

# **RESOLUTION NO. 10-2017-09**

## **MICHIGAN STATE PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MSPAC)**

### **RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE “RESOLUTION ON HEMLOCK WOOLY ADELGID AND OTHER INVASIVE SPECIES”**

**ADOPTED: October 12, 2017**

**WHEREAS**, Michigan’s forest trees have been assaulted by deadly, invasive, exotic organisms over the years – beginning with Chestnut Blight (killed 4 million trees in North America a century ago) and Dutch Elm Disease (reaching Michigan in the 1950’s, wiping out most of our much loved trees); and

**WHEREAS**, the number of these assaults is now increasing rapidly, with a wider number of pathogens and a wider number of tree species involved – now including many Oaks, Eastern Hemlock, and American Beech (among others); and

**WHEREAS**, we have recently experienced the loss of millions of American Ash (the entire genus of Ash species, may reach 8.7 billion trees in North America), a significant part of many forests in southern Michigan, and an important economic species; and

**WHEREAS**, this loss has been devastating for many state parks, including significantly changing campground experiences; and

**WHEREAS**, to lose many Oaks, Hemlock and Beech from our Parks, sand dunes, and the fabric of our broader forests would amount to a withering catastrophe for the economical, ecological, and aesthetic values the people of Michigan hold dear; and

**WHEREAS**, efforts by government agencies in Michigan have so far proved lacking and essentially inadequate in tracking and combatting these diseases, alarm bells have not been rung; and

**WHEREAS**, few people in Michigan are informed about these threats including decision makers in most corners of government, yet the impacts of so many lost species in our forests could be overwhelming; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid is an insect with relatively slow evolving impact on an infected tree (five years or so to death); and

**WHEREAS**, orchestrating a concerted and effective effort at eradicating or containing this insect would mean the difference between retaining this species in our forests or losing millions of trees; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee considers these threats to our forests as a disaster in the making, not just for our parks, but for the forests and fisheries of Michigan, and therefor for the people of Michigan;

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**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee requests the Director, along with staff; to work as soon as possible to convene a broad-based task force of leaders of key government and non-government agencies; governor's office, legislature, MDARD Director, Forest, Fisheries, Parks Chiefs, tourism officials, environmental leaders, parks leaders and forest industry leaders.

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee further recommends that the purpose of such a task force should be to gain broad public awareness of these problems, to gain broad support within agencies, to design clear roadmaps ahead for how best to deal with these problems, and to gain definite, adequate and sustained funding for concerted, effective action on them, beginning with immediate work on the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid.

Submitted by: MSPAC Stewardship Subcommittee Chair, Christopher Graham

**Yeas: 10**

**Nays: 0**

**Abstained: 0**

**Absent: 5**

*This Resolution was adopted by the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee at their regular meeting on October 12, 2017 as Resolution No. 10-2017-09*