



December 12, 2019

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Mark C. Meyers, City Administrator 

SUBJECT: General Information Packet

Attached are general items of information you may find interesting. If you have any questions or comments regarding the information, please contact me.

MCM/co
Attachments

Administration/City Clerk (231) 798-4391	Assessing Division (231) 799-6806	Building Division (231) 799-6801	Finance/Treasurer (231) 799-6805	Fire Prevention (231) 799-6809	Fire Department (231) 798-2255
Parks/Recreation (231) 799-6802	Planning/Zoning (231) 799-6800	Police Department (231) 733-2691	Public Works (231) 799-6803	Streets Division (231) 798-2156	Water/Sewer (231) 799-6804

Mark Meyers

From: Jake German, DCD <jake@dunaskiss.biz>
Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2019 7:29 AM
To: Mark Meyers
Subject: DCD Early December Newsletter



DCD Early December Newsletter

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

With lawmakers finishing up the last few days of session before break, the legislature restored 27 of Governor Whitmer's 147 line-item vetoes and reversed State Administrative Board transfers in six of the 13 state departments affected by Whitmer's budget shifts. The supplemental bills total \$459.3 million, including \$256.7 million in general fund dollars.

As the Free Press reported last week, "Among the bills passed Wednesday is one to address the State Administrative Board. Whitmer's use of the board to shift budgeted funds has been a major sticking point in the ongoing budget talks. Both sides said negotiations continue about what form that bill will take as part of a final deal."

Here's the breakdown of what made its way back into the supplemental bills:

\$14.8 million in reimbursements to county jails and \$4.5 million to replace electronic tethers for prisoners.

\$15 million to deal with PFAS contaminants at municipal airports, caused by firefighting foam

\$34.2 million, including \$5 million in general fund dollars, to restore funding for critical access to hospitals and \$16.6 million, including \$13.9 million in general fund money, for rural hospitals. And \$675,000 for island hospitals on Beaver Island, Mackinac Island, Drummond Island and Bois Blanc Island

\$1.3 million for autism programs

\$13 million, including \$2 million in general fund dollars, for Michigan State Police secondary road patrols.

\$4 million for a veteran services fund for counties.

\$27.4 million for payment payments in lieu of taxes, which are payments made to local units of government for land owned by the state (usually the Department of Natural Resources) within their boundaries.

\$38 million, including \$3.9 million in general fund money, to restore

scholarships and grants for undergraduate students attending eligible private or independent degree-granting nonprofit institutions.

\$7 million for small isolated school districts.

Another section of the supplemental included items that Governor Whitmer wanted included in the budget that the Legislature had stripped out:

\$1 million for Focus Hope.

\$3.2 million to implement the new no-fault auto insurance reform.

\$2 million to implement Proposal 2, which creates an independent redistricting commission to redraw Michigan's state and federal legislative district lines.

\$10 million to fund the 2020 census.

\$13 million to restore urban transit programs.

\$10.7 million, including \$3.8 million in general fund dollars, for a Medicaid pediatric psych program.

Rest assured that DCD will continue to keep you informed of all happenings from the Capitol while you enjoy this holiday season!

ARTICLES OF POLITICAL INTEREST:

Gov. Whitmer Nears 1 Year in Office: What She Wants to See in 2020

<https://www.freep.com/story/money/business/columnists/carol-cain/2019/12/07/grethen-whitmer-governor-israel/4354923002/>

Pure Michigan Campaign, Roads Absent in Tentative Budget Deal

<https://www.freep.com/story/news/politics/2019/12/06/pure-michigan-campaign-roads-budget-proposal/2622676001/>

Michigan, we have a budget deal. (Give or take \$400 million)

LANSING – It's done. For now.

After weeks of stalled negotiations, fallouts and name-calling, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and legislative leaders agreed on a plan to spend more than half of the nearly \$1 billion that Whitmer vetoed from the budget and restrict her power to move money within state departments.

The House and Senate nearly unanimously passed supplemental spending bills Tuesday that include language allowing the Legislature to reverse transfers made using the State Administrative Board — a rare procedure the governor used in early October to shift \$625 million within state departments.

The language would be binding but only apply to this budget, although a top aide to Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey, R-Clarklake, said it's likely to be included in coming years' budgets.

