

11-10-2011 update

As many of you have heard our river association is trying to stop the Gerald R Ford International Airport (GRFIA) from dumping its deicer directly into the river. We have been involved with the Ada Thornapple Association on this project. We are having at least one meeting a week with different involved parties. All of the information from these ongoing meetings has been posted on our web page typically within 24hrs of any meeting.

WWW.Cascadehornapple.org

Much of the information is technical; however, I think you can get an understanding on what we are trying to do. The airport will build a pipeline or open tributary into the river in the next 5 years. Our association's goal is to apply pressure on the MDEQ and political people to regulate the airport's discharge. The MDEQ is scheduled in December to release values of how much Propylene Glycol (PG) will be allowed to be dumped into the river. Our hope is that this measureable amount is very low, forcing the airport to build on site treatment or Centralized Deicing Pads. Our association is also working to push the MDEQ into holding the airport responsible for any sediment problems that occur as well.

All of these efforts are putting extreme pressure on our association's cash reserves. While we have been saving for this type of thing for over 60 years, now is the time to consider a donation or membership.

Of the approximate 360 homes with river access only 115 paid dues for 2011. Not only do dues fund our efforts but they also show the public how strong we are. With less than half our potential membership it does not make the CTRA look strong. In the last 60 years our association has worked on projects from big and small. Some are listed below:

- Association said to have formed in the 50's to prevent the city of Grand Rapids from dropping a pipe in the Cascade Impoundment for Drinking water.
- The association petitions the Kent County Sheriffs dept for patrols in the 1980's.
- Association convinces Cascade Township to Purchase Cascade Dam in the 70's
- Association helps form Ada/Cascade watch - A group that monitored and aided in the removal and defeat of the toxic waste dump near 52nd. Street in the 80's
- Association succeeded in persuading Cascade Township not to build a riverside park with public access where the golf course is.
- Stopped a public launch at the Cascade Dam
- A proposed mobile home park was denied to be built at the present golf course site with again the influence of this association.
- Association worked with township and drain commissioner's office to abolish the cascade impoundment tax (for Cascade Dam maintenance) on river front property prior to the re-electrification of the dam.

Now you may not agree with all of these projects, but I think everyone can say the association has been influential and is an important body in protecting the river and your property value. Please ask your neighbors to join. Please feel free to make a donation to our airport efforts if you're already a member.

From the CTRA Board of directors,
Scott Rissi

We need your help!

November 9, 2011

The Cascade Thornapple River Association and Thornapple Association, Inc. are reviewing and assessing Gerald R. Ford International Airport's (GRFIA's) "permitted" practice of discharging anti-icing and de-icing fluids (ADFs) into the local Trout Creek tributary to the Thornapple River in Cascade. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) has documented that the Trout Creek tributary is significantly impaired and Trout Creek does not meet the current Water Quality Standards. The MDEQ has not pursued enforcement action against GRFIA, but has mandated through a recent permit that GRFIA must find a long term solution to address the biofilm impact (solely) to Trout Creek. Using economics as the predominant evaluating criteria for a long term solution, GRFIA recently proposed to install a new discharge pipe/channel for the ADF impacted storm water to discharge directly into Thornapple River. GRFIA's preferred alternative solution does not consider any additional means to reduce the ADF concentration. It just moves the discharge to a new location, right into the Thornapple River! The MDEQ appears to accept the plan without question, since it will resolve the biofilm issue in Trout Creek. As concerned citizens located within the immediate area of the impacted waterway, we need to make our elected and appointed officials aware of the circumstances and details of this important issue, so that we can provide a safe environment and protect our valued surface water resource. For more information and up-to-date details, please visit: www.cascadethornapple.org

Below are the elected and appointed officials that have bearing on this project. The names, addresses, phone numbers, fax numbers and e-mails (those made available) are also provided. Please assist us in this campaign by contacting the following officials and expressing your concern with the current and pending proposal to dump ADF impacted storm water directly into the Thornapple River. Please feel free to utilize the attached letter or formulate your own response as a way to express your dissatisfaction with the proposal/process being presented by the GRFIA.

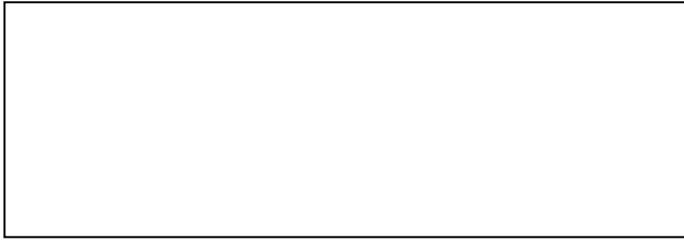
Keep in mind that the amount of propylene glycol used to de-ice a single jet airplane has the equivalent nutrient loading of approximately 1 million gallons of raw sewage!

