



500 West Big Beaver
Troy, MI 48084
troymi.gov

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

Date: 06/27/2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Troy City Council

From: Mark F. Miller, City Manager
Lori Grigg Bluhm, City Attorney
Robert J. Bruner, Assistant City Manager
Kurt Bovensiepe, Public Works Director

Subject: Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMA)

During the June 17, 2019 Troy City Council Meeting, Erica Clites and Chris Bunch representing the Oakland County Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) presented opportunities the City of Troy could participate in to assist with removing invasive species. City Council gave consensus for City Staff to investigate the opportunity further and provide a report of their findings.

In June of 2018, City Staff investigated this same opportunity and contacted the local Oakland County CISMA to inquire what the organization could offer the City of Troy. Emily Dutchinh, Executive Director at the time, stated the CISMA could offer public presentations on invasive species, assist with invasive species ordinances, resident literature, and also possibly offer invasive species removal assistance in the future. City administration committed to re-evaluate the benefits of joining CISMA and determine if it is able to dedicate the necessary resources to take advantage of the membership.

After investigating this opportunity again and inquiring additional information from the CISMA it is City Administration's recommendation that the City of Troy not join the Oakland County CISMA at this time for the listed reasons.

- Membership requires a staff person to attend monthly meetings and is also expected to participate in ad hoc committees and in any activities - including assisting with grant applications, providing expertise and insight, develop public relations and education and initiatives, etc.. The Department of Public Works does not have the available staff resources to commit to this requirement.
- If a member expects to receive the benefits of a grant, they must provide the required matching funds. This could be problematic as most of the invasive species are on private property and we are not able to use public funds on private property. In addition, CISMA is not a separate "legal entity" and therefore the members (Cities or non-profits) would need to be the applicant. The City could apply for these same grants without joining CISMA.
- This is an inter-local agreement, which is usually between governmental entities that agree to join together to jointly perform their obligations. Non-profit entities are also allowed as members. This may impact the governmental immunity, even with the language that it is designed to be preserved.

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- The annual recommended contribution is \$250. This does not cover any additional cost for a project or grant that may take part in Troy.

At this time, City Administration will continue to use current resources, including language in Chapter 82, to assist in controlling invasive species. In our opinion, the benefits of joining CISMA are outweighed at this time by the time and resources required of membership.