"I think [the administrative board powers] created a serious problem of being out of balance between the executive office and the Legislature in terms of negotiating and establishing a budget," Shirkey said Tuesday.

"These changes reinstate that balance ... when there is a difference, it forces a negotiation."

There's still more than \$400 million left from Whitmer's line-item vetoes. Lawmakers say they plan to address how to spend that sometime next month.

For now, legislators will return \$573.5 million to several GOP-favorite programs that lost funding under the initial budget — such as rural police patrols, charter schools, autism programming and more — and give money to some programs Whitmer had requested, such as implementation of Medicaid work requirements, IT upgrades, correctional officer training, among other things.

Several interdepartmental transfer reversals are expected to be approved Wednesday. The governor's office did not have an immediate comment on the legislation.

"I support this bipartisan bill and will sign it, honor the terms, and not challenge any of its provisions," Whitmer said in a statement Tuesday. "Let's get it done, and let's stay focused on building a stronger Michigan for everyone."

This year's budget process has been marked by deadlocks, last-minute changes and historic maneuvers. This week's legislation intends to smooth the process in coming years: In addition to giving the Legislature the power to reverse transfers, the legislation would require lawmakers to send a budget to the governor by July 1 and would require the governor to provide notice to the Legislature before using the State Administrative Board.

“The things that were agreed upon are good transparency things,” said Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich, D-Flint. They “still allow us to move forward and have a good conversation going forward about the supplementals and next year’s budget.”

Speaker of the House Lee Chatfield, R-Levering, couldn’t say Tuesday whether next year’s negotiations would be similarly drawn out, but said his relationship with the governor remains strong and that he’s “very optimistic about the upcoming year.”

Two other bills would give the Office of the Auditor General access to certain data for audits.

Similar legislation was vetoed by former Gov. Rick Snyder, a Republican, last year.

By law, governors can only line-item veto parts of the budget that don’t specifically include money. So if the compromise language about the administrative board powers is included in coming years, Whitmer would only be able to veto it by vetoing the entire budget.

Ananich told reporters Tuesday the governor could argue the provision is unenforceable due to precedent, but this year she’s agreed upon it.

“It’s sort of a gesture to say, ‘If we work together, I’m not going to do these things,’” he said.

But Shirkey said he doesn’t expect that to happen: “We’re going to be setting a very strong precedent now that I think will withstand court challenges,” he said.

The supplemental spending bills, which first moved last week, will still reappropriate \$114.5 million for education and \$459 million for other priorities Shirkey called “immediate needs.”

Among those: Funding for early literacy coaches, rural hospitals, county jails, rural police patrols, and money to implement no-fault auto insurance changes, the new independent redistricting commission and the 2020 Census.

Funding for the Pure Michigan tourism campaign wasn’t included, and Shirkey said Tuesday it may be time for the tourism industry to pay the bill.

More than \$400 million remains left over from the line-item vetoes. What will happen to that money?

“I’m happy with where we’re at right now,” Shirkey said. “I can start thinking about what I’m going to get my wife for Christmas, and I’m not going to think about the next supplemental between now and January.”

The Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy

Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy >> University of Michigan

Michigan Public
Policy Survey December 2019

Mixed signals continue for Michigan local governments' fiscal health, while future outlooks worsen

By Debra Horner and Thomas Ivacko

This report presents Michigan local government leaders' assessments of their jurisdictions' fiscal conditions and the actions they plan to take in the coming year given their financial situations. The findings are based on responses from 10 statewide survey waves of the Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS) conducted annually each spring from 2009 through 2019.

>> The Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS) is a census survey of all 1,856 general purpose local governments in Michigan conducted by the Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy (CLOSUP) at the University of Michigan in partnership with the Michigan Municipal League, Michigan Townships Association, and Michigan Association of Counties. The MPPS investigates local officials' opinions and perspectives on a variety of important public policy issues. Respondents for the Spring 2019 wave of the MPPS include county administrators, board chairs, and clerks; city mayors, managers, and clerks; village presidents, managers, and clerks; and township supervisors, managers, and clerks from 1,364 jurisdictions across the state.

