

Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board
Regular Meeting
February 18, 2026

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 22, 2026 and was sent to the Clerks of the four municipalities, the State and the two counties.

ROLL CALL:

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

MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA: Additional bill 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. Hathaway, the Minutes of the January 21, 2026 reorganization meeting were approved on unanimous voice vote.

COMMUNICATIONS:

02-02-26 Sussex County - Liaison to the Board for 2026 (Commissioner DeGroot)
02-04-26 LocaliQ - Affidavit of Publication from Daily Record re: annual meeting notice
02-10-26 Acrisure - 2026-2027 Accident Renewal Policy from Great American
02-12-26 LocaliQ - Affidavit of Publication from NJ Herald re: annual meeting notice and award of contract

On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Rattner and carried by unanimous voice vote, the aforesaid communications were accepted. Chairman Riley noted the communication from Sussex County appointing Commissioner DeGroot as the liaison to the Board. The appointment is as a liaison and not as Sussex County's representative on the Board. The Board spoke about the importance of having a County representative. Chairman Riley stated the County is funding the Board and they need representation to justify and/or verify their funding.

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 lake has just about 2'feet of ice on it. The usage of the lake is at the highest level he has seen in a winter in at least the last decade. There have been ice

fishing houses on the lake as well as two maintained hockey rinks. Mr. Hathaway stated the increase in the utility of the lake is due to this Board. Chairman Riley reported they have been having problems with one of the cameras on Central and he finally convinced the manufacturer that the solar panel that charges the camera was not working. The manufacturer gave him a new panel which he has at his house and it has been running for the past two weeks. If it continues to run without issue, he will install it at the site once the snow is gone. Due to the problem, the manufacturer will give the Board an additional three months at no charge.

Chairman Riley acknowledged Commissioner Jack DeGroot in the public and invited him to join the Board at the dais. Chairman Riley said Commissioner DeGroot needs to be officially appointed as Sussex County’s representative on the Board, not just the liaison. Commissioner DeGroot expressed his interest in serving as the County’s representative on the Board. Chairman Riley gave Commissioner DeGroot a brief history of the Board. The Clerk will contact the Clerk for the Commissioners and ask that Commissioner DeGroot be officially appointed as the County’s representative on the Board.

Operating Budget – There was nothing to report.

CD Investment – There was nothing to report.

TREASURER’S REPORT: The Treasurer’s Report was emailed to the Board. The balance in the money market account is \$155,484, the balance in the checking account is \$76,327 and the balance in the savings account is \$5,706 for a total of \$237,517. On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Keenan, 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. Pottillo and carried by the following unanimous roll call vote, the Board approved the bills on the Bills List, as amended:

Operating Account:

Ellen Horak - Clerk’s Monthly Compensation & Stipend for Preparation of Financial Reports	\$ 600.00
Acrisure NJ Partners Insurance Services - Group Accident Medical Ins. (Broker Fee - omitted from last month’s bill)	\$ 25.00
USA Today Media Group - Annual Meeting Notice in NJ Herald & Daily Record and award of contract in NJ Herald	\$ 70.65

Lake Management Account:

JCP&L – electric at shed	\$ 11.59
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Debit/Credit Card:

Optimum - internet service	\$ 40.00
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ROLL CALL:

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| Mr. Hathaway - yes | Mr. Rattner - yes |
| Mr. Keenan - yes | Mr. Shlesinger - yes |
| Mr. Pottillo - yes | Mr. Wright - yes |
| | Chairman Riley - yes |

OLD BUSINESS:

\$572,000 Grant Agreement – Chairman Riley reported all of the paperwork has been submitted. The final approval for the project has been approved and he is waiting to hear back on the financial report. He does not expect any push back on the financial report. It is just a matter of the State of New Jersey approving all the bills. Chairman Riley also reported that he received a communication from NJDEP stating they want an audit. The audit can be either the total Board or a program specific audit, which Chairman Riley will do. Chairman Riley stated he has a phone meeting with Shikha Rastosi from NJDEP, who will tell him what she is looking for. Chairman Riley said he contacted Nisivoccia and asked them to help the Board do the audit on the program specific portion of the grant. Chairman Riley does not know what the cost will be, but the Board must do it as the audit is a requirement of the State. On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Pottillo and carried by the following unanimous roll call vote, the Board authorized an emergency action by email on the topic of hiring Nisivoccia for the audit, to be memorialized at the next meeting, but to vote by email between meetings to authorize this expense.

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Hathaway - yes	Mr. Rattner - yes
Mr. Keenan - yes	Mr. Shlesinger - yes
Mr. Pottillo - yes	Mr. Wright - yes
	Chairman Riley - yes

Website - Mr. Hathaway stated he has no additional information on this topic. He entertained other professionals, all who declined interest. Mr. Hathaway said, from his experience with them, he recommends the Board go with 4Bits. Mr. Hathaway would like to ask Mr. Pisano to provide a hard quote and for the Board to take action at the next meeting. Mr. Hathaway said Mr. Pisano indicated that the website would be updated quarterly and whatever would be needed for the routine monthly update would be done by the Clerk for a stipend. Chairman Riley stated he will continue to update the website until a decision is made and he will add a page on the website for Legal Notices to be in compliance with the recent change in the law regarding posting legal notices on the website.

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

Pat Marsica, 41 Koclas Drive, Netcong noted a few months ago Don Beech contacted the Board about cattails in the lake and she asked the outcome. Ms. Marsica also noted the potential detention center in Roxbury and said she wishes the Board would discuss it and the impact on the lake and that all of the other towns and Board would work together with Roxbury’s Council to help them with the situation. Chairman Riley responded that he does not think the Board should be involved. Mr. Hathaway agreed, adding the Board gets involved with action items regarding the lake, i.e. site plans, variances. In order for the Board to get involved, it would have to be an actionable project and that is not an actionable project so it would be inappropriate for this Board to comment on something that is not actionable. Mr. Pottillo agreed with Mr. Hathaway and said he does not believe the Board, at this point in time, should make any statement as there is nothing actionable. Chairman Riley addressed the question about the cattail and said Don Beech attended a meeting and presented his concerns. The issue was discussed with a representative from State Parks and the bottom line is legally he cannot do any dredging or digging up or treatment with chemicals because they are not an invasive species. Mr. Hathaway said he can maintain an open corridor

from the lake to his shoreline, which he told Mr. Beech. There are methods available for him for that level of undertaking but shoreline issues are outside this Board's purview.

Seeing no one further 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 7:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Horak, Clerk