

**Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board
Regular Meeting
November 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.

ROLL CALL:

Jacob Hamilton - present	Shawn Potillo - present
Robert Hathaway - absent	Steven Rattner - present
Joseph Keenan - present	Rudy Shlesinger - present
Rosemarie Maio - absent	Lester Wright - present
Judith McGrath - 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. Keenan, seconded by Mr. Potillo, the Minutes of the October 15, 2025 meeting were approved on majority voice vote. Mr. Rattner abstained.

COMMUNICATIONS: The following communications have been placed on file:

- 10-15-25 Netcong Recreation Commission - donation of \$1,500
- 10-17-25 Morris County - Vendor Information Update Form and W-9
- 10-27-25 Notice to Property Owners - variance application to construct separate bays on property at 49-53 Sparta Road, Stanhope, NJ
- 10-27-25 Sussex County - check in the amount of \$7,628.13 re: 2025 budget contribution
- 10-31-25 Roxbury Township - check in the amount of \$13,016.03 re: 2025 budget contribution (\$12,266.03) and herbicide treatment (\$750.00)
- 11-10-25 Notice to Property Owners - Mt. Olive Planning Board Hearing request for amendment to major subdivision and site plan approval re: Blk 105.04, Lots 13-36 & 60 along Continental Drive, Mount Olive
- 11-14-25 Notice to Property Owners - variance application to construct separate bays on property at 49-53 Sparta Road, Stanhope, NJ (re-notice to new hearing date of 12/8/25)

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Canal Society – There was no report.

Musconetcong Watershed Association – Mr. Rattner reported the last meeting was at the end of October, and it may have corrected itself, but with the government shutdown there were some employees from the Parks side that had their hours cut. None of the projects they were working on were affected because they were already funded.

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

Lake Awareness – There was no report.

Lake Management – In Mr. Hathaway’s absence, Chairman Riley read his report. They moved the backhoe to Barneys Way. Chairman Riley noted he requested the backhoe be moved to that location. The camera at Allen Street needs repair. Chairman Riley stated the camera is down again and he will look at it and see if he can repair it himself. Chairman Riley will also reach out to the manufacturer and ask about the issues. The lake is in very good condition. Mr. Hathaway would like to install additional signage on the shed on the side facing the lake. Chairman Riley will contact Tyler Perry and get the information on the company he purchased the sign from and the cost. This will be a spring project. On motion by Mr. Wright, seconded by Ms. McGrath and carried by the following unanimous roll call vote, the Board authorized Chairman Riley to purchase the additional signage at a cost not to exceed \$150.

ROLL CALL:

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

Chairman Riley reported that Mr. Hathaway would like the Board’s consensus to schedule a community shoreline clean-up for Saturday, December 13th beginning at 9:00 a.m. and he would like Ms. Maio, or another Board member, to create a flyer for distribution. Mr. Hathaway will handle circulation of the flyer and administration of the event. On motion by Mr. Rattner, seconded by Mr. Potillo and carried by unanimous voice vote, the Board agreed to schedule the community clean-up for December 13th at 9:00 a.m.

Operating Budget – There was no report.

CD Investment – Mr. Wright reported that he did not transfer the money discussed at the last meeting. He let it roll over and wanted to talk to the Board about any other ideas on safely investing the funds. The funds were rolled over at about 4%. The Board were agreeable to it being rolled over. Chairman Riley noted there are no major repairs or costs coming in so the funds can stay in the CD.

TREASURER’S REPORT: The Treasurer’s Report was emailed to the Board. The total cash value is \$239,297.29. On motion by Ms. McGrath, seconded by Mr. Rattner, and carried by unanimous voice vote, the Treasurer’s Report was accepted and placed on file.

BILLS: 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:

Operating Account:

Ellen Horak - Clerk’s Monthly Compensation	\$ 550.00
Selective Insurance - commercial liability ins installment payment	\$1,927.00
Fulton Bank - Safe Deposit Box Rental Fee	\$ 100.60
Selective Insurance - late for fee October installment payment	\$ 30.00

Lake Management Account:

JCP&L – electric at shed	\$ 13.63
Morris County MUA - Shade Tree (weed disposal)	\$ 540.00
Morris County MUA - Shade Tree (weed disposal)	\$ 360.00
Crazy Cans - 3- yard dump and return (9/03/25-9/10/25)	\$ 300.00
Crazy Cans - 3- yard dump and return (9/10/25-9/24/25)	\$ 300.00
Crazy Cans - 3-yard dump and return (9/24/25-10/7/25)	\$ 300.00
Crazy Cans - 3-yard dump and return (10/7/25-10/17/25)	\$ 300.00
Advanced Integration Solutions - service call (Center St. camera off-line)	\$ 133.28
Debit/Credit Card:	
Optimum - internet service	\$ 40.00

ROLL CALL:

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

OLD BUSINESS:

\$572,000 Grant Agreement – Chairman Riley reported he submitted the final financial report to the NJDEP and they said it is not the final report because we did not meet our commitment for in-kind match. In that case, they either fine you or, in the Board’s case, they allowed the Board to amend the budget and reduce the in-kind contribution. Doing so, meant the DEP has to cancel the final financial report and he has to redo the entire financial reports. In addition, he forgot to do something on the final progress report so he had to redo the reports. He completed and submitted the progress report last week and is waiting for the DEP’s approval. Chairman Riley stated he is still working on the financial report and the DEP gave him the numbers they need and, although they are the same as what he submitted, he must resubmit the report. The final report must be submitted by December 31, 2025. Once the final report is submitted and approved, the Board will receive the final check in the amount of \$57,200. Chairman Riley expressed his frustration with the process and stated this will be the last grant he works on.

