58 over what was charged. Mr. Hathaway noted Netcong has two park shorelines treated which would be $800 per park. Even with the additional $800 for the second park treatment, the amount would still be over $600.58. Mr. Hathaway will look into the overpayment.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Canal Society – There was nothing to report.

Musconetcong Watershed Association – Mr. Rattner stated he previously reported on the effect everything going on in Washington is having on the funding, and they have since released the embargo; however, they are still unsure about the budget. Three of their employees have gone from full-time to part-time because they do not know if they will have enough money. Mr. Rattner also reported there is a new staff in the MWA and the Watershed Management Council who have started brainstorming sessions for change. Mr. Rattner brought up an idea that they were very receptive to, being since they use taxpayers money either directly or indirectly that they start designating to also support local businesses so when people come to the area they will know the local businesses to go to for things such as morning coffee, lunch, etc.

Site Plan Review/Stream Encroachment – There was nothing to report.

Lake Awareness – Ms. Maio noted she was not able to attend the fishing contest. Chairman Riley reported that the weather was cold, rainy and windy. The fishing contest was held in conjunction with the Hopatcong Elks Club event for the first time. The members of the Elks Club were great people. Chairman Riley said, due to the unpleasant weather, they only had 15 children participate with no 7 to 10 year olds participating. There were two sisters in the 4 to 5 year old category who, between the two of them, caught 49 fish. Chairman Riley thanked the generosity of Ramsey's who were very generous by donating fishing equipment of $130 plus giving the Board a 20% discount on everything he purchased. Chairman Riley thanked the LMCA for their contribution of $100 for the trophies and the Sportsmen's Federation for their donation of $200 for the prizes. Chairman Riley said, with all the donations, this year the Board only spent $13.00 on the fishing contest. Chairman Riley thanked Mr. Hathaway, Mr. Potillo and John Rogalo who were assisting with the fishing contest all day. All the children who participated had a great time.

Lake Management – Mr. Hathaway reported they were scheduled to put the harvester in the water on Tuesday and in their preparation to do the same, they discovered that an animal had resided in it and destroyed some of the wiring. The major electric harness was chewed in half and is totally inoperable. The Board has submitted an insurance claim for the damage and Aquarius Systems will be sending a representative to come out and fix it on Monday. If all goes well, the harvester will be put in the water next week. Mr. Hathaway stated they are still not sure where to dispose of the weeds. Chairman Riley said the most likely location to dispose of the weeds that he recommends going to is Jefferson Recycling. The weeds would first have to be tested before they will accept them. The testing must be done once per year. The other possible location is the Sussex County MUA. Mr. Hathaway said it does not appear they will have any immediate harvesting needs. Since the last meeting, Ready Scout was on the lake and did a survey. It came up that the lake is substantially populated with curly pondweed, so they will need to use the alternate chemical, which will have no additional costs. The mode of action is similar. The substantial rainfall recently has flushed out a lot of the nutrients and there has not been an algae bloom up to now. Ready Scout was on the lake yesterday treating the water chestnut. Pat Marsico of the LMCA suggested there were other areas that have some infestation and it seems the LMCA will take care of it. There are some areas of eurasian milfoil and no evidence of coontail. Mr. Hathaway said they have had a very substantial result from the herbicide application and that is buying them a lot of time in dealing with any growth in the lake. The 24D chemical treatment for the water chestnut will take a couple of weeks to make its way down to the root. Mr. Hathaway also reported that Chairman Riley arranged to have John Rogalo put the conveyor in place. Ms. Maio asked, with respect to the weed disposal, if the Board pays by the load or weight. Chairman Riley responded there are only two options for disposal of the weeds. Jefferson Recycling will be paid by the tonnage and Sussex County MUA is paid by the weight, but the weeds have to be dewatered. Ms. Maio asked about if they artificially raise the bed of the dumpster, put mesh on it and let the water drain. Chairman Riley said they normally use the backhoe to dewater the weeds by compressing them with the backhoe. Chairman Riley explained how they dewater the weeds. There was a discussion regarding various ways to dewater the weeds. Mr. Hathaway said, if they can find some place to take the weeds, the Board should expect the cost of disposal to be over $1,000 per load as opposed to the $600 per load they had been paying. Mr. Rattner said he contacted Morris County's liaison to the Morris County MUA about this issue and is waiting to hear back from him. He did receive a communication from the Clerk of the County Commissioners saying she is following up to make sure the Commissioner addresses this. Chairman Riley stated the Morris County MUA has made it clear that they will not take the weeds. Chairman Riley said John Rogalo is in touch with Hudson Farms who has their own compost facility to see if they will take the weeds. Mr. Hathaway also reported the camera has been installed that surveys over the conveyor site and he and Chairman Riley monitor it. Both camera sites are posted "24 Hour Surveillance." Chairman Riley stated the grant manager for the Board's grant had wanted to come up and go out on the harvester and bring 5 grant managers from Trenton. The visit was scheduled for next Tuesday; however, due to the issue with the harvester, the visit has been rescheduled to July 8. Mr. Hathaway stated it will be on that outing that they collect the weed samples.

