

**Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board
Regular Meeting
March 18, 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 - present	Shawn Pottillo - absent
Robert Hathaway - present	Steven Rattner - present
Joseph Keenan - absent	Rudy Shlesinger - absent
Rosemarie Maio - absent	Lester Wright - present
	Earl Riley - present

MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA: Additional communications 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. Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Wright, the Minutes of the February 18, 2026 regular meeting were approved on majority voice vote. Ms. McGrath abstained.

COMMUNICATIONS:

03-05-26 USA Today Co. - Affidavit of Publication - legal notices 2026 (2/6/26 and 2/20/26)
03-09-26 Selective Insurance - Notice of Reduction in Coverage
03-10-26 Arek Mateusiak - Website Proposal
03-13-26 Sussex County Board of County Commissioners - Resolution Appointing Jack Degroot as Sussex County's representative on the LMRPB
03-14-26 Nisivoccia - Proposal for 2024 Audit Report re: \$572,000 Grant
03-16-26 Sussex County - check in the amount of \$8,142.50 re: 2026 budget contribution
03-17-26 NJDEP - Close-out letter re: \$572,000 grant

On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Rattner 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, as directed by the Board, he engaged the attorney, Jim Bryce to send out the Request for Proposals to the herbicide applicators. Mr. Hathaway said he spoke

with one of the applicators and texted with another. He has not had any contact with Solitude Lake Management. The deadline for submission of the proposal is 5:00 p.m. on the day of the Board’s next meeting, at which meeting the Board will decide who will be selected. Chairman Riley reported that he has been working on the camera for the conveyor site. He has had the camera in his yard for almost four months and he finally found someone in tech support at Vosker who said they need an upgrade on the SD card. Since the upgrade was done, the camera has been running without interruption. Chairman Riley said he would like to run the camera in his yard for a few more weeks before installing it back up at the site. Once the camera is installed they will move the backhoe over to the site. Chairman Riley contacted Vosker and informed them that the camera has not been functional for almost nine months and he asked for a one year extension on the money the Board paid for their service. They said they would give the Board three months and Chairman Riley told them that was not acceptable and he wanted a year. He is waiting to hear back from them. Chairman Riley also said he wants to change the oil in the harvester when the weather is warmer and he needs help to do it. He wants the harvester ready for deployment mid to the end of May. Once the herbicide contract is in place, Chairman Riley will put together a crew to get the harvester ready for the water.

Operating Budget – There was nothing to report.

CD Investment – Mr. Wright stated they have let the money sit in the money market, but since the Board will be getting \$57,000, they should invest it. Chairman Riley stated the best CD rates right now is three months. The one year CD’s are less than 3%.

TREASURER’S REPORT: The Treasurer’s Report was emailed to the Board. The balance in the money market account is \$155,708, the balance in the checking account is \$83,722 and the balance in the savings account is \$5,706 for a total of \$245,136. On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Rattner, and carried by unanimous voice vote, the Treasurer’s Report was accepted and placed on file.

BILLS: On motion by Mr. Rattner, seconded by Mr. Hathaway 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	\$ 600.00
USA Today Media Group - legal notice re: 2026 legal notices 2x (Feb)	\$ 18.60
Postmaster - 100 stamps at \$0.78 each	\$ 78.00

Lake Management Account:

JCP&L – electric at shed	\$ 11.15
--------------------------	----------

Debit/Credit Card:

Optimum - internet service	\$ 40.00
----------------------------	----------

ROLL CALL:

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

OLD BUSINESS:

