

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
STATE DESIGNATION FOR THE RED CEDAR RIVER TRAIL IN MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP**

At a regular meeting of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held at the Meridian Service Center, in said Township on the 20th day of May 2025 at 6:00 p.m., Local Time.

PRESENT: Supervisor Hendrickson, Clerk Demas, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Trezise,

Trustee Wilson

ABSENT: Trustee Lentz, Trustee Sundland

The following resolution was offered by _____ and supported by _____.

WHEREAS the Red Cedar River Water Trail is a canoe/kayak trail along the Red Cedar River in Ingham County that runs from Williamston, through Meridian Township and merges with the Grand River in downtown Lansing; and

WHEREAS the Red Cedar River has been an underutilized resource, while the river is one of the most significant natural features in Meridian Township, Williamstown Township and the City of Williamston, for a variety of reasons, until recently it was rarely used for recreation; and

WHEREAS over the past few years there has been a broad-based community effort to bring attention to the river, to bring recreation back and to develop the Red Cedar River Water Trail which involved removal of log jams to allow navigation, launch sites have been enhanced, information kiosks have been installed, litter and trash has been removed, and an annual River Day Celebration has been organized; and

WHEREAS to bring the Red Cedar River Water Trail to its full potential it is necessary to seek state designation, the Middle Grand and Lower Grand water trails were previously designated as state water trails and with the addition of the Red Cedar, this will be the longest network of water trails in the state; and

WHEREAS state designation of the Red Cedar River Water Trail will celebrate the Red Cedar River as one of the most important natural features in Meridian Township; recognize the Red Cedar River Water Trail as a significant water trail in the state, one which is exemplary of the diverse landscapes of Meridian Township; expand river-based recreational opportunities for residents and visitors to Meridian Township; offer canoe and kayak trips of varying distances for paddlers and segments that are appropriate for all skill levels and expand fishing and wildlife viewing opportunities; and

WHEREAS state designation of the Red Cedar River Water Trail will also recognize Native American history associated with the Red Cedar River; highlight the Red Cedar River's importance to the development of Meridian Township and provide economic development opportunities for river-based businesses; contribute to the longest water trail

