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Alpena County Board of Commissioners
720 W Chisholm Street
Alpena, MI 49707

Dear Board of Commissioners,

My name is Amber Hubbard and I am the Coastal Stewardship Coordinator at Huron Pines. Through my role, I facilitate invasive species management, restoration, and outreach across five coastal counties in northeast Michigan. I am looking forward to attending the Alpena County Board of Commissioners meeting on March 26th to share the results of our Alpena County Invasive Species Assessment and details for the Lake Huron Forever Pledge Kick-off event. In preparation for the meeting, I wanted to share a few items with you that will provide additional context for the topics I'll be covering. Below you'll find an executive summary which describes the background and purpose of the Alpena County Invasive Species Assessment, as well as the tentative agenda for our Lake Huron Forever Pledge Kick-off event. Additionally, I have a few questions that I would appreciate your feedback on regarding the invasive species assessment and Lake Huron Forever Kick-off event:

- In your opinion, which county government committees or entities could utilize information from the invasive species assessment?
- What interests do you have in learning more about invasive species? What specific knowledge would you like to gain or strengthen?
- Having participation from the county and decision making bodies like the Commission is important for that event to be successful. How can we make that connection and who might we invite specifically?

Thank you for your time and I look forward to seeing you on March 26th.
Sincerely,

Executive Summary

Background

Through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's *Sustain Our Great Lakes Program*, Huron Pines was awarded funding to restore ecologically valuable habitats along the coast of Lake Huron and improve our understanding of invasive species distribution on the landscape. This project included extensive surveys of county-wide road systems, which often act as pathways for the spread of invasive species, as well as the development of invasive species assessment reports for Iosco, Alcona, Alpena, Presque Isle, and Cheboygan Counties. Each report contains information pertaining to the status and distribution of invasive species across the county, species-specific impacts, and management recommendations. Through these reports, Huron Pines hopes to raise public awareness for invasive species and empower municipalities, utility professionals, and other interest groups to utilize the report as a decision support tool for managing invasive species in their communities.

Why did we create the County Invasive Species Assessments?

In the last five years, Huron Pines has worked diligently to identify and report populations of priority invasive species across its broad service area. These reports provided us with the opportunity to compile and present invasive species distribution data at a regional scale in one concise and informative working document. We hope to update each assessment every 3-5 years to accurately reflect invasive species trends on the landscape and inform local management efforts.

Goals of the Assessment

The Alpena County Invasive Species Assessment will be used to educate the public about local invasive species concerns and provide a decision support tool for municipalities, utility professionals, and other entities who are interested in managing invasive species.

How can you use the assessment?

There are a variety of roles individuals, organizations, and municipalities can play in awareness, prevention, control, and restoration of invasive species within their local communities. The Alpena County Invasive Species Assessment can be used as a tool to help identify actions that support the County's Lake Huron Forever Pledge goals, especially those related to invasive species management, educational outreach, and skill development.