\$572,000 Grant Agreement – Chairman Riley reported the grant is now closed. The Board received a final closure letter today from the State of New Jersey. Mr. Rattner acknowledged the work put in by Chairman Riley on the grant, adding that the Board and the community are impressed by the work he did on this grant. Mr. Rattner stated it was very time consuming and he cannot imagine the total amount of hours that Chairman Riley put in. Chairman Riley said it was a work of passion. Mr. Rattner said that most people would not have done it through and he thinks they would have given up. Chairman Riley stated that when he makes a commitment, he follows it through and he was committed to this grant. Chairman Riley noted that the only open item now is that the NJDEP wants the Board to do an audit for the money they paid the Board and the Board spent in 2024. Chairman Riley spoke to the Board’s attorney who said they need a professional auditor for the audit. Chairman Riley contacted Nisivoccia, an auditing firm who audits several municipalities. They offered to audit the Board’s entire finances or the grant specific audit. Chairman Riley would like them to do the grant specific audit that is being required by the State. Nisivoccia sent a proposal and they will do the grant audit for \$5,000. Chairman Riley expressed frustration that the Board must pay \$5,000 for a State audit when throughout the process he has supplied the State with those records. Chairman Riley also expressed his frustration in an email to the NJDEP. On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Ms. McGrath and carried by the following unanimous roll call vote, the Board authorized entering into the agreement with Nisivoccia to do the audit of the 2024 grant money at a cost of \$5,000.

ROLL CALL:

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

Chairman Riley noted the communication from Selective Insurance regarding a reduction in coverage. Chairman Riley said he wants to reach out to Selective Insurance and find out how many policies the Board has, exactly what policies they have and how much they are paying for each one. He also wants to inquire about what the reduction in coverage is and let them know about the security cameras the Board has on the equipment and inquire about getting a reduction in the charges.

Website - Chairman Riley noted they received a proposal from Arek Mateusiak of 4Bits to do the Board’s website. He is asking for \$2,500 to redo the website and to maintain it. He will take what is there today and put it in a new format. He also wants an additional charge of \$150 per month for the monthly input and updates. Mr. Hathaway said the Netcong Community Partnership has a volunteer that services most of the ongoing data entries. Mr. Hathaway noted the Board previously decided to pay their Clerk, Ellen a stipend in order to do the monthly updates, i.e. put the minutes and any legal notices on the website as well as updates regarding Board activities. Mr. Hathaway said he would like this task removed from Chairman Riley’s responsibility and have it taken on by Ellen. Mr. Hathaway recommended that Chairman Riley negotiate the stipend with Ellen. On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Ms. McGrath and carried by the following unanimous roll call vote, the Board accepted 4Bits’ proposal to redo the Board’s website and authorized Chairman Riley to negotiate a stipend with Ellen to handle the monthly updates and input on the website.

ROLL CALL:

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Buoy Placement and Goose Addling - Mr. Hathaway stated the buoys need to be put out on the lake and the goose addling needs to happen. Netcong is committed to having a round-up again and they will pay the Board to do the addling because the round-up is conditioned upon the addling. Mr. Hathaway said that last year the Board paid outsiders to the addling and he helped because you need more than one person. They went out three times and addled a large number of eggs. Most were swan eggs, but some were goose eggs. There was a populous of geese that would have been gathered in the round-up, but since the round-up was not done last year, they were not. Mr. Hathaway said that the placement of the buoys requires putting out the Jon boat. Last year the Board paid \$250 to have the buoys placed in the lake and \$250 for the addling. Mr. Hathaway expressed his opinion that they should pay \$300 for the addling, being \$100 per time and last year they were out three times. Mr. Hathaway suggested hiring Michael Sheridan, who his son works for, to do these tasks. The Board will write the check to Mr. Sheridan, who will pay his son to do it. Mr. Hathaway noted the Board will be transacting with Michael Sheridan. Chairman Riley commented that Mr. Hathaway's son knows this lake better than any other person and he trusts him with the equipment. He is 18 years old, soon to be 19. He is very responsible and Chairman Riley trusts him explicitly, but because the Board's attorney's definition of the nepotism involved, the Board cannot hire him directly. The Board can hire Michael Sheridan, who they have no relationship with. On motion by Mr. Hathaway, seconded by Mr. Wright and carried by the following unanimous roll call vote, the Board authorized hiring Michael Sheridan for the placement of the buoys and addling of the goose eggs at a cost of \$600, excluding required parts.

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Degroot - yes	Mr. Rattner - yes
Mr. Hamilton - yes	Mr. Wright - yes
Mr. Hathaway - yes	Chairman Riley - yes
Ms. McGrath - 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. Degroot and carried by unanimous voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Ellen Horak, Clerk