For more information, please contact: closup-mpps@umich.edu / (734) 647-4091. You can also follow us on Twitter @closup

CLOSUP

Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy

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UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Key Findings

- The years preceding the Great Recession of 2009 marked a period of Michigan's "one-state recession," with significant and repeated state revenue sharing cuts to local governments beginning in 2001. By comparison, the last decade up to 2019 has been a period of steady economic growth. Nonetheless, less than half (48%) of Michigan local leaders say their jurisdictions are somewhat or significantly better off today than they were before the Great Recession in 2009, and 17% report they are worse off than they were a decade ago.
- Meanwhile, 69% of Michigan local leaders statewide rate the current level of their governments' fiscal stress as relatively low (at 4 or lower on a 10-point scale), up from 62% who said the same last year. While still below the 72% who reported low stress in 2014, this year's ratings are the first uptick since then. Nonetheless, local officials in 7% of Michigan jurisdictions—approximately 130 local governments—report relatively high levels of fiscal stress today, essentially unchanged over the last few years.
- At the same time, despite the improvement in current fiscal stress scores, there was either decline or at least no change in year-over-year assessments of the overall ability of local governments to meet their fiscal needs this year compared with 2018. Today, 36% of local governments say they are better able to meet their fiscal needs compared with last year. This is down slightly from 37% that said the same in 2018. At the same time, 17% say they are less able to meet their needs this year (up from 16% last year), and nearly half (45%) report no change—positive or negative—in their government's fiscal health since last year.
- In 2019, most jurisdictions report continued, if modest, gains in property tax revenues compared with last year, though state aid was mostly flat.
- Approximately a third of county (32%) and village (33%) officials—and over a quarter of city officials (27%)—say their general fund balances are too low. Looking ahead, 32% of local officials statewide predict their jurisdictions will have to increase their reliance on their general fund balances in order to meet their governments' budget needs in the coming year, a slight uptick over 2018.
- When it comes to employee compensation, 63% of local jurisdictions statewide plan to increase employee pay rates next year up from 61% last year and 56% the year before. Just over a quarter (27%) plan to ask employees to contribute more toward premiums, deductibles, and/or co-pays on health insurance, down from 30% in 2018.
- Statewide, 20% plan to increase overall service provision (unchanged from last year). However, in a change from 2018, local officials predict that increased needs in infrastructure and human services, including many jurisdictions with significant increases, may outpace plans for additional spending on those issues.
- Looking ahead, local leaders are less optimistic about economic conditions in their communities: just 49% expect "good times" next year, compared with 55% who said the same in 2018. In addition, increasing numbers of officials from jurisdictions of all sizes predict their governments' fiscal stress will worsen over the next five years.

www.closup.umich.edu



NOTICE
MEETING CANCELLATION

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The December 18, 2019 ZBA meeting has been *cancelled* due to lack of business.


Shelly Stibitz, City Clerk

Posted: 12.9.2019

Ride with Pride Expands to 10 School Districts

ride with pride

www.drugfreemuskegon.org

Ride with Pride is excited to announce its expansion to several new schools in Muskegon County. Existing RWP schools include Mona Shores, Orchard View, Fruitport, Western Michigan Christian, Holton, North Muskegon and Oakridge, who will now be joined by Ravenna, Reeths-Puffer, and Montague for 10 school districts!

During the beginning of this school year, administrators and their local police officers distributed pledges to students to encourage a wide array of positive behaviors including; safe driving; cyber responsibility; abstinence from alcohol, electronic cigarettes, and other drugs; good grades and attendance; and following their school's overall behavior matrix. This program serves as a strong compliment to each building's Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies, which is supported by the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District.

"The students and staff had a lot of fun with the program and especially the assembly where we gave the car away," Principal Luke Tyers of Holton High School explained after completing their first year in the program.



Montague High School and Muskegon ALI Members receiving their car donation from Lakeshore Chrysler for the 2019-2020 school year.

"The excitement in the gym was palpable when the moment came for the students to see who had the key that would start the car. Additionally, the owners of Fremont Ford, who donated the car, had such a great time at the assembly that they offered to sponsor us again before they even left the school. It was a fantastic event," Tyers continued. "I think our participation in the program encourages students to do their best, but it also shows the students how much we appreciate it when they come to school and work to be positive members of our school community."



Oakridge School Staff and Muskegon ALI members celebrate with the winner of the car in 2019.



Muskegon ALI members Muskegon County's Ken Sanford and Norton Shores Officer Jared Passchier with Holton's winner of the car donated by Fremont Ford.

