



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Port Authority Hires Director of Sustainable Infrastructure Programs

Cleveland, Oh – July 20, 2011—The Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority has hired James White, a highly regarded expert on Great Lakes and Cuyahoga River issues, as its first Director of Sustainable Infrastructure Programs.

White's appointment to the new position reflects the Port's intent to link economic and environmental revitalization with innovative, sound, and environmentally-friendly initiatives. White will lead programs to integrate sustainable practices across Port activities; oversee Port work to develop a market for sediment dredged from the river so it can be put to beneficial use; and, manage renewal projects on the Cuyahoga River, including a debris-removal operation.

"Jim really impressed me with his grasp of the complex issues we face on the Cuyahoga shipping channel and his accomplishments over the years leading the Remedial Action Plan for the Cuyahoga watershed," said Port President and CEO Will Friedman. "He is uniquely qualified to spearhead our planning and programs to safeguard jobs and the environment on the navigation channel."

White has an extensive track record in environmental restoration and has spent more than 30 years developing and implementing capital and strategic plans.

White most recently served as the Executive Director for the Cuyahoga River Community Planning Organization (CRCPO), an organization created by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency to serve as the nonprofit fiscal parent of the Cuyahoga River Remedial Action Plan (RAP). The RAP is dedicated to improving the health of the river largely by eliminating pollutants and restoring natural habitats.

During White's tenure with CRCPO, the organization helped secure \$3 million in federal grants to restore aquatic habitats along a stretch of the Cuyahoga River that runs along Scranton Peninsula. White also received an Ohio Lake Erie Commission Award for his contributions to the Great Lakes.

"The Port is stepping up to fill a gap in river restoration and it has the right tools to provide the needed leadership for our region," said White. "I am excited to have the opportunity to be a part of a team that creatively merges economic and environmental revitalization in the ship channel."

White has a master's degree in planning with an emphasis on water issues and serves on various boards including the Entrepreneurs for Sustainability, American Heritage Rivers Alliance, and the Doan Brook Watershed Partners.

The Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority operates the Port of Cleveland, a leading gateway for waterborne trade on the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Seaway System. Nearly 18,000 jobs and 1.8 billion in economic activity result from the roughly 13 million tons of cargo that move through the Cleveland harbor on average each year. The Port also provides innovative financing services for a wide range of development projects in Northeast Ohio, and it is leading initiatives to solve critical infrastructure challenges along Cleveland's waterfronts.