

Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board
Regular Meeting
June 17, 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.

ROLL CALL:

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

Yonnie Guyre, LMCA Treasurer, asked the cost of the trophies for the fishing contest. Chairman Riley responded the cost was \$124.75. Ms. Guyre presented the Board with a check from the LMCA in the amount of \$124.75 to cover the cost of the trophies. Chairman Riley thanked Ms. Guyre and the LMCA for their donation.

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

ACTION ON MINUTES: Mr. Keenan noted a correction on page two. The sentence reads "Ms. Maio expressed her opinion that if they do not pay their full amount, they should get the full services of the Board." It should read "should not get the full service of the Board." Chairman Riley said he and Mr. Hathaway met with the Netcong Borough Council to discuss their reluctance to pay the full budget amount. Chairman Riley said he thought somewhere in their charter it stated that if one entity does not pay, the Board will not exist. This is not in the Board's charter, it is in Roxbury's ordinance. As per Roxbury's ordinance, if any municipality or county decides they do not want to pay or participate on this Board, the Board will be dissolved and will not exist. Mr. Potillo questioned how the Board can change its charter since it did not create itself. Chairman Riley said there are two conditions that this Board would be dissolved, which is if any entity pulls out or if there is a two-thirds vote to dissolve. This is according to Roxbury's ordinance. Ms. Maio stated that the towns collectively created this Board and the Board cannot dissolve itself. Chairman Riley said he asked Netcong Council what they will do with all of the Board's assets because the Board would be dissolved if they did not participate and pay. Chairman Riley said there was one member of the Council, Joe Nametko, who did not agree with the charges being levied on them. Chairman Riley said he and Mr. Hathaway attended the Netcong Borough Council meeting and stated their position and why the charges are what they are and they also told them about the Board's five-year plan. They informed the Council that there was a 50% increase in the herbicide costs. Everyone understood and agreed with it, with the exception of Mr. Nametko who did not agree with it. Netcong Council overrode him and they will fund the full amount. Chairman Riley stated the issue is resolved.

On motion by Mr. Wright, seconded by Ms. McGrath, the Minutes of the May 20, 2026 regular meeting, as amended, were approved on majority voice vote. Ms. Maio and Mr. Potillo abstained.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- 05-26-26 Fulton Bank - notice of debit to account re: \$3,350.00 to A4Bits (Arkadiusz Mateusiak)
- 06-01-26 Stanhope Borough - check in the amount of \$22,050.78 re: 2026 budget contribution (\$21,300.78) and herbicide treatment (\$750.00)
- 06-15-26 Netcong Borough - check in the amount of \$13,597.00 re: 2026 budget contribution (\$10,397.00); herbicide treatment (\$800.00) and goose addling (\$2,400)

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Canal Society – Ms. McGrath reported that Waterloo Canal Day will be held on June 27, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Musconetcong Watershed Association – Mr. Rattner reported there is an issue with a few towns just north of us who are experiencing “garlic mustard” which is another invasive plant coming in and they are watching it.

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

Lake Awareness – Ms. Maio reported the fishing contest will be held this Sunday at 9:00 a.m. and she asked all members who can assist to be there between 8:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. She has gotten the word out about the fishing contest to most of the local schools and it is all over Facebook. Chairman Riley noted this is a combined effort between the Board and the Hopatcong Elks who will supply some refreshments. Chairman Riley stated they have trophies for the children in three age groups. He also purchased prizes for the children. The weather looks good for the day so hopefully there will be a good turn out. John Rogalo donated \$200 from the New Jersey Sportsmen’s Federation to off-set the cost of the prizes. The fishing contest is sponsored by the Board, the Hopatcong Elks, the State Parks and the Sportsmen’s Federation.

Lake Management – In Mr. Hathaway’s absence, Chairman Riley read the following report from Mr. Hathaway. “Mr. Riley has identified three separate issues with the harvester. 1) cutter bar failure that he, with the assistance of volunteers, has repaired. 2) harvester conveyor belt separation. The harvester remains operational but this will need to be addressed in the near term. 3) the fuel gauge on the harvester is not operating. It continuously reads full. Aquarius has suggested that Mike Calderio from Lake Hopatcong Commission will assist in troubleshooting. This is scheduled for tomorrow.” Chairman Riley said he is scheduled to meet with Mr. Calderio at the harvester tomorrow at 8:00 a.m., but he does not expect it to be resolved. Chairman Riley said he spoke to Aquarius and told them he is not happy with the quality control on this machine. There is a motor under the cutter belt and the drive shaft has a bolt that came out. Wayne Swistek was able to repair that. Chairman Riley told Aquarius that this is unacceptable and asked them to send someone out to inspect the machine. Ms. Maio suggested having the Board’s attorney send a letter to Aquarius about the issues. Mr. Potillo said he disagreed with getting the attorney involved at this point and he asked if Aquarius has been unresponsive to Chairman Riley’s calls. Chairman Riley responded that they are responsive to him. Mr. Potillo noted that having someone from

