Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board
Regular Meeting
May 21, 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
Robert Hathaway - absent
Joseph Keenan - present
Rosemarie Maio - present
Judith McGrath - present
Shawn Potillo - present
Steven Rattner - present
Rudy Shlesinger -present
Lester Wright - present
Earl Riley - present

MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA: Additional communications and bills listed.

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

Jack Sylvester came forward on behalf of the St. Cesario Society and asked for the Board's permission to again use the Board' site at the point on Allen Street to shoot their fireworks display. The date for the fireworks is July 19th with a rain date of July 26th. On motion by Ms. Maio, seconded by Mr. Wright and carried by unanimous voice vote, the Board granted permission to the St. Cesario Society to use the Board's site for their fireworks display again this year. Mr. Sylvester asked when the harvester would go out on the lake. Chairman Riley responded that they have a new machine and all the operators need to be trained on the new harvester. Also, the conveyor needs to be moved from its current location to its proper location as well as other equipment that needs to be moved. They also need to get the harvester in the water. Chairman Riley said he estimates it will be done within the next two weeks.

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. Wright, the Minutes of the April 16, 2025 meeting were approved on majority voice vote. Ms. Maio, Mr. Keenan, Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Potillo abstained

COMMUNICATIONS: The following communications have been placed on file:
04-21-25 Fidelity Investments - Notice of Upcoming CD Maturity Date (5/12/25)
04-28-25 Notice to Property Owners - site plan, "d' variance for expansion of non-conforming use and "c" variance for impervious coverage re: 19 Linden Ave, Stanhope (does not affect the lake)
05-01-25 Byram Township - Purchase Order in the amount of $2,151.13 re: 2025 budget contribution
05-01-25 James Bryce, Esq. - Contract between the Board and Ready Scout LLC
05-02-25 Department of the Treasury - Payee Information Error Notification
05-12-25 Byram Township - Check in the amount of $2,151.13 re: 2025 budget contribution
05-12-25 Local iQ - Affidavit of Publication re: award of contract publication in NJ Herald
05-21-25 Stanhope Borough - Purchase Order in the amount of $20,705.18 re: 2025 budget contribution ($19,955.18) and herbicide treatment ($750.00)
05-21-25 Notice to Property Owner - Variance Application for above ground swimming pool re: Blk 10703, Lot 7 (13 Towpath Lane, Stanhope)

On motion by Mr. Rattner, seconded by Mr. Keenan 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.

Chairman Riley stated he is reporting on behalf of the Canal Society and MWA to inform the Board that there is a Waterloo Canal day scheduled for June 15th at Waterloo Village. The event is open to the public.

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

Lake Awareness – Ms. Maio distributed flyers she created for the Board's review. The Board reviewed the flyer and approved of it. Ms. Maio will email the flyer to the Clerk for distribution to the Board members. The Board members were asked to send the flyer to their respective town. Ms. Maio noted the fishing contest will be combined with the Elks Club's fishing contest. Chairman Riley stated he already received the trophies and did not put the Elks Club on them; but the Elks Club will be put on the Board's website as a co-sponsor of the fishing contest. Chairman Riley noted that historically, John Rogalo, president of the Sportsmen's Federation would donate $200 for the purchase of prizes for the fishing contest; however, the Board did not receive a donation last year and although Chairman Riley has reached out to Mr. Rogalo for this year, he has not heard back from him. Chairman Riley said the Board will need to purchase the prizes that cost about $180. Chairman Riley also noted there is a bill on the bills list in the amount of $98.00 for the trophies. The LMCA has offered to pay for the trophies so the Board will be reimbursed for the $98.00. Chairman Riley stated he is asking for all Board members to participate by helping at the fishing contest. The fishing contest will be held at Lakeside Park in Stanhope. Mr. Hamilton stated any fishing contest on a State lake needs a permit. Chairman Riley agreed that a special use permit would be required unless State Parks is a co-sponsor of the fishing contest. Chairman Riley noted the website names State Parks as a co-sponsor of the fishing contest as well as the flyer.

