

# Michigan Association of Conservation Districts

## Resolution 3-2009

### *Resolution to direct NACD to address the Great Lakes as a Region of National Significance*

**Whereas**, the Great Lakes ecosystem encompasses the largest freshwater system on Earth, one-tenth of the population of the United States and one-quarter of the population of Canada, and

**Whereas**, the Great Lakes ecosystem has obtained national significance and commitment as reflected through the May 2004 Presidential Executive Order recognizing the Great Lakes as a national treasure and calling for the creation of a “Regional Collaboration of National Significance,” and a cabinet-level federal Great Lakes Interagency Task Force, and

**Whereas**, Federally, a significant five year initiative titled the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative has been codified in law as an interagency initiative led by the Environmental Protection Agency that targets the most significant resource concerns in the region, including invasive aquatic species, non-point source pollution, and contaminated sediment, and

**Whereas**, the National Association of Conservation Districts provides leadership and a nationally unified voice to represent local conservation districts as their advocate on conservation issues which have been identified and are yet to be identified, and

**Whereas**, the National Association of Conservation Districts works with the Environmental Protection Agency and other federal agencies to build partnerships that address local district priorities and programs that positively impact our nation’s natural resources,

**Therefore be it resolved**, that the National Association of Conservation Districts will provide effort and focus for the Great Lakes ecosystem as a region of national significance, and provide active advocacy in national efforts to address Great Lakes ecosystem issues, like and including the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, and

**Therefore be it further resolved**, that the National Association of Conservation Districts will work to further partnerships with the Environmental Protection Agency, other federal and state agencies, and organizations in order to integrate the utilization of local conservation districts within the Great Lakes ecosystem in the delivery of programs and initiatives through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and like programs.

Submitted by, the Manistee Conservation District

Approved as amended – MACD 2009 General Assembly. December 17, 2009