

MINUTES

Cascade Charter Township
THORNAPPLE RIVER SAD AD-HOC COMMITTEE MEETING
October 14, 2024, at 5:30pm
Cascade Charter Township Office
5920 Tahoe Dr. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

ARTICLE 1. The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm.

Members Present: Scott Rissi, Leann Rowland, Trustee Shipley, Chuck Whitley, Thomas Keith, Michael Wiegand, Jeff Carpenter
Absent: None
Others Present: Township Supervisor Grace Lesperance, Township Manager Jade Smith, Executive Assistant Jessica Stine, Jamiee Desjardins of PLM

ARTICLE 2. Approve the current Agenda

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

ARTICLE 3. Acknowledge Visitors & Public Comment

Township Supervisor Lesperance attended the meeting to discuss the ruling regarding the Gerald R Ford International Airport zoning litigation.

ARTICLE 4. Approve the Minutes of the June 10, 2024 Meeting

Motion was made by Member Rissi to approve the minutes with two grammatical changes. Supported by Trustee Shipley. Motion carried.

ARTICLE 5. Summer Water Quality Report-Jaimee Desjardins, PLM

Jaimee Desjardins from PLM attended the meeting to discuss the weed management program. She believes the treatments have gone great so far. They are targeting two exotic plants, curly leaf and milfoil. There were three treatments this year; the last two winters have been warm, which has increased the prevalence of weeds on the water. There was an increase in nutrients in the water from 2023 to 2024. Ada has more nutrients in the water than Cascade does due to Cascade being three times as deep and significantly wider than the portions of the river in Ada. There were one to two ft sections of algae growing in the river, but Ada had more algae.

If the SAD wants to expand the weed program, they could start treating the major inlets. If algae dies in the river, it could be causing the increased amount of nutrients in the river. She did not recommend harvesting in the inlets as they were much smaller clumps of algae. The chemicals used to treat invasive plants only penetrate 0-10 ft deep. Regarding native plants, only a 50ft x 20ft square can be treated along each property. This limit does not apply to invasive plants. They could consider harvesting the

large bayou at Thornapple as there are many boats from that area that are parked in other locations because they can't get into the water in that area.

Manager Smith recommended extending the contract with PLM. Member Rissi agreed because PLM also works with Ada on their section of the river. Member Carpenter suggested rebidding if the price were to exceed the original competitive bid. Members suggested looking at how much the committee still has in the roll after 2025 to see if they are still correcting an appropriate amount.

ARTICLE 6. Financial Report

The financial report was included in the packet and didn't have any recent changes as Viking had not yet completed their contracted work.

ARTICLE 7. MI Natural Shorelines

The committee was still interested in MI Natural Shorelines and requested the information be sent out to the Cascade Thornapple River Association.

ARTICLE 8. Safety & Navigational Marking Project Update

The agreement with Maricaibo and Viking is still in place and the markers will be installed in two to three weeks. Thornapple River SAD residents will be notified when this takes place.

ARTICLE 9. Any Other Business

There were trees down in the river and the ski course cannot be safely used. Beaverwood would need to be used for tree relocation south of the bridge. Larry's Tree Service, the company used to clear debris in the water earlier in 2024, could only be used south of the highway. The committee was interested in contracting Larry's Tree Service again in the spring of 2025. They considered contracting both companies to relocate debris in the spring, one north and one south in the river. They estimated it would cost approximately \$5,000 per day.

ARTICLE 10. Roundtable Q & A

The committee requested reports from the dam operator. They used to receive reports but that stopped when the dam operation changed to the current operator. Member Whitley believed that the dam operator should send a report to the Township, at the least, but also to the residents.

Member Rissi asked the committee's opinion on digging out the train bridge. This would make the area navigable for contractors. Members suggested that the project would be very expensive, would be unlikely to benefit all SAD members, and the adjacent landowners would be against it.

Members agreed to begin meeting at 4:30pm in 2025.

ARTICLE 11. Public Comment

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

ARTICLE 12. Adjournment

Motion was made by Member Rissi to adjourn. Supported by Member Keith. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Approved by the Thornapple River SAD Ad-Hoc Committee – February 10, 2025