ALI Celebrates Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Month



ALCOHOL
LIABILITY INITIATIVE

www.drugfreemuskegon.org

Muskegon ALI held several events during 2019's Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week October 13 - 18th at Muskegon Community College and Baker College.

In addition to the colleges, five area law enforcement agencies, including Muskegon Police Department, the Muskegon County Sheriff's Department, Norton Shores Police Department, Muskegon Township Police and North Muskegon Police Department participated in the event. Officers offered multiple driving simulator experiences, offered field sobriety testing with students using 'drunk goggles' and shared information about the dangers of drinking or using drugs while driving.

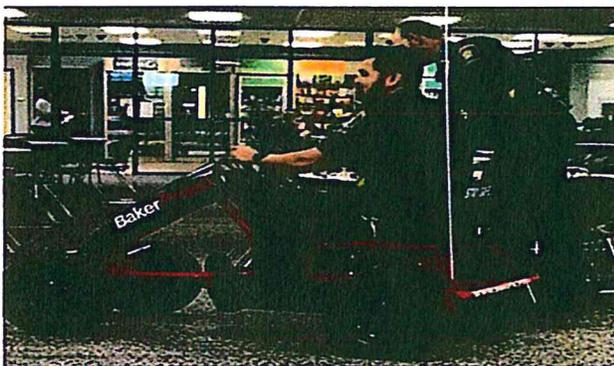
Also featured was a new opportunity for the students to work out with a drumbeats class with Marissa from Water's Edge Fitness. "We wanted to share not only consequences, but that students could use exercise to cope with stress rather than turning to alcohol," said Rachel McCoy, The Health Project's Community Health Improvement Coordinator and longtime Muskegon ALI Facilitator.



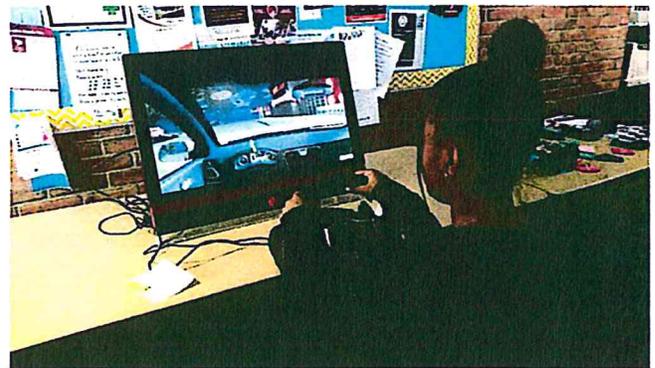
Muskegon ALI showcases Binge Effects Campaign during Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week in October 2019.



Muskegon ALI Members at Baker College



Law enforcement members enjoying a little drive time.



An MCC student gets behind the wheel of a drunk driving simulator.



BE THE LIFELINE PATIENTS NEED.
Give blood.



Norton Shores City Hall

4814 Henry Street

Monday, January 20, 2020
10:00 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

To schedule an appointment email Brian Harris (harris7251@gmail.com),
visit redcrossblood.org (sponsor code: NSPD),
or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Give Something that Means Something® | RedCrossBlood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS

Mark Meyers

From: Jerry Bartoszek
Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2019 11:44 AM
To: Gary Nelund; Heidi K. Tice; Mark Meyers; Mike Huston; Ron Bultje (RBultje@dickinsonwright.com); Sarah Romine; Shelly Stibitz; Steve Biesiada
Subject: Water Authority Meeting

The meeting of the West Michigan Regional Water Authority scheduled for December 17 is being canceled due to a lack of business.

Jerry Bartoszek
Public Works Director
231-799-6803



From: Michigan DNR <MIDNR@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2019 12:57 PM
To: Mark Meyers
Subject: Invasive species update: hemlock woolly adelgid

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Invasive species update: hemlock woolly adelgid

Hemlock woolly adelgid, an invasive insect that can kill Eastern hemlock trees, has infested areas of Allegan, Ottawa, Muskegon and Oceana counties.



A native of Asia, the hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) probably arrived in the eastern U.S. on a shipment of hemlock from Japan. It was first identified in Richmond, Virginia in 1951 and by the 1980s had spread to large tracts of forest in the Appalachian Mountains.

