Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board
Regular Meeting
September 16, 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 - present
Jacob Hamilton - present
Robert Hathaway - absent
Joseph Keenan - present
Rosemarie Maio - present
Judith McGrath - present
Shawn Potillo - absent
Steven Rattner - present
Rudy Shlesinger - present
Lester Wright - present
Earl Riley - present

MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA: Additional bill and revised Lake Management Sciences bill 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. Wright, seconded by Mr. Rattner, the Minutes of the August 19, 2026 meeting were approved on unanimous voice vote.

COMMUNICATIONS:
04-26 Notice to Property Owners - Amended site plan and major subdivision re: 112 acres along Continental Drive, Mount Olive, NJ
09-11-26 Lake Management Sciences - Service Report

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Canal Society – There was nothing to report.

Musconetcong Watershed Association – There was nothing to report.

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

Lake Awareness – Ms. Maio reported she notified the Elks Club that the Board will not do the fishing contest on Father's Day and they agreed. It was not as well attended as it has been in the past.

Lake Management – In Mr. Hathaway's absence, Chairman Riley reported the harvester will be taken out of the lake the week of September 28th which is earlier than anticipated. Chairman Riley said that between the herbicide treatment and the harvester, the lake is basically clean and there are no more weeds to cut. Chairman Riley said they went from 2 operators to 6 operators this season with another operator in training. Next year they will have 6 to 7 operators. Chairman Riley noted they will have a 2-foot drawdown this year. Mr. Hamilton said he is waiting for the permit from Fish & Wildlife for the

drawdown. The drawdown will start as of October 1st and must be refilled by December 15th. Mr. Hamilton noted when Lake Musconetcong is drawn down, they will not drawdown Lake Hopatcong. Mr. Hamilton also informed the Board that two senior employees of State Parks have retired so this year will be his first time operating the drawdown. Chairman Riley stated that he and Mr. Hathaway looked at the herbicide budget and compared the money spent on herbicide vs. what the budget was. The budget was $65,000 and this year they spent $80,348 which is $15,348 over budget. Chairman Riley also said that with all the weeds they cut this year, they budgeted $3,500 and only spent $3,000. This was accomplished because of the way they do it. They put about 110-120 cubic yards of weeds in a 30-yard dumpster. They use the backhoe to load them and they compress them in the dumpster. Chairman Riley also reported that on September 28th Smith Tractor will be on site to repair the problem found from manufacturing at no additional charge except their travel time. The warranty was negotiated back and forth and he got it down to $600. The bill for the maintenance will be on for approval and payment after the work is completed. They will complete the repair for $240 which is an additional bill to be approved tonight. Chairman Riley said they gave an estimate for the annual maintenance on it which included changing numerous filters that he felt would not need to be replaced annually. Chairman Riley noted there is only 69.2 hours on the machine and they do not need all of the listed items. Chairman Riley said he agreed that they will grease the machine and change the engine oil for $691 which also includes travel. Chairman Riley stated the warranty has expired. It expired one year after the purchase of the machine. The bill for $691 for the service of the machine will be on next month's agenda. Chairman Riley said he and Mr. Hathaway would like to discuss looking into the purchase of a gps hand held device to help them to accurately relocate the buoys each year. The buoys are there to protect the harvester. There are 54 hazards in the lake that could damage the harvester.

Operating Budget – There was nothing to report.

CD Investment – Mr. Shlesinger said that since the harvester is being removed from the lake, he would suggest moving some money into a CD. Chairman Riley said the current base rate for a 91-day CD is 3.5%. Mr. Shlesinger expressed his opinion that Fidelity's rate will be higher. Chairman Riley asked the CD Investment Committee to look at the Board's funds and bring their recommendation to the next meeting on what to do with some of the funds.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's Report was emailed to the Board. On motion by Mr. Rattner, seconded by Ms. Maio, and carried by unanimous voice vote, the Treasurer's Report was accepted and placed on file.

Chairman Riley informed the Board that their domain with GoDaddy expired and he went to renew it for the three years, but accidentally tapped twice and they charged the Board two times for 3 years each. He reached out to GoDaddy and asked that they credit his second tap, since he was only renewing for the three- year term. He has not yet received a response or credit from GoDaddy.

BILLS: On motion by Mr. Rattner seconded by Ms. McGrath 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	$	650.00
USA Today Media Corp. - legal notice re: 2026 legal notices 2x's	$	15.50

Lake Management Account:	
JCP&L – electric at shed	$ 11.99
Lake Management Sciences - contract installment #3	$ 500.00
Lake Management Sciences - Pretreat-NT (Invoice #26-0795-revised)	$26,248.75
Debit/Credit Card:	
Optimum - internet service	$ 30.00
Tractor Supply - engine oil for harvester	$ 19.18
GoDaddy -	$ 144.54
Jefferson Recycling - transport	$ 799.69
Smith Tractor - repair	$ 240.00

ROLL CALL:

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

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Riley informed the Board that their senior harvester operator, Wayne Swistek's sister passed away yesterday morning and asked the Board to keep Wayne and his family in their thoughts.

Ms. Maio noted there were fireworks on the lake a number of times this year and she asked if there is any impact on the fish or condition of the lake because of the fallout from the fireworks. Chairman Riley responded he does not know if there is an impact on the lake. There was an impact on the Board's site. Prior to this year, the people setting up gave adequate notice and set up Friday for the Saturday fireworks. This year they came on Wednesday and set up around the Board's equipment. Chairman Riley said they were spoken to and they moved everything out of our way. Chairman Riley said he moved the backhoe so it would not get debris on it. They were supposed to cover the shed with a fireproof tarp. Chairman Riley stated that both Societies were on site by 7:00 a.m. Sunday morning cleaning up everything. They even went into the dumpster and removed debris that went into it. Chairman Riley said he does not know if anything impacted the ecology and he added that the fireworks have been shot over the lake for many years. The Board's site has only been used the last few years.

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. Wright, seconded by Ms. Maio and carried by unanimous voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Horak

Ellen Horak, Clerk