

MINUTES

Cascade Charter Township
THORNAPPLE RIVER SAD AD-HOC COMMITTEE MEETING
June 9, 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 4:29pm.

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

ARTICLE 2. Approve the current Agenda

Motion was made by Trustee Liaison Shipley to approve the agenda as written. Supported by Trustee Rissi. 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 April 14, 2025 Meeting

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

ARTICLE 5. Sediment Study Discussion with Prein & Newhof

Three representatives from Prein & Newhof (P&N) attended the meeting to discuss what the members of the committee were looking for in a sediment study. They explained that they want to mitigate sedimentation in the river. They explained that in the past they had used Gabion Weirs and taken out truckloads of sand. They know that the depth of the river is reducing, but they don't know if that is inevitable and something they'll always be fighting against. They know this is a long-term project and it will have to carry on for many years to be successful, but that is why they started with weed treatment and navigational markers, for some short-term impact.

P&N explained that natural channel design is currently the preferred method by EGLE; this includes shaping the channel so that the river flows at the correct velocity. They often use buffer strips, rain gardens, and infiltration ditches to reduce sedimentation. They suggested prioritizing where on the river they wanted to focus as it is a large and expensive project to take on. They stated that any dredging that was to occur would require samples from the sediment at the lowest depth they are looking to trench.

P&N will look into creeks, private properties, golf courses, etc. to find out where the sediment is coming from. He suggested selecting seven to nine tributaries to target and investigate them further. There was discussion regarding which drains belong to the

Drain Commission and what the wave mix layer is. Cascade Township will work to draw up a proposal for P&N.

Committee members also discussed the increasing speed and size of boats and their preference toward smaller ones that don't create large amounts of wake.

ARTICLE 6. Staff Updates

Larry's Tree Service came and relocated the floating debris in the river and charged a reasonable price.

ARTICLE 7. Any Other Business

Members shared many positive reviews of the new Safety and Navigational markings. The Township will need to check buoy positions after the winter to determine if they need to be repositioned after the ice melts.

Engineer Thorne has engaged Eagle Creek to discuss the installation of the water depth measuring device but was not able to acquire it yet.

ARTICLE 8. Public Comment

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

ARTICLE 9. Adjournment

Motion was made by Trustee Liaison Shipley to adjourn. Supported by Trustee Rissi. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

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