



FOR RELEASE ON DECEMBER 14, 2007

INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE ALLIANCE ELECTS NEW CHAIRMAN

TRENTON, MI – Richard Micka, longtime community leader from Monroe, MI, has been elected Board Chairman of the International Wildlife Refuge Alliance. The Board selected Micka at their meeting on Wednesday, December 5, 2007 as a part of their yearly election cycle.

A lifelong conservationist, Richard Micka is active in the River Raisin Public Advisory Council, Statewide Public Advisory Council, City of Monroe Environmental and Water Quality Commission, and he is a member of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority Foundation. In 1974, he was awarded the Governor's Conservationist of the Year Award for his work to protect the coastal wetlands of Pointe Mouillee, and, in 1984, the Michigan Duck Hunter's Association gave him the Miles D. Pirney Award. He is also a member of the Monroe County Rod and Gun Club and Ducks Unlimited.

Mr. Micka is a retired Executive from La-Z-Boy, Inc. and a U.S. Air Force Veteran. Other pursuits include local history; he works on the War of 1812 Bicentennial Steering Committee.

On the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, Micka says, "We have tremendous potential for the restoration of natural ecosystems in the Detroit River and Western Lake Erie and we hope to realize that potential. It will take all of us working together to achieve Congressman Dingell's long-term vision for this place. The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge is a key part of that vision."

Other elected officers include Anita Twardesky, Riverside Kayak Connection, as Vice-chair; Tim Bowman, Monroe Bank and Trust, as Treasurer; Andrea Kline, Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc., as Secretary; and Mary Bohling, Michigan Sea Grant, as Board Liaison.

The International Wildlife Refuge Alliance is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that builds the capacity of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to deliver the mission of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. Major Alliance funding partners in 2007 include ITC Transmission, BASF Corporation, DTE Energy Foundation, General Motors Corporation, and Praxair.

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