

Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board
Regular Meeting
September 20, 2023

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 19, 2023 and was sent to the Clerks of the four municipalities, the State and the two counties.

ROLL CALL:

Laura Franek – present	Shawn Potillo - absent
Robert Hathaway – present	Steven Rattner - present
William Hayden - absent	Rudy Shlesinger - present
Joseph Keenan- present	Lester Wright - present
Rosemarie Maio – present	Earl Riley - present

MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA: Additional bills 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. Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Rattner the Minutes of the August 16, 2023 meeting, were approved on majority voice vote. Ms. Maio abstained.

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

- 8-17-23 Solitude Lake Management – Service Report
- 9-05-23 Theresa Dunay – River Park monthly oil/water separator inspection log (August)
- 9-06-23 United States Liability Insurance Company – Public Officials Renewal Policy
- 9-11-23 Fidelity Investments – Account Statement (July 1, 2023 – August 31, 2023)

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Canal Society – There was nothing to report.

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 they had some breakdowns and everything is up and running thanks to Chairman Riley, Wayne Swistak and Ray Guyre. Mr. Hathaway also reported they will be drawing down the lake shortly so the equipment must be removed from the lake. He will have the operators clean up some of the pond lily by the old restaurant site. Mr. Hathaway noted the lake looks intact and he is not too concerned with the weed issue. There is an issue with water chestnut. There is a substantial bloom in the back of Byram Bay. Mr. Hathaway noted Solitude Lake Management did not treat that area although they were supposed to treat it. Mr. Hathaway said he looked at the bloom and with the large drawdown this year, the water chestnut bloom will be taken care of. Mr. Hathaway said, given the recent challenges they have had with Solitude, he strongly suggests preparing an RFP and bid out the

entire process. There is the potential of getting a different vendor; however, it may still end up being Solitude. Mr. Hathaway stated they have contracted with Solitude for years and they should have known the date window in relation to the growth of the water chestnut and they missed the date. The Board has not paid them anything for that treatment since it is outside their other services. Mr. Hathaway noted that the two-foot drawdown relative to the eradication of the water chestnut is much more effective than the herbicide treatment. Chairman Riley stated he was on the harvester and was warned, if he was going to harvest the water chestnut, he would need an empty harvester. Chairman Riley said he took out as much as he could but the machine kept getting stuck in the mud. Chairman Riley said he believes there is about 5 to 6 acres of water chestnut, but they cannot get to it with the harvester unless it is empty and even then, it can only nibble at it. Over the years they have mitigated the water chestnut's ability to grow seeds. The water chestnut they are removing now have no seeds. Mr. Hathaway stated the 24D treatment they use erodes the water chestnuts ability to make seeds. Chairman Riley said he is a member of a group called the PLA of NJ (Public Lakes Alliance of New Jersey) which is comprised of a group of people from the area and other lakes all over the State of New Jersey and they have all had a very similar experience with Solitude this year. Chairman Riley stated the Board cannot continue a relationship with Solitude as they have in the past and they need to create an RFP and go out to bid before the end of this year. The people at Solitude who were treating the lake have all left the company. Mr. Hathaway said the relationship they created with Solitude served them well, but he agrees with Chairman Riley, adding they need to have a more professional relationship. Chairman Riley and Mr. Hathaway will prepare an RFP that will include all of the services and it will be bid as a single package. They will have the Board Attorney review the RFP. Chairman Riley stated the 30 cubic yard roll-off is falling apart and cannot be used much longer. Mr. Hathaway noted the Board previously discussed purchasing a new one and they must do so before the next harvesting season. Chairman Riley said he would like to recommend to Frank Base that when he dumps the current load, that he leaves the dumpster at Raimo's. Chairman Riley noted the Board does not own the dumpster, it was borrowed from Frank. Chairman Riley noted the next load will be the last load of the season. Mr. Hathaway noted the upcoming drawdown of the lake and proposed the week of October 9th to have the gate opened and to have the harvester removed from the lake the week of October 2nd. The Board was in agreement with the proposed dates.

Operating Budget – There was nothing to report.

CD Investment – Mr. Shlesinger said he is glad the money was moved into a money market account. Mr. Shlesinger stated the Federal Reserve did not raise interest rates, but he believes that interest rates will be raised on or about October 30-31. Mr. Keenan noted there is a CD that matures on November 8, 2023.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's report was emailed to the Board. The report does not include the two additional bills on the agenda. 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 Mr. Rattner and carried by the following unanimous roll call vote, the bills on the bills list were approved.

