

MINUTES

Cascade Charter Township
THORNAPPLE RIVER SAD AD-HOC COMMITTEE MEETING
April 14, 2025, at 4:30pm
Cascade Charter Township Office
5920 Tahoe Dr. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

ARTICLE 1. The meeting was called to order at 4:30pm.

Members Present: Scott Rissi, Leann Rowland, Trustee Shipley, Chuck Whitley, Jeff Carpenter, Thomas Keith
Absent: Michael Wiegand
Others Present: Township Manager Jade Smith, Executive Assistant Jessica Stine

ARTICLE 2. Approve the current Agenda

Motion was made by Trustee Rissi to approve the agenda as written. Supported by Member Carpenter. Motion carried.

ARTICLE 3. Acknowledge Visitors & Public Comment

There were not any visitors that wanted to speak at that time.

ARTICLE 4. Approve the Minutes of the February 10, 2025 Meeting

Motion was made by Member Rowland to approve the minutes as written. Supported by Trustee Liaison Shipley. Motion carried.

ARTICLE 5. Staff Updates

Members discussed the Safety & Navigational Marking Project and determined it was a success. There were some communication struggles with the contractor, but the buoys ended up in the correct positions and there has already been positive feedback from residents. The fire department also appreciates the buoy placement.

Manager Smith has not been able to get ahold of Larry's Tree Service despite multiple attempts. Trustee Rissi will reach out to the contractor and see if there's a reason they stopped responding.

Engineer Thorne looked into a water level monitoring device for the Thornapple river and came back with information on Hyfi, a flood monitoring and real-time notification system. It came strongly recommended by the City of Dearborn and fulfills the committee's request for water level monitoring.

Members viewed the depth survey map on the website and determined that they met their specifications. Anyone can now type in an address and find the depth data points on the Thornapple River. Members requested this be added as a layer on the Kent County REGIS map and Manager Smith said he would investigate it. They requested a

button to take you directly to the map on the main Thornapple River SAD webpage and Assistant Stine said she would work on it.

Manager Smith investigated the financial questions from the last meeting. He presented the committee with their most recent financial report and explained that 16 properties have already paid off their full assessment and 19 others had yet to pay their most recent taxes. The County will make the Township whole, regarding taxes, once collection is turned over to them. Members had questions on the percentage or formula for administrative overhead and wanted to know what the February 20, 2025, payment to the general fund was for.

ARTICLE 6. Sediment Study Discussion

The committee discussed the goals of the requested sediment study. Assistant Stine spoke with PLM, the weed treatment and dredging contractor the Thornapple River SAD currently uses. They have a machine to core sediment, but they do not do the more extensive testing that the committee may be interested in. They recommended contacting Prien & Newhof as analyze the sediment. Prien & Newhof had not responded to staff inquiry by the time of the meeting. The committee discussed whether they were looking to collect information about the sediment composition and determine where it is coming from or if they were more interested in stopping sediment inflow. The committee decided that sediment mitigation would be the best route to begin with. Assistant Stine will follow up with Prien & Newhof regarding sediment mitigation and bring additional information to the next meeting.

Trustee Rissi and Member Carpenter discussed gabion weirs that the Township used to pay to clean out twice a year. Members agreed that this made a difference in the rate of sedimentation. Manager Smith said he would investigate why they stopped being emptied.

Motion was made by Trustee Shipley to recommend the Thornapple River SAD Annual Report to the Board of Trustees for approval. Supported by Trustee Rissi.

ARTICLE 7. Strategic Plan and Roadmap Discussion

Assistant Stine updated the Thornapple River SAD Ten Year Strategic Plan and Roadmap with the requests from the previous meeting.

Motion was made by Trustee Liaison Shipley to recommend the Thornapple River Special Assessment District Ten Year Strategic Plan and Roadmap to the Board of Trustees. Supported by Trustee Rissi. Motion carried.

ARTICLE 8. Any Other Business

Member Carpenter mentioned the previously discussed purchase of a large caution sticker/sign to replace one that used to be on the bridge. Manager Smith said he would work on getting those ordered; Member Carpenter said he would email him with what they should say.

ARTICLE 9. Public Comment

There was no one who wished to comment at that time.

ARTICLE 10. Adjournment

**Motion was made by Trustee Liaison Shipley to adjourn. Supported by Trustee Rissi.
Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.**

Approved by the Thornapple River SAD Ad-Hoc Committee - TBD

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