



## COUNTY OF ST. CLAIR

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR/CONTROLLER



### PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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### **Blue Water Convention Center Update**

As most of you know, the former Thomas Edison Inn and the surrounding properties are being developed and/or renovated. There are four main projects being developed simultaneously: Renovation of former TEI by JB Development into the DoubleTree by Hilton, Renovation of the restaurant by Meritage Group, the Culinary Institute by Baker College and a Convention Facility by St. Clair County.

The first three phases, which are owned and operated by private developers, are now complete. The final phase is the construction of the Blue Water Convention Center by the County of St. Clair, which will include approximately 20,000 square feet of event hall plus the renovation of existing conference rooms. The County Board of Commissioners approved the project on December 14, 2011 in an amount not to exceed \$9 million. In order to further stimulate the local economy, the County Board of Commissioner also set a goal of 70% of the labor and materials for the construction of the convention center are to be provided by local laborers and vendors.

The Ballroom and renovation portion of the project, which was bid out in November 2013, is now 95% complete. The ballroom received an upgrade to the lighting system, new flooring, wall coverings, etc. Due to the current levels of frost, we do not anticipate breaking ground until spring for the Event Hall. However, the County expects to be awarding construction contracts in the very near future. Final bids for the Event Hall are due on March 6, 2014.

## END ##