the Lake Hopatcong Commission inspect the machine might be a quicker fix than waiting for Aquarius to send someone out. Mr. Potillo noted that quality control is down across the board and he does not think they should get the attorney involved since they are being responsive. Chairman Riley said he is satisfied with the responses he is getting from Aquarius. Ms. Maio suggested documenting everything. Chairman Riley stated there is a two-year warranty. Mr. Potillo questioned purchasing an extended warranty since they are having issues already with the machine. Chairman Riley will look into an extended warranty. Chairman Riley continued with Mr. Hathaway's report. "Diesel fuel should have been delivered today for ongoing harvesting. There is a significant bloom of water chestnut in Byram bay with sporadic patches in many other places. I have been in close contact with the applicator. Applicator will conduct a surveyor acreage and propose methods to address appropriately. We will likely exceed budgeted expense and will need to take action prior to our next meeting. I propose that an email vote be authorized for this emergent condition. This vote can be memorialized at our next regular meeting. Netcong will have fireworks this Saturday evening. The launch point is at our Allen Street conveyor site. Harvesting will be suspended for the weekend. There has been suggestion that the herbicide treatment was ineffective. It is too early to tell. Results are expected on the 14-21 day point after application. We need to give more time for evaluation. The applicator has assured that retreatment if needed will not be an issue."

Operating Budget – There was nothing to report.

CD Investment – Mr. Wright reported that over the past 12-month period, the money market has made about \$3,200. There are no funds in CD's at this time. Mr. Shlesinger reported rates have been kept steady.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's Report was emailed to the Board. The Board discussed the balance in the account. Mr. Potillo cautioned the Board that these are public funds and the Board should be drawing them down quicker. On motion by Ms. Maio, seconded by Mr. Rattner, and carried by unanimous voice vote, the Treasurer's Report was accepted and placed on file.

BILLS: Chairman Riley stated there was an issue with his debit/credit card and payment of the Optimum bill. He contacted Optimum and was able to pay the bill using Mr. Hathaway's card. He paid \$64.21 which included the past due amount of \$34.21. Chairman Riley said he is unsure how, but he was able to get the monthly bill down to \$30.00 per month for the next five years. The amount paid included this month's \$30.00 charge. On motion by Mr. Potillo, seconded by Mr. Wright and carried by the following unanimous roll call vote, the Board approved the bills on the Bills List, as amended to include Ramseys Outdoor and the \$64.21 paid to Optimum:

Operating Account:

Ellen Horak - Clerk's Monthly Compensation & Stipend for Preparation of Financial Reports	\$ 650.00
USA Today Media Corp. - legal notice re: 2026 legal notices 2x (May)	\$ 15.92

Lake Management Account:

JCP&L – electric at shed	\$ 12.39
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Debit/Credit Card:

Optimum - internet service	\$ 30.00
Performance Trophy - trophies for fishing contest	\$ 124.75
Ramseys Outdoor - prizes for fishing contest	\$ 208.89

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Keenan - yes
Ms. Maio - yes
Ms. McGrath - yes
Mr. Potillo - yes

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Netcong's Budget Contribution - Chairman Riley noted this issue was discussed earlier in the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business.

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

Pat Marsico, President of the LMCA spoke about the glycinate herbicide and said it was recommended that they not use that herbicide. Ms. Marsico asked to have the flyer for the fishing contest emailed to her so she can post it on the LMCA's Facebook Page. The Clerk will email the flyer to Ms. Marsico. Ms. Marsico said she agrees with Mr. Hathaway about the slow response to the weed treatment. She regularly speaks with Chris, the applicator, and he said all of the lakes are having the same problem. Ms. Marsico spoke about the numerous weeds covering the lake. Chairman Riley said he signed a contract with Jefferson Recycling for weed disposal for a cost of \$700 per load. Last year the quote was \$500; however, costs have gone up. The Board used to dispose of the weeds on State property and Byram Township trucked it for the Board. Chairman Riley noted that Jefferson Recycling is their only option because they have no one else who will take the weeds. There are currently 4-½ harvester loads in the dumpster and he will put another load in tomorrow. Ms. Marsico noted the extra money the Board has is from the sale of the equipment that the Board could not use.

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

ADJOURNMENT: On motion by Mr. Potillo, seconded by Mr. Wright and carried by unanimous voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Ellen Horak, Clerk