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For Immediate Release

St. Clair County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority is Successful in Securing EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant Funding

Port Huron, MI — The St. Clair County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (SCCBRA) and the Authority's coalition partners, the St. Clair Land Bank Authority, the Cities of Marysville and Port Huron and Port Huron Township, were successful in securing \$400,000 in U.S. EPA Brownfield Coalition Assessment Grant funds to assess abandoned and contaminated properties. The funding was awarded through the EPA's Brownfields program and includes funding for both Hazardous Substances and Petroleum assessments. This grant will provide the resources not only for environmental assessments, but also for cleanup planning and community outreach activities.

These are very competitive grant funds; in Michigan, only five communities received the federal funds out of 22 applicants. In total, 172 communities and organizations across the country were awarded the grants. "EPA is committed to working with communities to redevelop Brownfields sites which have plagued their neighborhoods. EPA's Assessment and Cleanup grants target communities that are economically disadvantaged and include places where environmental cleanup and new jobs are most needed," said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. The communities that received funding have demonstrated leadership and have developed strong local partnerships. They also possess the skills necessary to transform brownfield sites into sites with productive uses, which will benefit targeted areas and the community.

The coalition was fortunate to receive a \$1,000,000 U.S. EPA Brownfield Coalition Assessment Grant in 2010 for hazardous and petroleum sites. With these funds, the coalition assessed 42 sites in nine communities. The assessments addressed approximately 693 acres with hazardous substances impacts and over 93 acres associated with petroleum impacts, resulting in over 1,400 new jobs, 264 retained jobs, and over \$160 million in investment. The St. Clair County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority has demonstrated success and competence in managing brownfield redevelopment grants in the past and is experienced in Brownfield Redevelopment. These new grant funds will help the County build upon those successes.

To learn about the SCCBRA and how to submit a project application, please contact Geoff Donaldson, Senior Planner for the St. Clair County Metropolitan Planning Commission, at (810) 989-6950.

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