



March 20, 2012

PRESS RELEASE - Submitted by Sheboygan County & City of Sheboygan
For immediate release

Sheboygan River Harbor Dredging Project Moving Forward

The Sheboygan River Harbor project team is pleased to announce that the dredging work east of the 8th Street Bridge will move forward. The project team, consisting of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the US Army Corps of Engineers, UW-Extension, City of Sheboygan, and Sheboygan County, found the means and the money to transport the dredged sediment to a licensed disposal facility outside of the County.

Late this winter the dredging project east of the 8th Street Bridge was put in jeopardy when the Town of Sheboygan Falls Board denied (following the unanimous approval of their Plan Commission) the County's conditional use request to place the non-hazardous dredged sediment at the Sheboygan County Memorial Airport. However, through extraordinary teamwork, the project team worked relentlessly to find the additional resources needed to transport the material to a licensed landfill outside of the County.

As the local project sponsors, the City of Sheboygan and Sheboygan County are required to provide a local cost share to assist with this project. In addition to the \$100,000 already committed, both units of government will need to provide an additional \$250,000 each. This funding, which equates to less than one percent of the total investment, will ultimately help leverage nearly \$100 million to clean up and restore the Sheboygan River and Harbor.

"This project has taken considerable time and effort by all involved, but in the grand scheme of things, our local match is a small price to pay for a clean, robust, and navigable river and harbor. The economic, environmental, and recreational opportunities this project presents for our entire region are phenomenal," said County Administrator Adam Payne.

Sheboygan Mayor Terry Van Akkeren said, "The process has taken over 30 years to get to this point, and I'm so thankful to all involved who worked so hard to make this complex and seemingly impossible endeavor come to fruition."

A number of details must still be worked out such as boating activity in the river, the start dates for the various projects taking place as well as work schedules and trucking routes. City Administrator Jim Amodeo stated, "Besides the flurry of activity in the river, the City streets will see an

extraordinary amount of activity. We ask for the community's patience throughout the summer." City Development Manager Chad Pelishek added, "It will be a hassle for some businesses and commuters at times, but the end result is huge and benefits all of the County's citizens and our visitors alike." Planning and Conservation Director Aaron Brault said, "We truly all worked together to overcome difficult barriers and never gave up."

County Board Chairman Mike Vandersteen said, "Adam Payne, Aaron Brault, Chad Pelishek, and many others went above and beyond to see this come to fruition. I am so proud that we were able to see this through and appreciate the support of the County Board and City Common Council."

Over 24,000 truckloads of sediment will be removed from the river this summer, with 12,000 of those coming from the area east of the 8th Street Bridge. There are a number of aspects of the project that citizens should be aware of including the following:

- In order to complete the projects by the target date of September 30, 2012, the dredging projects will potentially be a 24 hour a day, 7 days a week operation.
- There will be dust. The contractor and the City of Sheboygan Public Works Department will work to keep the streets clean.
- There will be noise.
- There will be bright lights at each of the dredging dewatering sites throughout the night.
- There will be significant amounts of truck traffic.
- There will be impacts to the boating community – actual boating traffic on the river, moving of docks, and dock relocation schedules, etc.
- There will be impacts to businesses, both those who use the river for business, and those who are located adjacent to the river.
- Both river boat launches at 8th Street and 14th Street will be closed for the 2012 season.
- Kayakers/canoe users are strongly encouraged to refrain from the areas where dredging is taking place due to safety concerns. Consider alternative routes upriver of the Taylor Drive Bridge for kayaking and canoeing.
- The boardwalk on South Pier at the off-loading site (area between former C Reiss Condos and the fish cleaning station) will be closed to pedestrian use. Pedestrians will be re-routed to the other side of the street.

The project team will make every effort to coordinate with all parties involved. Due to the complexity of the project, we need everyone's help in making the project a success. This is truly an endeavor that will affect the entire community. It is important that we all work together and communicate openly. We ask for your patience and cooperation.

When the dredging begins, public informational meetings will be scheduled weekly. Information regarding schedules and project updates will be posted on the City of Sheboygan, Sheboygan County and UW-Extension's websites. Questions and concerns should be directed to the City of Sheboygan Department of Planning and Development (459-3377) throughout the construction season.

On behalf of the project team we thank the community for their support, cooperation, and patience.

For more information, please contact Adam Payne, Aaron Brault, Jim Amodeo, or Chad Pelishek.