Lake Management – In Mr. Hathaway's absence, Chairman Riley reported on the Eagle Scout Project. He sent pictures to the Board of the site. They have cleaned up a lot of the area and are doing a great job. The debris has been set aside, but has not been taken off site yet. They have cleaned around the shed so they would have access to paint the shed, which they will do next. They will also paint the roof of the shed and replace the door. Chairman Riley noted there is a bill on the bills list for Robert Hathaway III for the buoy placement and weights. Chairman Riley explained that they lost several anchors for the buoys last year (about 7 - 8 weights) and he authorized Robert Hathaway III and his assistant to make new weights for the buoys. The bill is for his placement of the buoys in the lake which he deployed and the weights for the buoys. Chairman Riley said, as he stated earlier, he would like to get the harvester in the water within the next two weeks and in order to do that, he needs to get the conveyor in its final resting location. Chairman Riley stated he will be available as much as he can to train current and new operators on the new harvester. Wayne Swistek can also train the operators. Chairman Riley stated he attended Netcong's Community Day event and asked for volunteers to sign up. He had about 10 people sign up and hopefully they will all come through. Chairman Riley also reported that Ready Scout did the survey of the lake and found a new species of weeds in the lake. There is a native species that has been aggressively taking over the lake, which is the curly leaf pond weed and the Board may have to alter the herbicide application to take care of that weed instead of the milfoil. Chairman Riley said they may need to change the budget for herbicide by increasing it because they must address this weed problem. Whatever cannot be taken care of with the herbicide treatment will need to be taken care of with the harvester.

Operating Budget – There was nothing to report.

CD Investment – Mr. Wright reported he took out $14,000 from the money market account and transferred it to the Board's Fulton Bank account.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's Report was distributed to the Board. Mr. Wright reported the monthly statement showed that on April 10th the amount of $73.83 for Promise Cleaners was taken out of the Board's account. This is a dry cleaning business in Netcong. Mr. Wright noted he has a personal account with Fulton Bank and it is believed that Fulton Bank took the money from the Board's account instead of Mr. Wright's personal account. Mr. Wright will contact Fulton Bank and have them correct their error. On motion by Mr. Keenan, seconded by Ms. Maio, and carried by unanimous voice vote, the Treasurer's Report was accepted and placed on file.

BILLS: Mr. Potillo questioned approving bills for Board members and/or their family members. There are two bills on the bills list, one for Mr. Hathaway's company and one for Mr. Hathaway's son. Chairman Riley stated the $1,500 bill from Mountain Landscape Contractors is a result of the need to demolish and remove the Board's docks that were destroyed this past winter due to the ice movement on the lake. The Board needed someone to remove and dispose of the docks. They did not need to go out to bid because the cost was under $17,500. Mr. Hathaway offered to have his company take care of this and he provided the Board with an estimate. The Board discussed it and agreed it was a fair estimate at $1,500 and authorized the work, which work has since been done. Mr. Potillo said he is not questioning the work done, only if it is ethical for the Board to pay members for work. Mr. Potillo said Mr. Hathaway is performing a service at a great price, but he questioned what position that may be putting the Board in. Mr. Potillo noted they are paying a Board member and he asked if this has been brought up for discussion with the attorney. Ms. Maio stated, in the past, she has also questioned paying Board members and their family members. Mr. Potillo said he would prefer clarification from the Board's attorney on this practice. Mr. Potillo said, for the reason he expressed, he will be abstaining from all votes for payments to Board members and their family members until clarification is received from the attorney that it is permitted. On motion by Mr. Rattner, seconded by Mr. Wright 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	$ 550.00
Gannett New York-New Jersey LocaliQ - legal notice re: award contract (Ready Scout, LLC)	$ 9.61
Lake Management Account:	
JCP&L – electric at shed	$ 10.43
Murphy McKeon, PC - legal services 4/15/25-4/17/25)	$ 390.00
Ready Scout, LLC - Assessment of Aquatic Vegetation (payment 1 of 4)	$13,300.00
Robert Hathaway III - addle goose eggs ($150), place buoys ($200) and 20 buoy weights ($200)	$ 550.00
Mountain Landscape Contractors - demo and dispose of floating docks	$ 1,500.00

(previously approved)

Debit/Credit Card:

Optimum - internet service	$	40.00
Amazon - bungee cords	$	7.96
Newton Trophy - Trophies for fishing contest	$	98.00

ROLL CALL:

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

Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Potillo abstained from voting on the bills for Mountain Landscape Contractor and Robert Hathaway III.

OLD BUSINESS:

$572,000 Grant Agreement – Chairman Riley reported for the last six months he has been back and forth with NJDEP with respect to the last financial report and as of yesterday, he received word that it was finally the way they wanted it. Chairman Riley said they are aware that the $572,000 grant funds will be paid. They are holding $57,200 which is the ten percent they hold on all grants until the final report is done. Chairman Riley stated he has about $20,000 of in-kind labor and he has not been able to report the purchase of the backhoe because that needs to be included in the next financial report. Once the current financial report he submitted receives final approval, he can submit the next report which will include the backhoe purchase and whatever in-kind labor they can include. Chairman Riley stated he is doing everything he can, but it will probably be another six to eight months before the final report is completed. Chairman Riley said he has been assured that they will receive the entire grant amount as soon as he is done with the final report.

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 Ms. Maio, seconded by Mr. Keenan, and carried by unanimous voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:41 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Horak, Clerk