

## MINUTES

Cascade Charter Township  
THORNAPPLE RIVER SAD AD-HOC COMMITTEE MEETING  
March 7, 2022 at 5:30pm  
Cascade Charter Township Hall  
5920 Tahoe Dr. SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

**Members Present:** Trustee Shipley, Members Leann Rowland, Scott Rissi, Thomas Keith, Mike Wiegand, Jeff Carpenter, Chuck Whitley, Paul Strauss, and Lori Gottlieb (via Zoom)

**Others Present:** Township Manager (TM) Ben Swayze

**Members of the Public:** None

**ARTICLE 1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:34pm.

**ARTICLE 2. Approve the Agenda:** Motion by Member Rissi, supported by Trustee Shipley to approve the agenda as written. Motion Carried.

**ARTICLE 3. Acknowledge Visitors & Public Comment:** There were not any visitors attending.

**ARTICLE 4. Approve the Minutes of the January 17, 2022 Meeting:** Motion was made by Trustee Shipley to approve the January 17, 2022 meeting minutes as written. Supported by Member Rissi. Motion carried.

**ARTICLE 5. Review of Aquatic Weed Management RFP Responses:** TM Swayze explained that he sent out requests for Aquatic Weed Management RFPs and only received two bids: one from PLM and one from Aquatic Doctors. It was discussed that neither proposal gave a total specific bid so the two RFPs were difficult to compare but TM Swayze said they were designed this way to not give advantage to companies who hadn't previously worked on sections of the Thornapple River. TM Swayze said both RFPs come out to about the same price with PLM's price being based on the hours it takes to service the river and Aquatic Doctors is based on number of acres serviced for harvesting activities. Member Rissi estimated that there may be up to 46 acres of river to be treated. He also noted that Aquatic Doctors isn't listed as owning a harvester and he knows of another Thornapple River group that used PLM extensively, switched to Aquatic Doctors, due to price, and then switched back to PLM due to quality issues. TM Swayze explained that he heard anecdotally in a previous case, Aquatic Doctors harvested the weeds without treating them chemically and they had very poor results. All members appreciated that PLM had worked with EGLE and the DNR in the past and that they are already working above and below the dam, so it may be beneficial to have the same company working on each of those areas.

Member Rissi asked if MDOT would let them offload the harvested weeds somewhere between the highway and the river. In the past he had heard talk of someone offering to offload them near the golf course. TM Swayze said this could be a good option if they were able to get through the red tape but they likely wouldn't be able to do so quickly

enough; he instead suggested composting them in the eight acres behind Fire Station #2. Member Rissi suggested the committee reach out to MDOT and start the process so that, even if they can't take care of the harvested plants this time, maybe they will be able to in the future.

Member Gottlieb was concerned that Aquatic Doctors included a survey around the river to find wells that could be affected by the chemicals being used to treat the invasive species and PLM did not include this but TM Swayze said that the township already has data on this from the health department and that it was also required by law, so it is unlikely PLM would not be doing these tests as well. Member Rissi recommended asking PLM about this if it came down to the possibility of using them. Member Gottlieb suggested requesting a faster turnaround time for E. coli test results than is noted in the RFP, if PLM was chosen.

Member Rissi found the annual testing provided by PLM to be appealing as it would be the company testing rather than just a volunteer program and their offer to bring along a committee member on their survey when they decide what areas need to be treated was greatly beneficial.

The committee shared different ideas for length of contract until Member Rissi made a motion for TM Swayze to contact references for both companies, with at least one of each pertaining to rivers, and, if he still believes PLM is the best choice, he will write up a three-year contract with an exit clause for both parties, and submit it to the Township Board to present at their March 23<sup>rd</sup> board meeting. Supported by Member Carpenter. Motion carried.

TM Swayze would like to have the next committee meeting on March 28<sup>th</sup> to discuss their budget and next steps.

**ARTICLE 6. Roundtable Q & A**

**Flood Gate:** Member Rissi brought up the fourth flood gate and said that it looked like someone was going to perform maintenance on it and never did so and now it won't close if there is ever a flood that requires its utilization. TM Swayze said that he would check with the dam operator Grace from Eagle Creek and see if she was aware of a plan to fix it.

**ARTICLE 7. Public Comment: None**

**ARTICLE 8. Adjournment:** Motion was made by Member Carpenter to adjourn. Supported by Member Rowland. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

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