

Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board
Regular Meeting
April 15, 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.

Chairman Riley stated he administered the Oath of Office to Jack Degroot before the start of the meeting and he welcomed Mr. Degroot to the Board as Sussex County's representative.

ROLL CALL:

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

MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA: Additional bill listed.

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

Ken Collins, Andover Township resident, addressed the Board regarding the waste treatment facilities that discharge into the Musconetcong River downstream. Mr. Collins stated there is one in Mt. Olive that has a terrible odor and he is not sure if the Board can do anything about that. The other one is Mt. Olive Villages that has been in the news lately. Mr. Collins said the second reason he is here tonight is about the ICE facility adjacent to the lake that Roxbury is suing to stop the facility. Mr. Collins said he is urging the Board and the Board members' towns they represent to join the lawsuit and back-up Roxbury to protect this lake. Chairman Riley said he knows the waste treatment facility in Mt. Olive, the MSA, operates within their charter and the output of Lake Hopatcong determines what they can put through. The MSA is operating under their permit. Chairman Riley also stated that each town has an allocated amount of sewerage. Byram Township has 100,000 gallons in reserve. Of the four towns represented on this Board, there is some excess capacity they all have and are paying for, but he does not know if Roxbury will be able to purchase any of it. Mr. Collins also commented on the large development as you come off Route 80. Chairman Riley said that as far as this Board is concerned, he does not recommend them joining the lawsuit and he believes the Board should stay out of politics. Mr. Hathaway said the Board's charter is to preserve and maintain the Lake Musconetcong Watershed and the case would have to be made to this Board that there is a negative impact on the lake.

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. Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Rattner, the Minutes of the March 18, 2026 regular meeting were approved on majority voice vote. Mr. Potillo abstained.

COMMUNICATIONS:

03-19-26 N.J.S Dept. of Treasury - check in the amount of \$57,200 re: final payment on grant

03-27-26 Fulton Bank - Funds Transfer Notification re: \$750 to A4Bits

04-02-26 USA Today Co. (LocalIQ) - Affidavit of Publication re: Legal Notices 2026 (2 editions)

On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Degroot and carried by unanimous voice vote, the aforesaid 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 there were some challenges with the jon boat. It was put in the water and after only a few hours, the Yamaha motor stopped. They are currently using one of his personal motors on the jon boat and got a few buoys out on the lake. They did monitoring for the goose egg addling program, but there have not been any addling of eggs yet. Mr. Hathaway said he has been out himself once and Mike Sheridan and Robert have been out once. The monitoring has been done. Mr. Hathaway said he has not found someone to repair the motor. Mike Sheridan suggested that he could repair it. Chairman Riley expressed his opinion that a professional should repair the motor. Mr. Potillo suggested Lakes End Marina in Landing. Mr. Hathaway agreed, noting the Board used Lakes End Marina in the past. Mr. Hathaway said he asked the Board's attorney, Jim Bryce to attend this meeting to go over the herbicide contract, which he delegated to Mr. Bryce to solicit proposals. Mr. Bryce stated he solicited three specific contractors and received two proposals; one from Ready Scout LLC and one from Lake Management Sciences, Inc. Mr. Bryce noted the contract will be awarded as an extraordinary unspecified service. Mr. Bryce read the proposals to the Board. Lake Management Sciences' proposal is for the assessment and management of the aquatic vegetation - \$53,932 and monitoring as needed and treatment - \$665 per treatment per acre up to 10 acres and monitor and algae treatment \$639 per treatment per acre up to 25 acres. Ready Scout's proposal is for the assessment and management of aquatic vegetation - \$53,200 and monitoring for the same amount of acres is \$965 per acre and for algae treatment for the same amount of acre is \$625 per acre. The remaining conditions and specifications are all the same in both proposals. Mr. Hathaway said he asked them to provide a quote for 10 acres of vegetation monitoring and treatment for water chestnut. Mr. Hathaway stated they have not done an algacide application for many years and it is not something that definitely will not happen, but it was back in the water chestnut days which created the algae bloom. He does not believe they will end up in that situation this year. If you take the quotes from both without the algae treatment which most likely will not be needed, Lake Management Science's quote is the lowest. Mr. Hathaway noted the Board has used both applicators in the past. They used Ready Scout last year and there were challenges with them and given they are higher, he recommends they award the contract to Lake Sciences. Mr. Bryce stated the Board is not obligated to go with the lowest bidder because this is an extraordinary unspecified service. Chairman Riley said Lake Management Sciences is currently employed by the LMCA to treat the shorelines and he believes it is advantageous to the Board to have the same vendor treat the lake provided it does not affect the permit with NJDEP because they will be treating more than 50% of the lake. Mr. Hathaway said you cannot treat more than 50% of the lake in one singular application. Mr. Hathaway noted the contract is for 150 acres which is half the lake and the LMCA's contract is for less than 50 acres. Mr. Hathaway said Lake Management Science's proposal is a very professional proposal and it includes all of the NJDEP