Operating Account:

Ellen Horak - Clerk's Monthly Compensation	\$ 550.00
National Domains – Annual Domain Name Listing (5 Years)	\$ 840.00
Selective Insurance – Commercial Liability Insurance	\$ 945.00

Lake Management Account:

JCP&L – electric at shed	\$ 4.44
Aquarius Systems (D&D Products) – cushion valve	\$ 528.00
Netcong Hardware Co. Inc. – parts	\$ 11.97
Morris County MUA – Shade Tree (lake weeds)	\$ 150.00
Intrepid Carting & Hauling – weed transportation (8/1/23-9/8/23)	\$ 300.00
West Chester Machinery – parts	\$ 172.80

Debit/Credit Card:

GoDaddy – website domain renewal (3 year)	\$ 96.48
Amazon – 6 hats for Harvester Operators (\$14.99 each)	\$ 89.94
Amazon – fuel system cleaner	\$ 5.32
Gas for shore conveyor	\$ 9.42

ROLL CALL:

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|--------------------|----------------------|
| Ms. Franek – yes | Mr. Rattner - yes |
| Mr. Hathaway – yes | Mr. Shlesinger - yes |
| Mr. Keenan – yes | Mr. Wright – yes |
| Ms. Maio – yes | Chairman Riley – yes |

Chairman Riley noted the bill from Aquarius Systems for \$528.00 is for a cushion valve. This is a pressure valve to the paddle wheel. The current pressure valve rusted out and sprayed 15 to 16 gallons of oil into the lake. The oil costs about \$22 per gallon. The oil does not impact the lake because it was a marine grade oil. Chairman Riley noted they need to purchase additional oil and suggested purchasing one 50-gallon drum. Ms. Maio asked if there was a lesser gallon drum that could be purchased since the season is ending. Mr. Hathaway will look into a possible 30-gallon drum as opposed to a 55-gallon drum since they will not need the harvester until next year. On motion by Ms. Maio, seconded by Mr. Wright and carried by the following unanimous roll call vote, the Board authorized Mr. Hathaway to research the best deal on marine grade hydraulic oil and purchase another 55-gallon drum of marine grade hydraulic oil or a lesser quantity, if available.

ROLL CALL:

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|--------------------|----------------------|
| Ms. Franek – yes | Mr. Rattner - yes |
| Mr. Hathaway – yes | Mr. Shlesinger - yes |
| Mr. Keenan – yes | Mr. Wright – yes |
| Ms. Maio – yes | Chairman Riley – yes |

OLD BUSINESS:

\$572,000 Grant Agreement – Chairman Riley reported he received notification that everything was approved and he is waiting for the Budgetary Office at NJDEP to write the check for \$150,000. Chairman Riley will inform the Board as soon as he receives a confirmation email that the check has been mailed. After the check is received and deposited, he will direct Mr. Keenan to write a check to Aquarius Systems for \$150,000. Chairman Riley noted they are in the work que at Aquarius to build the machine. Chairman Riley stated the second purchase from the second \$150,000 from the grant will be for a new backhoe. Ms. Maio stated she is not in favor of purchasing a new backhoe. The Board must consider all costs associated with ownership of the backhoe that the Board will be responsible for including insurance costs. Chairman Riley stated the Board spends between \$4,000 - \$5,000 a year on Inland Marine Insurance. Mr. Hathaway agreed that the question on the cost of insurance should be asked as it will be an ongoing expense; however, he does not believe it will be too high because the inland marine rates are

good. He does think the Board should find out the insurance cost prior to making a purchase. Mr. Hathaway noted a previous discussion on leasing a backhoe and he thinks that should be investigated. Chairman Riley spoke about how the grant was written, noting it was for a purchase of a new backhoe. Ms. Maio suggested contacting the State and inquire if it can be changed. The Board discussed the purchase of a backhoe and the expectation that they should get the same amount of time for the new equipment as they have for the current equipment which would be about twenty-five years. Mr. Hathaway stated they cannot get involved in a short-term relationship for a backhoe, adding he will look into leasing a backhoe. Chairman Riley rephrased his statement and said they do not need a “new” backhoe, they need a “different” backhoe that will last at least ten years and is road worthy. Chairman Riley also spoke about the need for state-of-the-art surveillance equipment to monitor the site of the equipment. The Board discussed and agreed a security camera should be at the site of the harvester. The backhoe will be stored at the Stanhope Well site, which is gated and locked. Mr. Hathaway noted they will need an IP address for a subscription for a satellite camera which will have a cost associated with it. The cost will need to be included in next year’s budget.

NEW BUSINESS:

RFP for Lake Management – Chairman Riley noted he and Mr. Hathaway will prepare an RFP and have it reviewed by the Board Attorney prior to the next meeting.

Dumpster Replacement – Chairman Riley noted the dumpster replacement needs to be done by next year. Chairman Riley will ask Frank Base to look into a replacement dumpster. On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Ms. Maio and carried by unanimous voice vote, the Board agreed to return the dumpster to Frank Base of Intrepid Carting & Hauling that was given to the Board on loan to support the Board’s weed harvesting operation at the end of this season.

Chairman Riley stated he received an email on the Board’s website from Lisa Garcia which he forwarded to the Board. Chairman Riley noted Ms. Garcia asked to add a site to the Board’s links. Chairman Riley recommended not adding the link to the website since it is a commercial business out of Washington State run by two lawyers. All links on the Board’s website are for non-profit organizations and state agencies. On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Ms. Maio and carried by unanimous voice vote, the Board established the policy that the only links on the Board’s website will be for non-profit organizations and state agencies.

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

Ray Guyre informed the Board that the door on the dumpster drops down when opened.

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 Ms. Franek, and carried by unanimous voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Horak, Clerk