

Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board
Regular Meeting
July 15, 2026

In Chairman Riley's absence, Vice-Chairman Hathaway 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 - present	Shawn Potillo - absent
Robert Hathaway - present	Steven Rattner - present
Joseph Keenan - present	Rudy Shlesinger - absent
Rosemarie Maio - present	Lester Wright - present
	Earl Riley - present (arrived @ 7:09 p.m.)

MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA: Additional communication listed.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Mr. Hathaway opened the meeting to the public.

Jack Sylvester, Vice President of St. Cesario Society and a member of Assumption Society asked the Board's permission to use the Board's site again to access the fireworks for the two events this year. Mr. Hathaway said Chairman Riley is aware of this. Mr. Hathaway stated the vendor brought the fireworks in early and all problems have been rectified. He inspected the site and it looked good. On motion by Ms. Maio, seconded by Mr. Wright and carried by unanimous voice vote, the Board granted permission to the St. Cesario Society and Assumption Society to use the Board's site again this year for their fireworks. Mr. Sylvester said the St. Cesario fireworks are scheduled for this Saturday, but they have a rain date of next week due to the predicted rain.

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

ACTION ON MINUTES: On motion by Mr. Rattner, seconded by Mr. Wright, the Minutes of the June 17, 2026 regular meeting were approved on unanimous voice vote.

COMMUNICATIONS:

06-22-26 Morris County Sportsmen Federation - check in the amount of \$200 for fishing contest
06-29-26 Netcong Borough - Purchase Order in the amount of \$1,767.90 re: shortfall in original 2026 budget contribution
07-01-26 The Perry Family - Invitation to Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Tyler Perry
07-02-26 USA Today Co., LocaliQ - Affidavit of Publication re: Legal Notices 2026
07-13-26 Netcong Borough - check in the amount of \$1,767.90 re: shortfall in original 2026 budget contribution

Mr. Hathaway noted the Perry Family's invitation to the Eagle Scout Court of Honor. The project was the shed renovation and Board members are encouraged to attend. The event is August 22nd and the RSVP date is July 17th. Ms. Maio asked who LocaliQ is. The Clerk responded that it is the New Jersey Herald and they bill under that name.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Canal Society – Ms. McGrath reported there will be a Canal Road Walk & Roll on July 26, 2026 from East Millstone to Butler Road.

Musconetcong Watershed Association – There was nothing to report.

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

Lake Awareness – Ms. Maio had no report. Mr. Hathaway noted the fishing contest which was held after the last meeting was well attended with the usual participants. Mr. Hathaway expressed his opinion that having the event on Father's Day may have prevented more from participating and he suggested choosing another day for next year's fishing contest. Ms. Maio said the Elks agreed; they do not want to do it on Father's Day anymore either. It was agreed that a new date that is convenient for both the Board and the Elks will be chosen for next year's fishing contest.

Lake Management – Mr. Hathaway reported they had a very significant bloom of water chestnut, which was treated yesterday. They agreed to treat some 30+ acres. (Chairman Riley arrived and took over the meeting.) Mr. Hathaway said, from a lake management standpoint, they have had a few issues with the harvester which have been temporarily rectified and will not impact the harvesting operations and will likely fall under the extended warranty. Mr. Hathaway reported that the harvester collided with the floating docks. The floating dock was reset today and they added an additional cleat to the dock which will be beneficial to the jon boat. They also had an issue with the backhoe. Chairman Riley said that while he was operating the backhoe, a warning "stop" light came on and said "do not operate." He called Smith Tractor, where they purchased it from and they sent someone out the next day. The warning light said they were out of diesel emissions fluid, which is required for a diesel engine, but the gauge said they had over half a tank. It was discovered that a plug from manufacturing had been crushed. They repaired the plug temporarily. It works fine now, but it needs a permanent repair which entails replacing the entire wire harness. The repair is under warranty. Chairman Riley said he agreed to them making the temporary repair by replacing the plug rather than the entire wiring harness which is a big job. He agreed because it is operational right now and the permanent repair can be done during the off-season. In the off-season, they will take the machine back to Smith Tractor and they will repair it then. Chairman Riley noted that Smith Tractor has been extremely responsive. Mr. Hathaway stated they had the initial herbicide application and had a subsequent application yesterday. The one in the budget was not to exceed 15 acres, but they had much more acreage of that in water chestnut. There is water chestnut in areas we have never seen before and there are other sporadic areas throughout the lake. The Board voted via email to authorize this emergency application, which has happened. Mr. Hathaway said his concern was if they do not treat before these plants go to flower, we run the risk of the seeds being fertile and being able to create new plants. Each seed can deliver multiple florets which also have multiple seeds. Mr. Hathaway said he is not sure why this is happening now. When they are treated before flowering, even if they flower, the seeds are not viable which is the reason they needed to do the treatment immediately. Not much longer than this, they start to flower. Mr. Hathaway's other concern, which they ran into last year, is if they get to a point where the water is very warm, they become more limited in the effectiveness of the herbicide. Mr. Hathaway said he forwarded an email to the Board members that contained Lake Management Science's

