

MINUTES

Cascade Charter Township
THORNAPPLE RIVER SAD AD-HOC COMMITTEE MEETING
June 19, 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 5:29pm.

Members Present: Members Scott Rissi, Chuck Whitley, Leann Rowland, Thomas Keith, Jeff Carpenter, and Trustee Shipley

Members Late: Michael Wiegand

Others Present: Parks & Recreation Director Melanie Manion (Director Manion), Management Office Administrative Assistant Jessica Stine, Jeremy Birch of Viking Marine Construction (Zoom)

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

There weren't any visitors who wished to comment at that time.

ARTICLE 4. Approve the Minutes of the May 15, 2023 Meeting

Motion was made by Member Rissi to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2023 meeting as written. Supported by Member Keith. Motion carried.

ARTICLE 5. Safety & Navigational Marking Plan RFP Response Review

The committee discussed the Safety & Navigational Marking Plan proposal with Jeremy Birch of Viking Marine Construction. The committee wants fewer markings than on the proposal, including between the highway bridge and the railroad bridge. Birch said the number of markings can be reduced; he included all that would be useful for new boat drivers who may not be as familiar with the river.

Member Wiegand arrived.

Member Carpenter asked if there were any regulations against only posting channel markers along one side of the river and Birch said he would check with EGLE to verify, but he didn't believe there were any. The river would first be surveyed, then an overlay would be placed on it so they could decide where they wanted the buoys. A copy of the survey map would be a deliverable for the committee. They asked what the bathymetric survey and permit timeline would consist of and he said between 60 and 180 days, though likely closer to the 60-day mark once it is filed. All parts of the project

would be encompassed in one permit and they should request a permit for their maximum need and could always do less than what they propose. A final map of the surveyed portion of the river would be available a couple weeks after the project would be approved.

Member Rissi was able to accommodate the boat launch for the company to survey the river. He suggested sending out an eblast and posting on the website to let residents know about water levels and staying off the water during the survey.

ARTICLE 6. Aquatic Weed Management Plan Update

Curly pond weed was found and the first treatment cost \$6,300. The milfoil is much better in 2023 but still needs to be harvested.

Director Manion explained that chemical treatment proves less effective over time and suggested looking at other way to reduce nuisance plants. The DNR doesn't favor PLM because they don't believe that the chemicals used meet DNR standards and could harm the endangered fish population of the river. EGLE approves of these chemicals even though the DNR does not. Director Manion shared that there are grants to place buffers in the river. Member Rissi stated that the best way to reduce phosphorus and increase water quality would be to put in sanitary sewer.

ARTICLE 7. Any Other Business

River Cleanup-Director Manion invited all members of the committee to the next day's Parks Committee meeting at 8am as there will be a speaker on the Ada river cleanup set to take place in the fall. Cascade will use the same group and should be able to provide further information.

Debris Removal-The committee considered the scope of debris removal. There are an excessive number of trees and branches in the river but committee members were waiting for flood waters to recede before determining how much would need to be removed. There was money earmarked for debris removal in the SAD budget and the residents expected the debris removal to occur. The committee wanted to focus on the navigable areas of the river; if the debris is attached to the shore, previous Township Manager Swayze and EGLE said they should not try to remove it. Steve Johnson from Larry's Lawn Service is being considered. Motion was made by Member Rissi for Director Manion to contact companies on the possibility of debris removal. Supported by Member Wiegand. Motion carried 7 to 0.

ARTICLE 8. Roundtable Q & A

The July 3rd meeting will be cancelled and a special meeting will be scheduled later in the month if necessary.

ARTICLE 9. Public Comment

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

ARTICLE 10. Adjournment

**Motion was made by Member Rissi to adjourn. Supported by Member Wiegand.
Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:28 p.m.**

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