In 2001, an [external quarantine](#) restricted the shipment of hemlock to Michigan from states infested with the adelgid. Isolated populations of HWA were discovered in Michigan beginning in 2006. Though these populations were successfully eradicated by 2015, new infestations were found in Ottawa and Muskegon counties in that same year. Infestations were found in Allegan and Oceana counties in 2017.

Both private and public lands are affected, including seven state parks within these four counties. View a [map of known infestations in Michigan](#) at Michigan.gov/HWA.

The problem:

Hemlock woolly adelgids suck sap out of hemlock trees. Their feeding can kill needles, shoots and branches. Over time, tree growth slows, and trees may take on a grayish-green appearance. Without treatment, infested trees can die within four to 10 years.

Most of Michigan's 170 million hemlocks are found in forests, dunes and river corridors, mainly along the Lake Michigan shoreline and in the northern lower and upper peninsulas. Hemlocks also are found in residential areas, parks and developed areas throughout the state.



Loss of hemlocks would have a significant impact on natural and developed areas in Michigan. Hemlocks provide shelter for deer and nesting birds and keep forest streams - including designated trout streams - cool and clean. Weakened trees on a home or park landscape can become hazards and may have to be removed.

HWA can be moved to new locations on birds, mammals, infested hemlock nursery trees, logs and/or firewood. The insects also can be moved by humans if clothing, vehicles or gear come in contact with an infested tree.

Management:

The Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Coordinating Committee provides direction for survey, management and outreach efforts. It includes representatives from the Michigan departments of Natural Resources and Agriculture and Rural Development, Michigan State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service and the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Department.



Because certain insecticides are effective in treating trees with HWA, it is possible to save hemlocks that have been infested. Currently, management efforts are focused on identifying all existing HWA populations and assuring they are treated in order to contain the infestation.

Management also involves outreach to enlist the public's help in identifying and reporting new HWA locations and preventing the spread of HWA by people and their activities.

Response efforts in Allegan, Ottawa, Muskegon and Oceana counties include surveys of hemlock forests on public and private lands and treatment of infested trees in these areas. Additionally, surveys are underway in

to Emmet in the Lower Peninsula and from Mackinac to Menominee in the Upper Peninsula.

Statewide management efforts are being undertaken by the Michigan departments of Natural Resources and Agriculture and Rural Development, along with Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMAs) which are

groups of non-profit and government agencies, businesses and volunteers working together to tackle invasive species in their regions.

Quarantine:

Along with the 2001 external quarantine, MDARD issued an [internal quarantine](#) in 2017, restricting the movement of hemlock nursery stock and unprocessed hemlock products from or within Allegan, Muskegon, Ottawa and Oceana counties. To date, no infestations have been found outside of this core area.

Public outreach:

Public support is vital. Identifying and reporting populations of hemlock woolly adelgid helps prevent its spread. State agencies and partners are engaged in education and outreach efforts across the state.

Key messages for the public:

- Hemlock woolly adelgid, an invasive tree pest, is infesting Eastern hemlock trees in west Michigan.
- Learn how to identify hemlock trees and hemlock woolly adelgid.
- Check your hemlock trees from late fall to early spring for signs of hemlock woolly adelgid.
- Know how to report hemlock woolly adelgid if you find it.
- Prevent the spread of hemlock woolly adelgid. Do not move hemlock trees, branches or firewood within or out of the quarantine area.

Finding and reporting HWA:

Identify hemlocks

Since HWA feeds and reproduces only on hemlock trees in Michigan, it is important to distinguish hemlocks from other conifers like pines or spruces. Look for:

- Pyramid-shaped trees up to 75 feet tall.
- Drooping or feathery branches.
- Short (1/2 inch), flat needles growing individually from the sides of twigs.
- Needles that are dark green on top with two parallel, white stripes underneath.
- Papery cones about three-quarters of an inch long hanging downward from branches.



Look for HWA



Late fall through early spring is the best time to check hemlock. Look on the undersides of branches for evidence of round, white ovisacs near the base of the needles.

Up close, ovisacs look like balls of spun cotton and may appear alone or in clusters. The short video [Hemlock woolly adelgid: invasive species in Michigan](#) provides helpful identification tips.

Other, less damaging pests easily can be mistaken for hemlock woolly adelgid. Be sure to review photos and descriptions of common hemlock woolly adelgid look-alikes at www.michigan.gov/HWA.

