

October 24, 2003

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**GREATER DETROIT AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER
INITIATIVE HOSTS SOFT ENGINEERING TRAINING AND
DEMONSTRATION WORKSHOP**

Detroit, Michigan, October 24, 2003- On October 29-30, 2003, the Greater Detroit American Heritage River Initiative in conjunction with the Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority (DWCPA), City of Detroit and the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy, Inc. will host “Environmentally Sensitive Shoreline Stabilization: A Soft Engineering Training and Demonstration Workshop.” The workshop will be held at the Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center. A hands-on field installation will be conducted for workshop participants on Thursday, October 30, 2003 at Detroit’s Belle Isle Park. (Rain date October 31, 2003)

Registration is at 8:00 a.m., Wednesday, October 29 at the Mackinac Ballroom of the Marriott Renaissance Center. The enrollment fee is \$100.00 and includes two lunches, refreshment breaks, Bio-Draw 2.0 reference CD and handout materials.

Scholarships may be available.

“Supporting this seminar is another way the Port Authority can help Detroit find

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sustainable engineering practices to stabilize the Detroit River shoreline and play a major role in preserving this priceless natural resource,” said Curtis Hertel, DWCPA’s Executive Director. “We encourage engineers; federal, state, and local regulatory personnel; federal, state, local planning personnel; landscape architects; Soil Conservation District/Drain Commissioner’s Office personnel and private citizens to attend.” Hertel will give welcoming remarks on Wednesday, October 29, along with Faye Nelson, Chief Executive Officer, Detroit Riverfront Conservancy Inc.

The two day workshop will provide information that will help incorporate soft engineering practices into future waterfront designs. These designs will identify opportunities and partnerships that will integrate ecological, economic and societal objectives. Speakers include nationally-renowned experts: John McCullah, President , Salix Applied Earthcare, Inc.; Don Gray, Ph.D., Emeritus Professor of Civil & Environmental Engineer, University of Michigan; John Gannon, Ph.D., International Joint Commission; Steven Daly, Ph.D., Research Hydraulic Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Ice Engineering Research Group; Dave Burgdorf, Plant Materials Specialist, USDA Natural Resources Conversation Service; Doug Shields, Ph.D., Research Hydraulic Engineer, USDA ARS National Sedimentation Lab and Chris Lehr, President and Restoration Biologist, Nativescape LLC. Other funding partners are: Garden Club of Michigan, Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control, Michigan State University Extension, NOAA Michigan Sea Grant College Program and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. For more information please contact Mark Breederland at (810) 989-6323.

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