

As many of you are aware the Gerald R Ford International Airport has a permit to discharge water off site. For the past few decades the majority of the runoff from the airport has been directed to Trout Creek. Trout Creek originates on the North side of the airport and runs parallel to Tanglewood Dr., crossing the Burger Dr. causeway and emptying into the Thornapple River above the Cascade Dam. After years of deicer fluids emptying into this creek a bio film has killed life in the creek. The smell is so strong the residents living near the creek have applied pressure to the DEQ/DNR and forced the airport to find a new way to dispose of the runoff. This new strategy must be implemented prior to October 2015.

The following options seem to have gained the most momentum.

- A. Send some of the runoff from the winter deicing season to the City of Grand Rapids Waste Water Treatment Plant.
- B. Install a filter bed and retention area (to collect as much as possible on site) and bury a direct nearly 9' pipe/ditch near the Thornapple Pointe Golf Course and dump the product into the river near I96.
- C. Install a nearly 9' Pipe or ditch near the Thornapple Pointe Golf Course and dump the product into the river near I96. (And potentially include runoff from the west side of the airport as well)

The DEQ/DNR seems to believe this is a viable option because the higher volume of water flow in the Thornapple River will dilute the chemicals and by routing the flow away from Trout Creek, reduce the smell of the runoff in Trout Creek, which is the *only* issue they are currently addressing. Someone once said the solution to pollution is dilution, but it is surprising that the DEQ may endorse that type of plan. Airports around the country face this same runoff issue, but our airport is located where any uncaptured runoff quickly enters the scenic Thornapple River that is a home to many species of fish and wildlife, and is heavily used for swimming, boating, fishing and other forms of recreation.

Not all the ingredients of the airports deicers and its additives are known. Some are proprietary, known only to the manufacturer. Propylene glycol is the primary deicer used at our airport, but the ingredients of additives used to get the deicer to stick to the plane and behave properly are unknown and could be toxic. Also any thing that spills on the pavement in this area of the airport (fuel, salt etc.) would potentially enter the Thornapple River. As the number of flights increases so will the flow of deicer(s) and other chemicals. I am sure 40 years ago the flow was ignored but as the airport's volume of deicer grew, authorities have shrugged their shoulders at the growing problem. Now dozens of homeowners deal with the strong odor all spring

long, creek life has suffered, and silting has filled in a bayou at the mouth where it enters the Thornapple. What will the effect on the Thornapple River be of a direct pipe? This is unknown, but will increase the volume of runoff and sediment entering the river.

If you are concerned about the possibility of these chemicals entering the Thornapple River in the future I invite you to visit our web site www.cascadethornapple.org Here you can see links to information and updates of our efforts. We will also provide links to a petition that is circulating. PLEASE go to the site and sign the petition! As our board formulates its next step, the best way you can help is to keep informed and involved. Both the Ada and Cascade Thornapple River Associations are working together on this issue.

Recently the President of the Ada Thornapple Association and I sent a letter to the DEQ/DNR requesting that they postpone any decisions until our associations have an opportunity to review proposals and respond. Currently we have hired a consult and are seeking counsel in these matters. Our number one goal is to avoid the pipeline all together. As we move forward and execute our agenda please continue to watch your mail and our web page for more updates and ways you can help. The most valuable thing you can do at this time is let your representatives, senators, township, and airport administrators know how you feel about this.

Thank you, on behalf of the CTRA board,
Scott Rissi
President, Cascade Thornapple River Association.

I believe this information to be as true and accurate as possible based on my experience and research. I will post updates as quickly as I can. However this is an all volunteer board and this is not my expertise, or career.

P.S. For over 60 years the CTRA has been saving dues for just this type of situation. It would be a great time to consider membership or even a donation. Professional help is not free. If your neighbor has not been paying their dues and objects to this pipeline, ask them to join the river association, after all it is only \$35.00 a year, to help protect the most valuable asset most of us have, the value of our homes.

www.cascadethornapple.org