

**Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board  
Regular Meeting  
December 18, 2024**

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 18, 2024 and was sent to the Clerks of the four municipalities, the State and the two counties.

**ROLL CALL:**

Jacob Hamilton - present  
Robert Hathaway - present  
Joseph Keenan - present  
Rosemarie Maio -absent  
Judith McGrath - present

Shawn Potillo - absent  
Steven Rattner - absent  
Rudy Shlesinger -present  
Lester Wright - present  
Earl Riley - present

**MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA:** There were no modifications to the agenda.

**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. Keenan, the Minutes of the November 20, 2024 regular meeting were approved on unanimous voice vote.

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

12-09-24 Lake Management Sciences - check in the amount of \$1,832.91 re: refund of sales tax paid  
12-13-24 Boswell Engineering - Public Notice re: Water Quality Management Plan

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

**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 he and Mr. Hamilton worked together to bring the lake up early. The lake was brought up without incident. Mr. Hathaway also reported that all the equipment has been put away. Mr. Hathaway informed the Board that Chairman Riley and Mr. Shlesinger met with an Eagle Scout candidate who wants to take on some of the shed area projects. Mr. Hathaway said he believes it is in the Board's best interest to delegate the painting of the roof and the painting of the shed as a priority. Mr. Hathaway said he has not yet met with Mr. Shlesinger, but they will meet and discuss how to move forward with the camera surveillance and how they can create more signage and additional lights. The clean up of the area can be delegated to the Eagle Scout, but if not, he will ask for assistance from Netcong or Stanhope's DPW. Mr. Shlesinger said the Eagle Scout suggested bringing in a small dumpster. Mr. Hathaway said bringing in a small dumpster can be done. Chairman Riley stated he has committed that the Board will pay for all of the materials required for the Eagle Scout project. The Eagle Scout candidate is Tyler Perry, whose father has volunteered for the Board numerous times. Chairman

Riley said Tyler will be attending the January meeting to make a presentation of his project for the Board's approval.

**Operating Budget** –There was no report.

**CD Investment** – Mr. Keenan reported information on the CD's is contained in the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Shlesinger questioned why there is \$71,000 in Fulton Bank which is not earning anything. Chairman Riley stated about \$13,000 is grant money that they cannot touch. It must stay in the bank until the Board purchases a backhoe. Mr. Shlesinger noted the Federal Government dropped interest rates. Mr. Shlesinger said the Board has been doing CD's at 3-month increments and he recommends putting the money into a money market account where it will be readily available and will be earning more interest than where it is now. Chairman Riley stated they will need the cash prior to the harvesting season. Mr. Hathaway stated in Fulton Bank's money market accounts you can have up to six transactions per money and they may want to consider moving \$50,000 into their money market account. On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Wright and carried by the following unanimous roll call vote, the Board authorized the CD Investment Committee to move \$50,000 into the discussed money market account.

**ROLL CALL**

Mr. Hamilton - yes  
Mr. Hathaway - yes  
Mr. Keenan - yes

Ms. McGrath - yes  
Mr. Shlesinger - yes  
Mr. Wright - yes  
Chairman Riley - yes

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The Treasurer's Report was emailed to the Board. On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Wright, 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. McGrath 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
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**Lake Management Account:**

JCP&L – electric at shed	\$ 4.65
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**ROLL CALL:**

Mr. Hamilton - yes  
Mr. Hathaway - yes  
Mr. Keenan - yes

Ms. McGrath - yes  
Mr. Shlesinger - yes  
Mr. Wright - yes  
Chairman Riley - yes

**OLD BUSINESS:**

\$572,000 Grant Agreement – Chairman Riley reported the harvester has been paid off. The Board has just over \$12,000 of grant money in the bank account and they are still owed about \$130,000 which is earmarked for a backhoe. Chairman Riley stated they should start shopping for a backhoe. They can purchase one

through the Passaic Co-op, which is under State Contract. Mr. Hathaway noted Stanhope has a QPA and he suggested reaching out to Stanhope and see if that person can help coordinate the purchase. Mr. Hathaway will send the specifications to the Clerk and he asked that she share them with Stanhope's Administrator and ask about assistance from their QPA to purchase the backhoe.

Grant Manager's Site Visit - Chairman Riley stated he had a request from the Grant Manager to come to the lake to see the lake and to see the project the Board received \$572,000 for. On November 26th the Grant Manager came and she brought other Grant Managers for the NJDEP with her. They went to see the harvester and he invited them to sit on the harvester. They were thrilled and asked if they could come back in the spring when the harvester is in the water to go out on the lake and see the process. Chairman Riley stated the Grant Managers' group has started a website and the Board will be included on the website. Chairman Riley noted it was a very productive meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

2025 Budget - Chairman Riley previously emailed the Board the proposed 2025 budget for review and approval. On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Ms. McGrath and carried by the following unanimous roll call vote, the Board approved and adopted the 2025 budget as presented by Chairman Riley.

Mr. Shlesinger questioned the \$28,000 the Board is including and he asked if it will be done every year. Mr. Hathaway responded it will be a "step process" whereby the Board would contribute some monies from their current fund (i.e. savings account). It will start at \$28,000 and it will go to \$14,000-\$16,000 and roll back again until the municipalities and counties are once again funding the entire budget. Mr. Hathaway noted a concern raised is that if the Board tries to fund the entire budget on the backs of the municipalities and counties, someone may say "no." Chairman Riley stated if any of the municipalities or counties drop out of this organization, the organization (the Board) is dissolved. Chairman Riley said he has been questioned by Byram's Mayor as to why they are even a member of the Board. The budget is based on the shoreline and Byram has only 3% of the shoreline.

### **ROLL CALL:**

Mr. Hamilton - abstain  
Mr. Hathaway - yes  
Mr. Keenan - yes

Ms. McGrath - yes  
Mr. Shlesinger - yes  
Mr. Wright - yes  
Chairman Riley - yes

**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. Wright, and carried by unanimous voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Horak, Clerk