

MINUTES
Cascade Charter Township
THORNAPPLE RIVER SAD AD-HOC COMMITTEE MEETING
August 12, 2026, at 4:30pm
Cascade Charter Township Office
5920 Tahoe Dr. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

ARTICLE 1. The meeting was called to order at 4:32pm.

Members Present: Scott Rissi, Leann Rowland, John Shipley, Jeff Carpenter, Michael Wiegand

Absent: Thomas Keith, Chuck Whitley

Others Present: Township Engineer Aric Thorne, Administrative Assistant Nick Govan

ARTICLE 2. Approve the current Agenda

Motion was made by Member Rissi to approve the agenda. Supported by Member Shipley. Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 3. Acknowledge Visitors & Public Comment

There were not any visitors that wanted to speak at that time.

ARTICLE 4. Approve the Minutes of the June 8, 2026 Meeting

Member Rissi requested the following edits to Article 5, second paragraph:

1. Replace “Quiggle Lake” with “Quiggle Lake Drain.”
2. Replace the Berger area reference with “Berger Bayou.”

Motion was made by Member Rissi to approve the Minutes of the June 8, 2026 meeting with the edits provided. Supported by Member Carpenter. Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 5. Sedimentation Mitigation Plan

Engineer Thorne reported that staff worked with GVMC and REGIS to add two public maps to the Thornapple River SAD page on the Township website. The field observations map shows points labeled as human cause, natural cause, or general observation, with photos, comments, coordinates, and dates. The drone footage map links river segments and properties to time-coded YouTube video. Member Carpenter asked about the risk if YouTube hosting ended, and Engineer Thorne responded that the Township owns the data and video and could host them elsewhere. Members commended the maps as transparent and professionally done.

ARTICLE 6. Any Other Business

Engineer Thorne reported that Prein & Newhof is preparing recommendations to restore access around the railroad bridge, either by dredging or re-establishing a go-around. Member Rissi noted that debris near Kilmer and Sequoia south of the bridge has not been removed since the access limitations began, and Member Carpenter

added that the work would also protect the bridge supports. Member Rissi stated that the DNR permit application, Township correspondence, and drawings were sent to staff to help facilitate the study. Member Carpenter requested the file be sent to Brendan, and staff agreed to locate it.

Members requested that staff with Prein & Newhof's recommendations identify a top five or top ten list of manageable projects, so the committee can enter budget season with a plan. Member Carpenter suggested marking the selected projects on the new map to show the public progress. Engineer Thorne explained that Prein & Newhof can provide ballpark pricing, but the work would likely be bid as a package.

Member Rissi stated that he did not receive resident calls about weeds in the river following the PLM harvesting, which took a couple of days. Staff stated they did not receive calls either.

ARTICLE 9. Adjournment

**Motion was made by Member Rissi to adjourn the meeting at 5:00pm.
Supported by Shipley. Motion carried unanimously.**