permits. Mr. Bryce said he prepared a resolution awarding the contract for both vendors and he presented the Board with the resolution awarding the contract to Lake Management Sciences, Inc.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EXTRAORDINARY UNSPECIFIED SERVICES
AGREEMENT WITH LAKE MANAGEMENT SCIENCES, INC. FOR LIMNOLOGICAL
VEGETATION ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR 2026**

WHEREAS, the Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board (hereinafter referred to as "Board") wishes to retain a specialized service for aquatic vegetation assessment and management (hereafter referred to as "Services") of Lake Musconetcong and has determined to award the contract as an extraordinary unspicifiable service without obtaining competitive bids or quotations pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5; and

WHEREAS, the Services are specialized and qualitative in nature and require expertise, extensive training and proven reputation in the field of endeavor as the Services require specialized knowledge, qualified ecological assessment and judgment, and licensure by the State of New Jersey for aquatic pesticide treatment and Lake Musconetcong, which is a public water body with ecological sensitivity; and

WHEREAS, Lake Management Sciences, Inc. (hereinafter "Contractor") has submitted a proposal for the provision of said services to the Board, which is appended hereto as Schedule A; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the aggregate value of the contract for service will exceed \$17,500.00; and

WHEREAS, the Contractor has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that it has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee for the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit it from making any reportable contributions through the term of this contract; and

WHEREAS, the Board's Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1, et seq.) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of contracts for "extraordinary unspicifiable" services without competitive bid and the contract itself must be made available for public inspection.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board, in the County of Sussex, and State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board hereby awards and authorizes the Chairman and Clerk to execute an Agreement with Lake Management Sciences, Inc. for aquatic vegetation assessment and management services, with the form, terms and provisions as found within the Contract as appended hereto as Schedule B.
2. This contract is awarded without competitive bidding as an "extraordinary unspicifiable service" in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 (1)(a)(ii) of the Local Public Contracts Law because said services are services rendered in the provision or performance

of goods or services that are original and creative in character in a recognized field of artistic endeavor.

3. The Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to file the Contractor's Business Entity Disclosure Certification with a copy of this Resolution.

4. A notice of this action shall be printed once in the Board's official newspaper as required by law.

On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Potillo and carried by the following unanimous roll call vote, the above resolution was adopted.

