

## MINUTES

Cascade Charter Township  
THORNAPPLE RIVER SAD AD-HOC COMMITTEE MEETING  
October 3, 2022 at 5:30pm  
Cascade Charter Township Hall  
5920 Tahoe Dr. SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

- ARTICLE 1.** The meeting was called to order at 5:34pm.
- Members Present: Members John Shipley, Leann Rowland, Scott Rissi, Thomas Keith, Chuck Whitley, and Jeff Carpenter (via Zoom)
- Members Absent: Michael Wiegand
- Others Present: Township Manager (TM) Ben Swayze, Engineer Aric Thorne, and Jamie Desjardins of PLM (via Zoom)
- ARTICLE 2. Approve the current Agenda**
- Motion was made by Member Rissi to approve the agenda as written. Supported by Member Whitley. Motion carried.**
- ARTICLE 3. Acknowledge Visitors & Public Comment**
- There were not any visitors who wished to comment at this time.
- ARTICLE 4. Approve the Minutes of the July 25, 2022 Meeting**
- Motion was made by Member Rissi to table approval of the minutes until the next meeting so various errors could be corrected. Supported by Member Rowland. Motion carried.**
- ARTICLE 5. Update on 2022 Thornapple River Weed Management Plan - PLM**
- Jamie Desjardins of PLM shared that they were able to harvest the river once this year because a resident allowed access to the river via their property. There were many floaters and, if residents wanted them removed, they would have to collect them individually on the day after the harvest.
- They treated a small, five-acre, section of Milfoil and completed a vegetation survey. This tracked all of the types of vegetation found in the water and showed that there were only individual milfoil plants remaining, not any beds or lots.
- Member Rissi asked if harvesting upstream vs downstream would cause more floaters. Desjardins said that cutting downstream would cause less floaters but would take much more time, leading it to be more expensive.
- Accessing the site was a challenge due to a hill leading to the water, but the same point could work for access again next year. The plants were deposited behind Fire Station 2.

Member Rowland asked what the final cost for this year would be and Desjardins said it would be around \$43,290, which was within the price range the committee had budgeted for.

Member Whitley asked why the results from the May water tests weren't included in the packet and Desjardins apologized for her mistake in not providing them.

**ARTICLE 6. 2023 Thornapple River Weed Management Program**

Member Rowland asked what the price would look like next year and was told it should be around the same amount or less. Desjardins also noted that Ada hasn't seen as much milfoil in the river since Cascade started treatments.

Member Carpenter asked what the process would be in relation to permits and environmental regulatory procedures for 2023. Desjardins explained that the permit they have is a multi-year permit that lasts until 2025 and wouldn't change going forward.

TM Swayze asked when PLM would be able to harvest the weeds next year and Desjardins said it would be no earlier than 45 days after the first treatment which will likely be around March or April, depending on the rate of weed growth.

Member Carpenter asked if it would be possible to harvest earlier and was told yes and that it could even be done twice. Member Rissi suggested waiting until the water level is low and the current is slower to harvest. Member Rowland asked when the second harvest would take place and Desjardins said a harvest generally lasts about six weeks.

Member Whitley shared that the standard lake/river permit allows treatment of nuisance plants on up to 100 ft of water frontage per property. The reason this doesn't apply to Cascade's portion of the Thornapple River is due to the endangered species of fish that reside there. This only applies to native nuisance plants and this year the plants that were treated were not native plants.

**ARTICLE 7. State Uniform Waterway Marking System**

TM Swayze spoke with managers in the surrounding area about their waterway marking system and most of them were unaware of restrictions related to the marking. Many said that the system was in place before they started working there or that it was a resident driven initiative.

Member Rissi said that he thought it was important to implement a system like this for public safety. TM Swayze suggested they speak with the new township engineer and see if he has any previous knowledge on waterway marking.

Member Carpenter urged the committee to make marking the waterway a priority this year because it was in the SAD's language of origin. He said that the best time to have the engineer look at this is during the dam drawdown because they would be able to see the underwater stumps and anything else below the normal water level. They could then compare it when the water is up; the next opportunity for this would be during the spring drawdown.

Member Carpenter suggested King, a company he saw advertised, and knew that they work on Holland Waterways and Coast Guard contracts. Member Rissi took King for a tour of the river when they had been looking at dredging the bayou. TM Swayze and Engineer Thorne will contact King and look into their previous work.

**ARTICLE 8. Next Meeting?**

The next meeting will take place November 7, 2022.

**ARTICLE 9. Roundtable Q & A**

The committee currently has two less members than the bylaws call for. Member Rissi sent Supervisor Lesperance the names of a few people he thought would make beneficial members. The committee hasn't had any problems reaching quorum so TM Swayze will pass this information along to Supervisor Lesperance.

Member Carpenter asked if they would be creating an end of year report, as he had heard other residents wondering the results of this year's treatments. He also suggested including the water quality results from the river survey with a comparison of before and after the treatments.

**ARTICLE 10. Public Comment (Incorrectly listed as ARTICLE 11 on the agenda.)**

There were not any visitors who wished to comment at this time.

**ARTICLE 11. Adjournment (Incorrectly listed as ARTICLE 12 on the agenda.)**

**Motion was made by Member Rissi to adjourn. Supported by Member Rowland.  
Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:13 p.m.**

**Approved by the Thornapple River SAD Ad-Hoc Committee – 12/5/22**