Please! React quickly and send these letters today!

<p>Mr. Dan Wyant, Director Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Executive Division P.O. Box 30473 Lansing, MI 48909-7973 Phone: (517) 373-7917 Fax: (517) 241-7401 E-Mail: WyantD@michigan.gov</p>	<p>Gerald R. Ford International Airport Aeronautics Board Members Department of Aeronautics 5500 44th Street, SE Grand Rapids, MI 49512-4055 Phone: (616) 233-6000 Fax: (616) 233-6025 E-Mail:</p>
<p>Kent County Board of Commissioners 300 Monroe Avenue, NW Suite 303 Grand Rapids, MI 49503 (616) 632-7590 (General Line) (616) 632-7585 (Board Fax Line)</p>	
<p>Senator Dave Hildenbrand 29th District P.O. Box 30036 Lansing, MI 48909-7536 Phone: (517) 373-1801 Fax: (517) 373-5801 E-Mail: sendhildenbrand@senate.michigan.gov</p>	<p>Senator Mark C. Jansen 28th District P.O. Box 30036 Lansing, MI 48909-7536 Phone: (517) 373-0797 Fax: (517) 373-5236 E-Mail: senmjansen@senate.michigan.gov</p>
<p>Representative Lisa Posthumus Lyons Assistant Majority Floor Leader and House District 86, Alto S-1190 House Office Building P.O. Box 30014 Lansing, MI 48909 Phone: (517) 373-0846 E-Mail: LisaLyons@house.mi.gov</p>	<p>Representative Ken Yonker House District 72, Caledonia N-1091 House Office Building P.O. Box 30014 Lansing, MI 48909 Phone: (517) 373-0840 E-Mail: KenYonker@house.mi.gov</p>

Send the sample letter below (from November 8th) to all of the people listed above. Thank You.

November 8, 2011



Dear

As a resident of the area, I am concerned with Gerald R. Ford International Airport's (GRFIAs) ongoing process of discharging Anti-Icing and De-Icing Fluids (ADFs) into the Trout Creek tributary of the Thornapple River. The high nutrient loading of the ADFs has created a flourish of seasonal bioslime and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) has conducted studies that document the aquatic life has deteriorated due to the excessive ADF loading to the creek. I also understand that significant erosion with large sediment deposits, chemical and anoxic odors, blue-green discoloration and turbidity have been documented in the creek by the MDEQ and residents over the previous decade. I have also been provided information that suggests the ADF fluid is a solvent that is capable of mobilizing other hazardous/toxic substances from the airport tarmac into the creek surface waters, sediments and potentially the groundwater in the area. The creek is used by residents for irrigation and recreational use and the groundwater is used by residents for drinking water purposes. I understand that the GRFIA/MDEQ has done very little to assess these risks.

The MDEQ has not conducted any enforcement or even notified GRFIA of violations in any official documentation. The MDEQ has continued to blindly issue permits for this discharge. As a special condition of the last permit, however, the MDEQ required GRFIA to find a long term solution to specifically resolve the bioslime issue at Trout Creek. The airport's preferred solution included a new direct pipeline/channel to the Thornapple River. The preferred alternative did not include any additional reduction, capture or engineering controls to reduce ADF loading to the water. By purely relocating the discharge from the degraded creek, GRFIA apparently satisfies the special permit condition. GRFIA only appears to be intent on fulfilling the specific permit or regulatory obligations. The MDEQ has failed to initiate appropriate notification and enforcement of the permit and Water Quality Standards. The MDEQ also does not intend to take a specific position relating to the airport's new proposed outfall. The MDEQ's response was "that if it fails at the new location, we will hold them responsible." Where does this stop and when do we hold GRFIA accountable to the rules and laws that govern?

I am requesting that you review/investigate this matter for yourself and provide your residential constituents with some feedback. I do not believe that GRFIA has considered the interest of the residents or the public waterways. I do not feel that our safety and protection of the waterway is being considered in this plan. I also feel that the MDEQ has failed to initiate the appropriate recourse to protect us. GRFIA will not listen to residents unless the MDEQ initiates appropriate enforcement.

Sincerely,