Inspection Report and it suggested there are 30+ acres of water chestnut to be treated and the contract amount is \$600+ per acre. Mr. Hathaway said the application was done after an email poll and they suspended harvesting in the area until Monday. You should see the fallout of the water chestnut next week. They will begin harvesting on Monday and will prioritize Byram Bay and then they will do the sporadic areas. Mr. Hathaway stated, in addition to Chairman Riley and Wayne Swistek, they have two new operators. Ms. McGrath and Eddie Souza are now certified operators and John Parks is soon to be a certified operator. Al Cooks is a certified operator, but not currently operating the harvester. Mr. Hathaway noted they will have a significant number of operators to clean up as much of the water chestnut as possible. They are also working on the weeds at Musconetcong Park in Stanhope. Mr. Hathaway said he will also be communicating with the LMCA about the water chestnut. Chairman Riley said if the operators see enough weeds to cut, they should do so regardless of if they are 200' from the shoreline or not. Mr. Hathaway spoke about the disconnect regarding the fireworks. They are using the same vendor, who always called him, but did not this time. He received a call last night informing him that the fireworks vendor wants to drop off his material. Mr. Hathaway gave them instructions, but they were not followed. The vendor went and moved everything out of the way and we could not get to the backhoe and dumpster to get them out of the area prior to the fireworks show. Mr. Hathaway said the issue has been resolved. Mr. Hathaway said the two societies as well as the Borough of Netcong now know there needs to be better communication. Ms. Maio asked if, when using the Board's site, they name the Board as an additional insured. Mr. Hathaway responded that the two societies do name the Board as an additional insured. Chairman Riley noted that for the fishing contest, if they are not partnered with State Parks, they need a Special Use Permit and he questioned if the entities doing the fireworks on State property apply for a Special Use Permit. Mr. Hamilton stated the two societies applied for and received a Special Use Permit from the State, but he did not receive an application for one from Netcong. Mr. Hamilton said he spoke to Ralph, Netcong's Administrator, about the permit and he retro-actively applied and was approved, with payment being received today. Chairman Riley expressed his displeasure that Netcong never asked permission to use the Board's site as well as asking the Board's Clerk to send out notifications about Netcong's fireworks. Chairman Riley said he attended a meeting with Mr. Hathaway, Netcong's Mayor and Administrator to speak about the issue. He told them that the Board is responsible for that site and if someone wants to use it, they must notify the Board and ask permission. They also need to obtain a Special Use Permit. Ms. Maio said they should be required to name the Board as an additional insured on their insurance policy. The Board agreed. Mr. Hamilton said the Certificate of Insurance names the Board and State Parks as additional insured on the societies' policies. Mr. Hathaway said he is on the Special Events Committee for Netcong and since this type of event has always happened in the past through the societies, he presumed everything had been followed through as it has been done in the past. He learned at the committee meeting the Tuesday before the event that nothing had been communicated to the Board. He also directed an email be sent to Ellen, the Board's Clerk, but the email she received was not what he dictated. Chairman Riley said the email to Ellen was from the Borough Administrator and told her to communicate with everyone around the lake about what was going on. Chairman Riley said Ellen should not be having to send communications for a town. In addition, the Board does not have the ability to send information out to the entire community; information is conveyed through that town's representative on the Board. Mr. Hathaway said the spirit of the email was to ask her to send an email to the Board members notifying them of what was going on; however, a different kind of email went out, which was not helpful. Mr. Hathaway said he communicates with the towns on behalf of the Board as Chair of the Lake Management Committee and he communicates the management plans to the town managers. He thinks it was misunderstood that the communication was the action of this Board. Chairman Riley noted this is an advisory Board. Chairman Riley said Jefferson Recycling charged \$799.69, which included sales tax. He sent them the Board's tax exempt certificate and they removed the

sales tax. The bill for Jefferson Recycling should be \$750. The amount will be changed on agenda and bills list.

Operating Budget – There was nothing to report.

CD Investment – There was nothing to report.

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 Ms. Maio 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 & Stipend for Preparation of Financial Reports	\$ 650.00
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Lake Management Account:

JCP&L – electric at shed	\$ 13.28
Lake Management Sciences - Invoice 26-0385	\$26,265.50

Debit/Credit Card:

Optimum - internet service	\$ 30.00
Lowes - heavy duty paper towels & diesel exhaust fluid	46.00
Staples - copies of consent form for fishing contest	\$ 43.18
Jefferson Recycling - pick-up and transport of weeds	\$ 750.00
Dixon Oil - fuel	\$ 674.29
Netcong Hardware - parts	\$ 41.22
Walmart -	\$ 42.62

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Hamilton - yes
Mr. Hathaway - yes
Mr. Keenan - yes
Ms. Maio - yes

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

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business.

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. Maio and carried by unanimous voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:51 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ellen Horak". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ellen" written in a more compact, looped style, and the last name "Horak" written in a more extended, flowing style.

Ellen Horak, Clerk