

MINUTES

Cascade Charter Township
THORNAPPLE RIVER SAD AD-HOC COMMITTEE MEETING
March 6, 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 Michael Wiegand, Leann Rowland, Scott Rissi, Thomas Keith and Trustee Shipley

Members Absent: Jeff Carpenter, Chuck Whitley

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 February 6, 2023 Meeting

Motion was made by Trustee Shipley to approve the minutes. Supported by Member Rissi. Motion carried.

ARTICLE 5. Safety & Navigational Marking Plan RFP

TM Swayze shared the RFP he wrote with the committee and explained that it was written vaguely so that they could bring someone in who was able to provide the township with different options and their costs. There are currently three companies who are interested in bidding on the project. The only thing left to do was finalize the pre-bid meeting date with Member Rissi so that he could take interested organizations out onto the water before they completed their bids.

Member Rowland arrived at 5:36pm.

Proposals will be due on March 30th and the committee will evaluate them at the meeting on April 3rd. This will give time for the Township Board to consider the proposal at the April 12th board meeting. They would like the contractor to be on board before the dam drawdown. Member Wiegand asked if they were required to include a budget on the RFP and TM Swayze said that they weren't, but that would be each company's first question if it wasn't included.

The committee and selected contractor will consider both soft markings and hard markings when determining the navigational markings, especially in the areas where water sports are prevalent.

Motion was made by Trustee Shipley to recommend the RFP to the Township Board for approval. Supported by Member Wiegand. Motion carried.

ARTICLE 6. Roundtable Q & A

TM Swayze stated that the schedule for treatment may be mailed out before the next meeting. Water quality testing will occur in March and PLM has promised that the township will receive the results expeditiously.

The township didn't receive any negative comments about the weed management project last year, but they did receive suggestions to post when testing is occurring at additional river access points, such as near the parks and bridges.

Last year the lake was able to be accessed for harvesting via an access point a few feet outside of the SAD boundary. They hope to do the same this year but Member Rissi is requesting they harvest in the south-bound direction to catch floaters.

ARTICLE 7. Public Comment

Kent County Commissioner Walter Bujak introduced himself as a member of the GV Metro Council and member of the Thornapple River Watershed Council. He took interest in LGROW and water quality remains one of his biggest concerns. He wants the exits and entrances to the river to be tested to see where the excess nutrients are being introduced into the water. These excess nutrients are part of what is causing the extensive weed growth. He invited the committee to a September 16th, 2023 jamboree with the Lower Grand River Watershed, Ada Parks, and Thornapple River Council where they will share information and discuss topics related to the watershed.

ARTICLE 8. Adjournment

Motion was made by Member Rissi to adjourn. Supported by Member Wiegand. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

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