

PRESS RELEASE

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**COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT RELEASES MINI DOCUMENTARY
SHOWCASING ONGOING CLEANUP EFFORTS FOR THE RIVER RAISIN**

(MONROE, MI) – The City of Monroe’s Commission on the Environment and Water Quality (COTE) has released a mini documentary film detailing the extensive remediation cleanup work, habitat restoration and recreational enhancements that have taken place in the River Raisin over the past two decades.

The video can be viewed on the River Raisin Legacy Project web site:

<http://www.riverraisinlegacyproject.com/>

Filmed over the course of the past year, the eleven minute video documents the recent work on the River Raisin to delist it as an Area of Concern (AOC), which includes removal of dams, installation of fish passages, and reinvigoration of the natural environment. It features interviews with Jon Allan, Director of the Michigan Office of the Great Lakes (OGL), Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ); Mark Tuchman, Environmental Scientist with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA); Scott Cieniawski, Section Chief US EPA, Great Lakes National Program Office; Michelle Selzer, Lake Erie Coordinator, MOGL; as well as local citizens Dan Stefanski and Richard Micka – longtime champions of the River Raisin come-back, members of the River Raisin Public Advisory Council and COTE.

Made possible by funding through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative administered by the Michigan Areas of Concern Program, Office of the Great Lakes, Department of Environmental Quality, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and the Environmental Protection Agency for the River Raisin film enhances existing educational outreach material and initiatives COTE has released.

Through past grants, the COTE/City of Monroe and its partners have removed dams and created passages permitting fish to migrate, for the first time in over 80 years, a twenty-three mile stretch of the River. The documentary showcases the relentless efforts of volunteers, staff and key stakeholders to restore the ecology and natural beauty, as well as the cultural and recreational value of this regional asset including fishing, kayaking, wildlife viewing and more. It is the hope of COTE that the film can serve as a model and inspiration to other AOCs and citizens, as well as local and regional stakeholders.

COTE intends to use this mini documentary and footage to seek funding and support for a full-length documentary film to further its educational outreach and awareness. Such a project would share the River Raisin Legacy Project narrative with wider audience through distribution with a much broader scope that could include a television release.

In addition to the grant funding acquired, COTE volunteers served as the producers of this production to assist and project manage the video production recording, coordination, access, asset collection and supplemental background aspects of the project.

COTE chairperson, Brian James Egen: "This is a positive statement of Monroe's hard work on a federally funded issue. With the assistance of many local, state and federal partners, the legacy of the River Raisin will continue as a positive contribution for our children and future generations."

Incorporated in 1817, the City of Monroe is a community that has a shared vision that seeks to balance the opportunities of economic development with the stewardship that is required for historic preservation. With a population of 20,733, Monroe is located about 17-miles north of Toledo, Ohio and about 35-miles south of Detroit. The City of Monroe is Michigan's third oldest community, and is also the county seat of Monroe County. Continually moving forward with innovative vision, the City of Monroe is Raisin' Expectations.

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