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Degroot - yes
Mr. Hathaway - yes
Mr. Keenan - yes
Ms. McGrath - yes

Mr. Potillo - yes
Mr. Rattner - yes
Mr. Wright - yes
Chairman Riley - yes

Mr. Hathaway said he anticipates having the harvester in the water before the next meeting. Chairman Riley said before the harvester can be put in the water, the scheduled 50 hours of maintenance on the harvester needs to be performed. Chairman Riley stated Aquarius was on site about two weeks ago and they went over everything that needs to be done for the initial maintenance on it. Mr. Hathaway informed the Board that all operations are not by month or day, it is by water temperature which will dictate the schedule. Chairman Riley spoke about the Vosker security camera for monitoring the conveyor site in Roxbury. The manufacturer replaced the entire camera and solar panel. Chairman Riley has been running it at his house since March 31st and it is still running. He will let it run for one more week and if all is good, he will put it up at the conveyor site. Mr. Hathaway also reported that the ice has moved the floating dock (EZ Dock) and he believes he can reset it with the backhoe. Mr. Hathaway said he went out on the lake this past weekend and, with the exception of less than half a dozen, every dock on the lake is damaged including his own. The two docks at the conveyor site were not moved or damaged.

Operating Budget – There was nothing to report.

CD Investment – Mr. Wright reported that at the last meeting they discussed the fact that they received the \$57,000 check and to possibly move \$50,000 into a three month CD. Mr. Wright expressed his opinion that it does not make sense to do that right now and he recommended leaving it in the money market account.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's Report was emailed to the Board. On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Ms. McGrath, 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 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
United States Liability Insurance Company - Public Officials Liability Ins.	\$ 270.20
USA Today Media Corp. - legal notice re: 2026 legal notices 2x (March)	\$ 17.36
Selective Insurance - Commercial Liability Ins. installment payment	\$1,955.00
Lake Management Account:	
JCP&L – electric at shed	\$ 11.64
Debit/Credit Card:	
Optimum - internet service	\$ 55.00

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Degroot - yes	Mr. Pottillo - yes
Mr. Hathaway - yes	Mr. Rattner - yes
Mr. Keenan - yes	Mr. Wright - yes
Ms. McGrath - yes	Chairman Riley - yes

OLD BUSINESS:

\$572,000 Grant Specific Audit – Chairman Riley reported the audit is in the process and hopefully the auditor now has everything he needs. The audit should be completed within the next week and then it will be submitted to the NJDEP. Chairman Riley said he started this grant in April of 2022 and it has been non-stop for four years and it is finally done.

Board's Website - Chairman Riley noted a link for the initial website was sent to the Board members and he asked for any comments. Mr. Rattner noted the towns being called “quaint” and although it may fit Byram, Netcong and Stanhope, Roxbury is a major town, not simply a quaint town and he asked Mr. Pottillo’s opinion. Mr. Pottillo said he has no comment on the word quaint, and added that Port Morris would be the quaint part of Roxbury. Chairman Riley said, as the former webmaster, that Arek has done more in two weeks than he did in ten years. Chairman Riley expressed his opinion that it looks very professional and Arek did an incredible job. Chairman Riley asked the Board to approve the Treasurer wiring the final payment of \$3,350 to 4Bits when the website is completed. On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Ms. McGrath and carried by the following unanimous roll call vote, the Board authorized the final payment to 4Bits for the website for an amount not to exceed \$6,000.

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Degroot - yes	Mr. Pottillo - yes
Mr. Hathaway - yes	Mr. Rattner - yes
Mr. Keenan - yes	Mr. Wright - yes
Ms. McGrath - yes	Chairman Riley - yes

Chairman Riley said Arek will do the updates to the website including the monthly minutes, legal notices, events, etc. and Ellen will send all the information and documents to him. Chairman Riley said he would like to increase Ellen’s compensation for the additional responsibilities. On motion by Mr. Pottillo, seconded by Mr. Rattner and carried by the following unanimous roll call vote, the Board authorized increasing Ellen’s monthly compensation from \$550 to \$600 for her additional responsibilities related to the website upkeep.

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Degroot - yes
Mr. Hathaway - yes
Mr. Keenan - yes
Ms. McGrath - yes

Mr. Pottillo - yes
Mr. Rattner - 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 Ms. McGrath and carried by unanimous voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Ellen Horak, Clerk