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**LAND CONSERVANCY OF WEST MICHIGAN HIRES
PETER HOMEYER AS NEW DIRECTOR**

Grand Rapids – The Land Conservancy of West Michigan announced today the hiring of Peter Homeyer as the organization’s new Executive Director. Homeyer replaces Julie Stoneman who left the organization for personal reasons in September 2008

Homeyer has been a member of the Land Conservancy staff since 2005, serving as the Development Coordinator and, more recently, the Interim Executive Director. In addition, he is a long-time supporter of the organization, having been a member since 2000.

A nation-wide search for the new Executive Director was conducted by a search committee and the Board of Directors. While several outstanding candidates were interviewed, Homeyer rose to the top and was unanimously recommended by the search committee and Board of Directors.

“Peter has been an exceptional asset to the Land Conservancy for the last four years,” said Rick Chapla, President of the Land Conservancy’s Board of Directors. “His outstanding work ethic, ability to show grace under pressure and passion for West Michigan’s natural lands make him a perfect fit for the position.”

Homeyer assumes the position of Executive Director immediately. “As a thirty-year resident of West Michigan I see our remaining open spaces as a critical link not only to our past but to our future as well,” Homeyer said. “*Keeping nature nearby*, preserving natural and scenic places close to where we live, work, and play, is a mission I believe must engage all of us.”

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The Land Conservancy of West Michigan is a local, nonprofit organization that preserves natural land and open space in eight West Michigan counties. It is the only organization devoted solely to preserving natural and scenic lands that are an important part of West Michigan’s community character. With over thirty years of experience keeping nature nearby, the Land Conservancy has protected more than 5,000 acres with nature preserves, conservation easements, and project assistance to local governments.