

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN: Your County Personnel and Human Services Committee respectfully recommends the adoption of the following:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMA), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and Van Buren Conservation District in conjunction with the Southwest Michigan Conservation District has requested GIS parcel data for the purpose of identifying the eastern hemlock trees within a 5 mile (inland) radius of the Berrien County coastline of Lake Michigan to identify and protect the hemlock trees from an invasive species known as "hemlock woolly adelgid" (HWA); and

WHEREAS, if not immediately addressed, this forest pest will continue to spread through Michigan, resulting in lower biodiversity forests, reduced wildlife habitat, and decreased sporting and recreation opportunities in a state with significant economic dependence on outdoor activities; and

WHEREAS, the overall main objective of this project is to map the HWA along the coastal and nearby inland areas of Eastern Lake Michigan (ELM), prioritize treatment areas, increase efficiency and reduce redundancy across multiple partners and efforts, and improve understanding of HWA for both the public and conservation partners; and

WHEREAS, the specific deliverables are to produce a dataset of known HWA throughout ELM, produce/inform/improve a dataset of eastern hemlock and relative hemlock/habitat quality throughout ELM, develop and/or improve survey methodologies, employ dataset for regional and statewide prioritization and actions, provide outreach and education; and

WHEREAS, the Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas accepts full responsibility for the security and use of this "in-kind" contribution which combined is valued at \$25,628.50 and is agreeable to the terms set forth in the Berrien County G.I.S. Digital Data Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Berrien County Board of Commissioners authorizes the GIS Director to execute the Digital Data Agreement with a representative from CISMA and approves the release of the 2019 parcel data for the purposes of providing data for the Michigan invasive species grant program study.

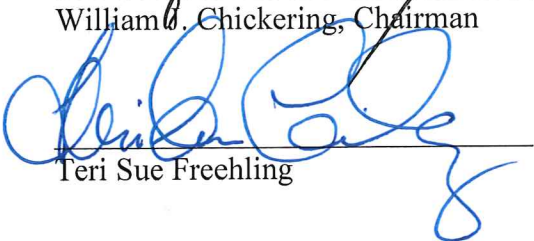
**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
BERRIEN COUNTY PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**



William W. Chickering, Chairman



David Vollrath, Vice-Chairman



Teri Sue Freehling

RESOLUTION APPROVED AS TO FORM	
Administrator <u> </u>	Date <u>3/13/19</u>
Comments Attached <u> </u>	
Corporate Counsel <u>2</u>	Date <u>3-13-19</u>
Comments Attached <u> </u>	