

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Press Release (*MDEQ Awards DWCPA Coastal Zone Management Grant*)

**PORT AUTHORITY TO DEVELOP GREAT LAKES
ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND EDUCATION PROGRAM**

Detroit, Michigan: The Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority (DWCPA) will use a November 2004 grant award by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), to develop monitoring and education displays focused on Great Lakes environmental issues. It is expected that such a program could utilize space in the DWCPA upcoming Public Dock & Terminal project, to be located at the foot of Bates Street, along Atwater Street, on the downtown Detroit waterfront.

With the help of funding secured through the MDEQ, Coastal Zone Management Program (DEQ/CZM), an interior program for the first-floor is being developed that would create an environmental monitoring and education center complete with interactive/hands-on educational displays. The DWCPA is proposing an educational program focused specifically on the Great Lakes, its health, ecology and diverse uses, through a partnership with other regional, state and national agencies.

“It’s no secret that Great Lakes environmental issues are at the forefront of Michigan’s political landscape,” said Curtis Hertel, Executive Director of the DWCPA. “Together with the City of Detroit, General Motors and Detroit Riverfront Conservancy, we will do our best to educate visitors and citizens of Michigan alike, the importance of our Detroit River and Great Lakes.”

It is anticipated over the next year that the DWCPA will seek input and project suggestions from dozens of public and private sector stakeholders. It is expected that aquatic nuisance species, water management and water quality topics will be covered, including many other typical observation values such as Detroit River temperature, evaporation, flow rates, among others. This data will then be integrated into educational and interpretive displays for visitors to the DWCPA’s new Public Dock & Terminal.

“Typically, people think that the Port Authority is only interested in seawalls and other industrial features along the waterfront, but we also have a very progressive economic development program,” said John Kerr, Director of Economic Development & Grants Management for the DWCPA. “Good economic development also includes sound environmental stewardship principles. They don’t have to be mutually exclusive,” said Kerr.

The final planning document will be done by the first-quarter of 2006. For more information contact John Kerr at (313) 331-3842 ext. 311.

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