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Media Release

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For Immediate Release

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Macomb County receives 2011 Lighthouse Award from MBIA

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich. – The Michigan Boating Industries Association awarded Macomb County Executive Mark A. Hackel; Manager of Land and Water Gerard P. Santoro; and Macomb County as recipients of the 2011 Lighthouse Award. The honor was presented at the association’s annual Recreational Boating Education Conference on December 1.

Macomb County was honored for its efforts to promote Michigan’s recreational boating and marine industries as well as for the county’s ongoing support for MBIA.

“Macomb County and its executives have been extremely supportive of both the boating industry in Michigan as well as the MBIA members doing business in this boating county,” said John Ropp, MBIA president. “We feel they are worthy of recognition with an MBIA Lighthouse Award for Macomb County’s support as well as for their desire to make waters accessible to more people through their ‘Main Stream Main Street’ river initiative.”

Part of Mark Hackel’s “Blue Economy Initiative,” the program is studying the natural assets of the lake and its tributaries and developing a three-pronged approach for achieving sustainability: environmental stewardship, economic development and quality of life. Some of the early successes of the initiative helped to bring the MBIA Outdoor Living and Boat Show to Metro Beach, attracted a new canoe livery to downtown Utica and developed the Lake St. Clair Coastal Paddling Trail.

“We have amazing water resources with so much potential right here in Macomb County,” said Hackel. “We are working to increase access to Lake St. Clair for the general public, expand recreational opportunities and explore how its freshwater bounty can help to create jobs and investment.”

Santoro heads up the initiative within the Department of Planning and Economic Development. Through his leadership, the Blue Economy Initiative is collaborating with local, regional, state and federal organizations.

- More -

For more information about Lake St. Clair: www.TourLakeStClair.org

Michigan Boating Industries Association: www.mbia.org



Steve Remias of MacRay Harbor and Gerard Santoro with John Ropp of the MBIA (MBIA photo)

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