Report findings

Trees infested with HWA should be reported by one of the following means:

- Email the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development at MDA-Info@michigan.gov.
- Phone the MDARD Customer Service Center at 800-292-3939.
- Use the [Midwest Invasive Species Information Network \(MISIN\) online reporting tool](#).
- Download the [MISIN smartphone app](#) and report from your phone.

Be prepared to report the location of infested trees and, whenever possible, take one or two pictures of infested branches to help confirm identification. To avoid spreading hemlock woolly adelgid, do not collect sample branches or twigs. The MISIN smartphone app will take a GPS location point if a report is made at the site; it also will allow you to upload photos with a report.

How you can help:

The cooperation of local leaders like you is essential in helping to spread the word about hemlock woolly adelgid. Please share information about HWA in public meetings, with homeowner and community associations, and through your websites, newsletters and local news media.

Presentation resource: Cheryl Nelson, a forester with the DNR's Forest Health Response Team, is available for presentations in your community. Contact Cheryl at 231-287-1714 or nelsonc6@michigan.gov to arrange a presentation.

Print resources: These materials are available at no charge for distribution in offices or at meetings. Contact Cheryl Nelson at 231-287-1714 or nelsonc6@michigan.gov for more information.

- Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Forest Pest Alert – printable PDF in [large format](#) or [small format](#).
- Hemlock woolly adelgid pocket identification card.

Online resources: Use these resources on websites, social media or for distribution or presentation in meetings.

- Hemlock woolly adelgid website: www.michigan.gov/hwa – identification and reporting information for website or email use.
- [Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Look-Alikes](#) – printable PDF.
- [Hemlock Woolly Adelgid: Invasive Species in Michigan](#) – YouTube video.
- [HWA in Michigan – Recommendations for Landowners](#) (MDARD) – printable PDF.
- [How to treat hemlock trees – guidelines for homeowners](#) (MSUE) – printable PDF.
- [Insecticide application limits for treating hemlock woolly adelgid](#) – printable PDF.

Regional management and contact information:

- Statewide HWA education and outreach

Contact Cheryl Nelson, DNR Forester
231-287-1714
Nelsonc6@michigan.gov

- State Parks

The DNR is surveying state parks on or near the Lake Michigan shoreline and state parks near lake shores in the Upper Peninsula. DNR is treating HWA in Mears, Silver Lake, Duck Lake, Muskegon, P. J. Hoffmaster, Saugatuck Dunes and Holland state parks – spanning the shoreline along the four affected counties. This work is being undertaken by the Michigan Civilian Conservation Corps Forest Health Crew with funding from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

Contact Heidi Frei, DNR Natural Resource Steward & State Park Forest Health
Freih@michigan.gov

- Other State and Federal Land

Other state and federal land within 20 miles of known HWA infestations or within five miles of Lake Michigan is being surveyed by DNR Forest Health Program staff.

Contact James Wieferich, DNR Forest Health Specialist
wieferichj1@michigan.gov

- Allegan, Ottawa, Muskegon and Oceana counties

Infestations on private and municipal lands in Allegan, Ottawa, Muskegon and Oceana counties are being surveyed and managed by the West Michigan CISMA, supported by funding from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program and Ottawa County.

Contact Drew Rayner, West Michigan CISMA Coordinator
616-402-9608

Drew.rayner@macd.org

- Berrien, Van Buren, Mason, Manistee, Benzie, Leelanau, Grand Traverse, Antrim, Charlevoix and Emmet counties

In west coast counties outside the infested area, hemlock stands within five miles of the Lake Michigan shoreline are being surveyed through a collaborative effort between the Nature Conservancy, the Michigan Dune Alliance and **CISMAs** serving these counties. Survey efforts are supported by the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program.

Contact Kaldis Grants, Conservation Associate with The Nature Conservancy
(616) 916-5257

Kaldis.grants@tnc.org

- Mackinac, Schoolcraft, Delta and Menominee counties

In the Upper Peninsula, surveying along Lake Michigan is being conducted by multiple CISMAs under the direction of the Alger Conservation District and Lake to Lake CISMA. Survey efforts are supported by the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program.

Contact Teri Grout, Alger Conservation District Executive Director
906-387-2222

teri.grout@macd.org

Michigan's Invasive Species Program is cooperatively implemented by the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy; the Department of Natural Resources; and the Department of Agriculture & Rural Development.

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