Website - Chairman Riley noted he received a proposal from Glory & Brand, a professional company to redevelop the Board’s website and maintain it on-going, which proposal was forwarded to the Board. Mr. Shlesinger noted the high cost and he questioned the Board needing a professionally maintained website. Chairman Riley stated that maintaining the website is one of the things he does for the Board; however, the software the website uses is antiquated and no longer supported. Chairman Riley uploads the information onto the website. Mr. Shlesinger asked if they must have a website. Chairman Riley responded it is not required, but he believes it is nice to have. Mr. Shlesinger suggested a Facebook group page, which is free, instead of the website. Chairman Riley noted that someone would have to be the main host for the page. Mr. Pottillo agreed the proposal was a bit too much, but to Chairman Riley’s point, no one else is doing it. Mr. Pottillo suggested asking what development of a Facebook page would be by this company. Chairman Riley acknowledged that a Facebook page is free, and stated they pay GoDaddy about \$300 every three years for the website. Chairman Riley expressed his opinion that it is important to have a face for the public and to be available to the public for questions. Mr. Pottillo asked who would be developing the content for

the website. Chairman Riley responded the Clerk would be inputting it onto the website. He currently puts the monthly minutes on the website and the other content he uploads is the events, i.e. fishing contest and the pictures of the Eagle Scout Project will also go under events. Mr. Potillo asked if Chairman Riley has the data from the website for the last 12 months. Chairman Riley responded he does not have that information. Chairman Riley said when he received the quote, he thought it was too high and he does not support spending that much money because the ROI is not there. On motion by Mr. Potillo, seconded by Mr. Rattner and carried by unanimous voice vote, the Board denied signing the contract with Glory & Brand for the website design and build.

Facebook Page - Chairman Riley questioned having a Facebook Page, noting only older people use Facebook. The younger people no longer use Facebook. Mr. Potillo suggested using Facebook as the Board's base and when you post you can send it to other platforms. Chairman Riley said if they are going to have a Facebook Page, he would like a professional to develop it. Chairman Riley will reach out to Nicole at Glory & Brand and ask if she does Facebook accounts and, if she does, what the charge would be. The Board agreed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Roxbury's Budget Contribution - Mr. Potillo noted at the last meeting there was a question about Roxbury's budget contribution and he asked if the Board received it. The Clerk responded that the check was received on October 31, 2025.

2026 Budget - Mr. Potillo said that the Board's funding request for next year was brought up at last night's meeting by Council and it was noted about the increases over the last few years and Mr. Potillo told them it was money well worth it. Mr. Potillo stated he expects the request to be approved.

Roxbury's Administrator - Mr. Potillo informed the Board that Roxbury has a new Administrator, John J. Murphy.

Cattail Infestation - Chairman Riley reported he received a communication from Roxbury resident Dan Beach, who was and is a volunteer who has helped the Board, stating he has a major cattail infestation on his property. Chairman Riley noted there are cattails all over the Stanhope area of the lake. Mr. Beach owns the property right into the lake and there is a significant number of homeowners around the lake where the State owns that part of the lake and in some cases, the municipality is the owner. Chairman Riley stated the Board cannot do anything about shoreline infestation. They cannot take the harvester in and cut them. Mr. Beach has a friend who owns an excavating company and he is willing to bring a backhoe in and dig out the cattail. Mr. Hamilton expressed concern with the use of a backhoe. Ms. McGrath stated, she knows from experience that when the cattails are pulled out, they grow back with a vengeance. Mr. Hamilton said he would not support removal of a native species on State property. Mr. Hamilton said, due to the soil disturbance, Mr. Beach would need to get approval and because it is a native species, he does not think he will get the approval.

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

Ray Guyre, stated the beach in Port Morris is covered with cattails and they were told there is nothing they can do about it. Mr. Potillo stated there is a pond in Roxbury covered with cattail and they were told they need a permit. Chairman Riley said the chances of getting a permit are slim to none. Mr. Hamilton

expressed his opinion that much of this can be phragmites, which is an invasive species that looks very similar to cattail. There is a greater chance for approving a larger project to get rid of an invasive species. Mr. Hamilton suggested they confirm it is cattails and not phragmites.

Yonnie Guyre, noted the clean-up day and asked to let her know what she can do, i.e. providing coffee, donuts, etc. Chairman Riley responded Mr. Hathaway will be coordinating the event so she should reach out to him on how much to bring. Chairman Riley stated they will meet at the boat launch at (9:00 a.m. State Parks will pick-up the debris collected from the clean up

Seeing no one further from the public wishing to speak, Chairman Riley closed the public portion of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: On motion by Mr. Keenan, seconded by Mr. Wright and carried by unanimous voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Horak, Clerk