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**Sheboygan River AOC Habitat Restoration Project Named to
APWA 2014 National Public Works Projects of the Year**

KANSAS CITY, MO. – Sheboygan, Wisconsin’s Sheboygan River Area of Concern (AOC) Habitat Restoration Project, was recently named a 2014 Public Works Project of the Year by the American Public Works Association (APWA). The City of Sheboygan Department of Public Works, as the managing agency; Lee & Ryan, as the primary contractor; and Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc. (SEH®) as the primary consultant; will all be presented with the national Project of the Year Award during APWA’s 2014 International Public Works Congress & Exposition Awards Ceremony in Toronto, Ontario, Canada during August 17-20, 2014.

The APWA Public Works Projects of the Year awards are presented annually to promote excellence in the management and administration of public works projects, recognizing the alliance between the managing agency, contractor, consultant and their cooperative achievements. This year, APWA selected projects in five categories: Disaster/Emergency, Environment, Historical Restoration, Structures and Transportation. Sheboygan River AOC Habitat Restoration was awarded in the APWA Project of the Year Environment category at a cost less than \$5 million.

In 1985, the lower Sheboygan River and Harbor were designated an AOC by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) due to water quality and habitat degradation resulting from chemical, physical and biological alternations to these water bodies. Repeated disturbances had resulted in significant negative impacts to native species and the introduction of non-native, invasive plant and animal species into the watershed. To partially address habitat-related impairments and move towards AOC delisting, a group of local government entities, including the City of Sheboygan, Sheboygan County and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) undertook the planning, design and construction of three habitat restoration projects along the Sheboygan River.

Project sites included the Taylor Drive and Indiana Avenue, Wildwood Island Site, and Kiwanis Park. Restoration objectives included: establishment of emergent riparian habitat and a native vegetation buffer; re-grading and reinforcement of slopes for stabilization; reduction of stormwater impacts; establishment of migratory bird, shorebird fisheries and herptile habitat; establishment or restoration of riparian wetlands; and enhancement of public access facilities. A variety of bioengineering techniques were applied that provided stream bank stability and incorporated shoreline and aquatic habitat improvements for fish, herptiles, and birds specific to the identified species of concern. An important component for each of the sites was the development of a native plant community restoration plan.

The overall goal of the Sheboygan River AOC Habitat Restoration Project was to: restore, enhance or protect the connectivity, quality and quantity of desired fish and wildlife habitat within the three

restoration project sites. The construction project was funded by a \$4.5 Million Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Grant acquired by the WDNR.

For more information on the APWA 2014 Projects of the Year, please contact APWA Media Relations/Communications Manager, Laura Bynum, lbynum@apwa.net, or call 202.218.6736.

About APWA

The American Public Works Association (www.apwa.net) is a not-for-profit, international organization of more than 28,500 members involved in the field of public works. APWA serves its members by promoting professional excellence and public awareness through education, advocacy and the exchange of knowledge. APWA is headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri, has an office in Washington, D.C. and 63 chapters in North America.

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