

April 22, 2013

Cascade Thornapple River Association Annual Meeting

70+ people in attendance at the start

A table was by the entrance to take dues, donations and sell maps. Pictures were laid out on a front table that showed river debris: logs, decks, etc. There were also general pictures of the high water and some erosion.

President Scott Rissi called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM. Board members were introduced.

Last year's minutes were distributed on the blue sheet with agenda and treasurers report. A motion was made to accept as written, seconded and passed by voice vote - no descent.

The expenses for the airport

\$14,649 has been spent to date \$4785 in donations have been received to date.

Ada association has split every bill for Dixon. Signs paid for by Ada. Banners were paid for by CTRA. River testing has been paid by CTRA. The Ada association has been a big help.

Motion was made and seconded to accept the treasure's report as written on the blue sheet. Passed by voice vote - no descent.

Topic of summer picnic was introduced. Carl introduced another idea as an alternative of a picnic. fireworks shows \$200 to \$500 per minute costs. We could do a fireworks show instead. It is just an option. Question: Another get together is an option to raise money (audience). Question: If we do a picnic why not do it in a way that it doesn't cost money (audience).

Do people want an activity? Half the room raised their hands.

Members 112 this year. The year of the ski show the membership was 160+ so maybe a good activity drives membership. So a decision was made to have some event - TBD.

A very large stump south of the 48th street Bridge was uprooted and moved by the ice. A decision was made to remove it due the danger hazard as well as a large cedar tree. At draw down some hidden stumps were sawed off to reduce the danger. The big stump by the golf course was also sawn off - EAST end by the unpainted golf course bridge. Markers were replaced but not on all locations due to the high water. We will place other markers as conditions permit.

Since the storm, a LOT of debris has washed into the river. The high bank by the dam has fallen into the river. A big deck has washed onto the mud flat by the golf course. Lots of trees have been scattered throughout the river in popular boating lanes.

Question from audience: What does the township say about this? Not their problem...  
Scott indicated he would try to get a meeting with the township. Audience: What is objection to removing fallen trees and debris? Natural water ways and looks are the main objections.

60 people in attendance at 6:55 PM.

Barb mentioned that some trees help protect shoreline in certain situations. Another person asked about dredging: no plans other than asking the airport for restoration of waterway which might be dredging. What about repairing seawalls? Could we coordinate together to reduce the cost or repairing the cost of sea walls? We have tried that in the past, but the coordination was difficult. Once cost is finally quoted, many backed out.

Bayous have lost a LOT of depth. Especially the one close to the dam and Thornapple bayou.

Oriental Bittersweet is an invasive vine with little orange berries in the fall. It is taking over a lot of wilderness areas in the township. Jeff asked if others have seen it. Not many others have noticed it.

Election: Scott, Bill, Chuck and Dave

Rob Andrews of Kilmer has volunteered. Request for a unanimous ballot for Scott, Bill, Chuck and Rob to be elected by voice vote. Motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Todd - can we get the water level raised by up a couple of inches? 13 out of 60 like higher. 18 like it lower. The board has little influence on the level of the river nor on the draw-down date. Cascadethornapple.org there is a link to river levels.

Request for new business: none

Jim was introduced by Scott to explain the airport plan for the treatment of airport run-off. The airport plan was roughly described by Scott. The build schedule is to begin in October or November - at the end of the season. Question: Is there a map where we can see the plan? There is a link on the website - [cascadethornapple.org](http://cascadethornapple.org).

Jim Dixon has a small consulting business and is a native of the area. He has a history with the river back to his childhood and he only bills partial hours. 25 years of consulting work on the environment.

Last year we looked at the history of the airport and many conversations have been had with DNR and state politicians. The permit issued for discharge as made two years ago when we were not organized. That permit says they have to leave "trout creek" within 5 years. There have been 2 1/2 years of negotiation and the CTRA will get to speak into a new permit - if it happens.

February 14 there was a stake holders meeting that presented a "natural" system to clean the discharge. This is the current plan on the website. They estimate the efficiency will be 40% reduction. They have a top notch consulting firm helping them create the plan. There is not a "right" to discharge into the waterway. We will only have about 30 days to comment once they set a meeting date.

Question: What is the Township position? To get correct permit, to give public comment period... Question: What are other airports doing? GR is a small hub and therefore we have more lenient rules. Bigger airports have central deicing locations that capture a much higher percentage reduction.

There will be limits in place for the discharge for this size airport, but the 40% reduction will keep them within the limits. The deicer also carries other material with it when it is discharged - some of those things are pretty bad. The other features like smell, color and things like this are not easily controlled.

A baseline study has been done to set a baseline of oxygen level and order and color. One problem is that everything is underground rather than having open areas to reduce pollutants. Currently there are no sample pots in the plan.

What should people do? We will need to be very organized and thoughts developed and show commitment to our comments. It is crucial to have a large showing at the public meeting.

It is important to get an accurate representation of the river or characterization of the river to have a full understanding of the river condition.

Ada meeting on this issue, they were in support of doing additional measures legally if necessary. They were trying to push collective movement. They hope to get more PR on this issue during the public comment period. Ada is in general support of CTRA.

Q Will we know the date of the meeting? Q Can we have a position of no-discharge? We'd like them to use the best available technology. Bishop International went through this a few years ago - Flint had to create a central deicing location. Q Is there a way to force them toward a better solution? The DEQ has not really done their job to hold the airport to the correct standard.

Q What do we do to push for the best solution? Contact representatives, DEQ officials, and such. The DEQ is our Achilles heel. Trout creek resident stated that Trout Creek is dead. One large voice is what is needed. Q What is the difference between a medium and a large hub. If we grow, does this simple inferior plan stay in place? Q What is the township doing to help us? The township is paying no fees in the fight? Q Would the township put into writing the support of the river associations? Q What do we do to reach out NOW? Join an alliance with Western Michigan Environmental, township, river associations and others... Get WEMAC, River

Associations, Township, etc. Q Where is the EPA on this? They have been advised. They say the DEQ is the official body to manage this.

The DEQ has been too easy. There has been lot of turnover there. DEQ is at least kicking them out of the Trout Creek.

Q Any discussion about a legal fight? What is the best thing? Contact the DEQ and the KentCounty aeronautic... Permits section of DEQ is involved Can we ask our political officials to attend a meeting with us all? Q Can we pass a motion in this meeting so we have gone on record? Let's get something on the record.

The centralized pad has retention of 80% to 90%

Motion made, seconded and passed on voice vote (no descent).

Opposing the current plan

Centralized deicing plan - the best available technology

Metric standard of when we start - baseline

Specific way to monitor the system going forward

Request the township to be an active participant.

Restoration of Trout Creek and Plaster Creek

A motion was made and seconded to ask the township for financial assistance for what has been spent and what might be spent. Seconded followed by discussion. Passed by voice vote.

Karen will take the names of volunteers who want to be on a separate committee to help on this issue.

Centralized organization of river associations, township, etc.

WMEC, Township, Ada River association, Plaster Creek, CTRA community meeting to organize strategy and commitment.

Request was made to contact your neighbors and get them involved. Last year a request was made for a donation to help defray costs for

15,469 spending, 4785 donations in 2012

Township meetings are the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month 2-3 minute comment period.

Meeting adjourned by Scott at 8:25 PM.