Operating Budget – Mr. Wright reported there was a problem with the internal banking, but everything has been taken care of.

CD Investment – Mr. Shlesinger asked why there is $125,000 in the money market account instead of putting it in a CD. The Federal Reserve met today and they are leaving the rates which are now 4-¼%-4-½%. Mr. Shlesinger said they may want to consider spreading out the $125,000 with a 3 month, 6 month and 9 month CD. Chairman Riley stated as soon as the financial report is approved on the grant, the Board will receive $64,800. Chairman Riley noted there is a $5,000 bill for the harvester repair and a quote for the docks which the Board needs for just over $10,000 and there will be another bill from Ready Scout for $13,300. There is over $30,000 they will need to have readily available. There was a short discussion about moving some of the money from the money market account. On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Ms. McGrath and carried by the following majority roll call vote, the Board authorized the CD Investment Committee to take $100,000 from the money market account and invest it in a CD ladder for no longer than nine months:

ROLL CALL:

Mr Hamilton - yes
Mr. Hathaway - yes
Mr. Keenan - yes
Ms. Maio - no
Ms. McGrath - yes
Mr. Rattner - yes
Mr. Shlesinger - yes
Mr. Wright - yes
Chairman Riley - no

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's Report was emailed to the Board. 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 Ms. Maio 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	$ 420.00
Lake Management Account:	
JCP&L – electric at shed	$ 10.50
Aquarius Systems - harvester repair	$ 5,371.00
Debit/Credit Card:	
Optimum - internet service	$ 40.00
Vosker - camera for Port Morris site	$ 249.99
Vosker - one-year contract for security camera monitoring at Allen St.	$ 216.00
Ramsey's - prizes for the fishing contest	$ 213.42

ROLL CALL:

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

OLD BUSINESS:

$572,000 Grant Agreement – Chairman Riley reported the financial report was submitted for the sixth time and it appears this time, it will be approved. The NJDEP has changed how they want reports. They now want financial reports and progress reports every six months instead of quarterly and they are to be sent together. Chairman Riley said he made the minor changes they requested with the financial report. As soon as the report is approved, the Board will receive a check for the next advanced payment of $64,800. The amount of $57,200 (10% of the grant) will be held back until the final report has been approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

EZ Docks- Mr. Hathaway noted the Board had directed him to look into replacing the damaged docks and he solicited a quote through Source Well which is the same quote. Mr. Hathaway stated they need to have two docks for the conveyor site for the operators in order to get to both sides. They need two floating docks that would require one ramp to get to the shore, which ramp would be mounted to the dock and free moving along the shore. On the harvester site, they need a single dock and would require some additional support. This dock would require a 10-foot long gangway. The quote is $12,935 for two docks installed at the conveyor site with a ramp and one dock installed at the Barney's Way site with a ramp and labor included. The invoice sent says $13,791.94, which includes sales tax. On motion by Ms. McGrath, seconded by Mr. Wright and carried by the following unanimous roll call vote, the Board authorized the installation of the two docks and ramp at the conveyor site and one dock and gangway at the Barney's Way site at a cost of $12,935.00:

ROLL CALL:

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

The Clerk was asked to provide the vendor with the Board's tax exempt certificate when sending the quote signed by Chairman Riley.

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 8:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Horak, Clerk