

## MINUTES

Cascade Charter Township  
THORNAPPLE RIVER SAD AD-HOC COMMITTEE MEETING  
May 15, 2023 at 5:30pm  
Cascade Charter Township Hall  
5920 Tahoe Dr. SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

- ARTICLE 1.** The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm.
- Members Present: Members Scott Rissi, Chuck Whitley, Leann Rowland, Thomas Keith, Jeff Carpenter, and Michael Wiegand
- Members Absent: Trustee Shipley
- Others Present: Township Manager (TM) Ben Swayze, Parks & Recreation Director Melanie Manion, Management Office Administrative Assistant Jessica Stine
- ARTICLE 2. Approve the current Agenda**
- Motion was made by Member Rissi to approve the agenda as written. Supported by Member Rowland. Motion carried.**
- ARTICLE 3. Acknowledge Visitors & Public Comment**
- Melanie Manion, the new township Parks & Recreation Director, was introduced to the committee.
- ARTICLE 4. Approve the Minutes of the April 17, 2023 Meeting**
- Motion was made by Member Rissi to approve the minutes with the addition of Member Wiegand to the members present. Supported by Member Wiegand. Motion carried.**
- ARTICLE 5. Safety & Navigational Marking Plan RFP Response Review**
- Member Rissi took two companies on the river so they had accurate information when making a proposal. Only one company submitted a proposal, Viking. Member Rissi disclosed that his sister is in a relationship a Viking employee but there wasn't any contact outside of answering his questions while on the river. The committee didn't believe this would be a conflict of interest.
- The committee looked over the proposal and decided they don't want to mark the entire channel, only the dangerous areas. Too many buoys would mar the riverfront view for the residences along the water. They only want channel markings between the bridges and caution markers outside of that area. Member Keith stated that there was recently a boat crash and the committee may want to consider a no wake sign for the bridge. Member Carpenter suggested adding a sign that lists the height requirement for the bridge so boats that are too tall know not to go under it.

TM Swayze recommended the committee approve phase one of the project and talk through design and placement of buoys before they're put in the water. The committee won't have the full amount needed to implement the project in 2023 but they will likely have some to roll over to next year from the weed management plan. They considered taking care of obstacles one year and pathing the next.

Members stated that they needed to show the funds are being spent for the intended purpose, so they should move forward with the project and that piecemealing the mobilization may increase costs. Rowland shared her fear that the residents won't like seeing so many items floating in the water.

A representative from Viking was requested to attend the June 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Motion was made by Member Carpenter to accept the bid for phase one and hold a meeting with Viking to discuss phase two before taking additional action. Supported by Member Rissi. Motion carried.**

The total cost of the project would be over \$25,000, the dollar amount at which the board needs to approve, but phase one would be less than \$25,000 so it would only require township manager approval. TM Swayze recommended sending it all to the board to be approved at once.

**ARTICLE 6. Aquatic Weed Management Plan Update**

A letter was sent out to each resident in the SAD to let them know when the weed treatment would likely occur, but the website still needs to be updated with 2023 information.

PLM recently met with two homeowners and Mark Sinning, who lives on the Caledonia side, to coordinate river access using their ramps. The township will coordinate thanking them.

**ARTICLE 7. River Measurement Program**

There hasn't been any progress on river measurement yet but Member Whitley explained his idea and how it would benefit SAD members. Parks & Recreation Director Manion said she would reach out to a colleague that is knowledgeable about the equipment they use in Noah.

**ARTICLE 8. Roundtable Q & A**

Members encouraged PLM to submit water test results to the committee in a timelier manner. PLM will provide the raw data earlier in the year and provide a report with data analysis later in the year.

Member Rissi mentioned a person who said they built a barge to remove debris from the river that could hold up to 10,000 lbs. Member Rissi invited him to the June meeting to present. Steve Johnson was also mentioned as a possibility for removing debris, as Ada used to use him, but the committee would need to monitor progress and verify

follow through. Members Carpenter, Rissi, and Rowland thanked TM Swayze for helping set up the SAD and getting the committee in motion.

**ARTICLE 9. Public Comment**

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

**ARTICLE 10. Adjournment**

**Motion was made by Member Keith to adjourn. Supported by Member Rissi. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m.**

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