

## MINUTES

Cascade Charter Township  
THORNAPPLE RIVER SAD AD-HOC COMMITTEE MEETING  
June 6, 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 Leann Rowland, Scott Rissi, Thomas Keith, Jeff Carpenter, Paul Strauss and Chuck Whitley (via Zoom)
- Members Absent:
- Others Present: Township Manager (TM) Ben Swayze
- ARTICLE 2. Approve the current Agenda**
- Motion was made by Member Rissi to approve the agenda as written. Supported by Trustee Shipley. 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 May 12, 2022 Meeting**
- Motion was made by Member Whitley to approve the March 12, 2022 meeting minutes as written. Supported by Member Strauss. Motion carried.**
- ARTICLE 5. Discussion on 2022 Thornapple River Weed Management Plan**
- TM Swayze told the committee about the new email newsletter, for residents that are part of the Thornapple River SAD, through Mailchimp. There will be a letter sent to the residents through physical mail with a link to join the new email newsletter. This will allow interested residents to receive more frequent and timely email updates that are relevant to residents in the SAD without overflowing the inboxes of township residents not in the SAD. The letter will only be going out to SAD addresses but anyone can sign up for the email newsletter. HOAs/COAs may pass this information along to people along the river that may be interested in swimming or have backlots to the river but aren't part of the SAD.
- Members encouraged TM Swayze to determine a method of contact where residents could reach out and get their immediate questions answered, quickly. They believe that the informational letters that have gone out so far use complicated jargon and want to reach residents on a personal level, cutting through the required parts and providing them with information they can use. One suggestion was to create an FAQ as it relates to the Thornapple SAD and ask PLM for feedback on what questions they generally receive. TM Swayze spoke with Jamiee because they received a request from the state

for more information about the dam flow related to Eagle Creek. The permit has not yet been issued but the state requesting more information is a positive because that means they have begun looking at the application. The application was submitted in April and they generally take about six weeks to process, so the township should be hearing back any time now.

TM Swayze has a letter ready to send out as soon as the application is approved. For additional information, Jamiee may be the contact to answer resident questions if they are comfortable and, if not, he may have Jessica Stine check an official inbox once a day and direct their questions to the appropriate contacts.

#### **ARTICLE 6. 2022 Thornapple River SAD Budget**

TM Swayze explained that Cascade Township's budget is managed with fund-based accounting and any unspent funds from previous years roll over into the same fund indefinitely. If there is any money left in the fund when board disbands the SAD, the funds go back to the residents in the same way they were collected. He said that they have received legal bills totaling \$5,700 so far but they aren't very detailed and some of that cost will come out of the Laraway Lake SAD as the services were for them as well. This includes all of the expenditures that were approved the first time, after removing the costs for the two resolutions that the township originally saw, but the township covered the cost of all expenditures past the reset. They will need to include an additional \$1,000 in that budget line item to cover questions to the township legal contractor and any other contractor the committee will want to receive information from. This will be a one-time expense, not one that reoccurs every year.

Member Rissi made a motion to add \$1,000 in the budget for communication with consultants and legal counsel regarding allowable activities on the river.

There was discussion on if the river should be marked with balls and chains and if that would be completed with volunteer time and money or if it would be able to come out of SAD funding. Member Rissi asked if they should get a legal opinion on who this would put the liability burden on and TM Swayze said he would contact the township's legal counsel.

Member Carpenter asked about the cost of debris removal and if that should be part of their budget. Member Rissi shared that part of the reason there have been problems removing debris from the river in the last few years is because the removal equipment is large and heavy and most driveways aren't rated to handle their weight and size. This makes it difficult to get the equipment down to the river without encroaching on or destroying resident's property. He suggested including \$7,500 in the budget for debris removal. The committee would likely need to hire dump trucks for waste transportation on the removal day; Member Carpenter suggested they increase the funding for debris removal to \$10,000 to cover the cost of the dump truck rentals. Member Carpenter also asked about if they need a marine consulting company to determine the best way to move debris and mark the river. Member Rissi said he would reach out to a company that he knows cleans channels and marks them for other government entities and TM

Swayze will also ask some of the other surrounding communities that he is in contact with to find out their debris removal solutions. Member Rowland asked if they could consider dredging the river and Member Rissi said no, the current administration at the state level does not support dredging and that could be considered in years further down the road, when there is an administration change. This would leave around \$13,000 in the balance of the fund for future years. Member Whitley asked if this included the \$1,000 for water testing. TM Swayze said that was part of the \$60,000 originally budgeted.

**ARTICLE 7. Meeting Schedule – 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month at 5:30**

**Monday July 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting:** TM Swayze said he will set up the next meeting, which will not end up being on the first Monday of the month, due to July 4<sup>th</sup>, when the state application approval comes through and he hears back from Jamiee.

**Monday September 5<sup>th</sup> (Labor Day) Meeting:** The committee will decide when to hold their September meeting when it gets closer.

**ARTICLE 8. Roundtable Q & A**

TM Swayze said he would find out what is going on with the river and why its water level is so low. Member Rissi asked why there are screw jacks that appeared on the last flood gate at the end of last season and TM Swayze agreed to look into that.

**ARTICLE 9. Public Comment**

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

**ARTICLE 10. Adjournment**

**Motion was made by Member Carpenter to adjourn. Supported by Member Rissi. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m.**

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