

## MINUTES

Cascade Charter Township  
THORNAPPLE RIVER SAD AD-HOC COMMITTEE MEETING  
August 7, 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, Michael Wiegand, and Trustee Shipley

Others Present: Parks & Recreation Director Melanie Manion (Director Manion)

**ARTICLE 2. Approve the current Agenda**

Director Manion thanked Member Rissi for being willing to take her out on a boat to view the river and share history of the committee.

**Motion was made by Member Rissi to approve the agenda as written. Supported by Member Rowland. Motion carried.**

**ARTICLE 3. Approve the Minutes of the June 19, 2023 Meeting**

**Motion was made by Member Rissi to approve the minutes of the June 19, 2023 meeting as written. Supported by Member Keith. Motion carried.**

**ARTICLE 4. Acknowledge Visitors & Public Comment**

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

**ARTICLE 5. Safety & Navigational Marking Plan RFP Response Review**

They completed three dives for a depth survey. This is the first thing the company had to complete before they could apply for the permit. They are now applying for the permit on behalf of the SAD. The assumption is that it will make 60-180 days for the permit to be approved or denied.

Director Manion discussed the Thornapple River SAD budget and how much money they have. There was discussion as to the amount of money that was collected thus far from the SAD, how much had been spent, and how the Township can better track their funds in the future. The new Township Manager was chosen due to his finance skills and Treasurer Korstange is working to bring in a new financial reporting software that would increase accessibility of financial information to the public.

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

The weeds were treated and it worked. Since the river is technically township property and the milfoil is considered an invasive species, the Township determined that the single property that did not want weed treatment in the river along their property

would still receive treatment. The harvesting was set to occur the next week in the shallow area. The launch spot was unclear as the Caledonia position wouldn't work when the water level is low.

**ARTICLE 7. Large Debris Removal Project**

Director Manion spoke with some members of the DNR and EGLE about wood in the water, muscles, and permitting. They said Cascade would need a permit if it alters the water pattern or if it is in the sediment. Director Manion believes that the debris is floating in the water and have come downstream. The members concurred that the debris is buoyant and, while some debris is in the sediment, that is not the debris they are looking to remove/relocate. The committee discussed where they could move the debris that it wouldn't float back out into the river. They suggested areas that were shallower, such as in front of the golf course. They will monitor the debris to see if it stays in place or floats back into the buoyant areas of the river.

**Motion was made by Member Rissi to hire Larry's Tree Service for up to two eight-hour days, one on each side of the railroad bridge. Supported by Member Carpenter. Motion carried.**

**ARTICLE 8. Any Other Business**

Members discussed river access points and the Township reaching out to the Maracaibo association for access.

**ARTICLE 9. Roundtable Q & A**

Members discussed information sharing and how to make sure information surrounding the SAD is preserved for future residents.

**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**