

The Source

For Shelby Township and Utica

Sunday, November 15, 2015

\$.50

[FACEBOOK.COM/ADVISORSOURCEMEDIA](https://www.facebook.com/ADVISORSOURCEMEDIA)

[TWITTER.COM/ADVISORSOURCE](https://twitter.com/ADVISORSOURCE)

sourcenewspapers.com

EPA hands out \$20 million in grants for Clinton River restoration

By **FRANK DEFRANK**
frank.defrank@macombdaily.com; @fdefrank

The health of the Clinton River and its environs received a \$20 million booster shot Monday when officials announced grants to fund restoration projects.

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, a five-year old effort to protect and restore the Great Lakes and connected waterways, awarded nine grants to groups and agencies in Macomb and Oakland counties.

With Lake St. Clair providing the backdrop, congressional representatives, local elected officials and grant recipients were on hand at a news conference Monday announcing the grants.

“Once completed, the projects we’re announcing today will move the Clinton River area of concern toward a more vibrant environment and local economy,” said Cameron Davis, senior advisor to the Environmental Protection Agency administrator.

“With such strong bipartisan support in Congress, the



RAY SKOWRONEK — DIGITAL FIRST MEDIA

U.S. Rep. Candice Miller speaks to the crowd during the announcement of grants for Clinton River restoration endeavors as County Executive Mark Hackel, Cameron Davis, senior advisor to the Environmental Protection Agency administrator, U.S. Senator Gary Peters and U.S. Rep. Sander Levin listen.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is producing results in Michigan and across the Great Lakes.”

The grants will address issues like habitat, health of the river, grasslands and wetlands and soil erosion throughout the Clinton River Watershed in Macomb and Oakland counties.

Among the projects to receive funding are:

- Clinton River Corridor

“For future generations, you’re going to see a tremendous impact.”

U.S. Rep. Candice Miller

Project, Sterling Heights, \$4.5 million.

- Partridge Creek Commons, McBride Drain and Clinton River Spillway projects, Macomb County, \$6.3 million.
- Wolcott Mill Metropark Wetland project, Hu-

ron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, \$335,000.

- Walloway Wetland Project, Auburn Hills, \$140,000.
- Sylvan Glen Project, Troy, \$375,000.

“We couldn’t conduct this process without the funding

Grants

FROM PAGE A1

from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative,” said Anne Vaara, executive director of the Clinton River Watershed Council. “It just would not be possible.”

Vaara said the project, regardless of complexity, all play an important role in restoring the river.

“What you do upstream affects downstream,” she said. “It has to be a whole

picture.”

U.S. Rep. Candice Miller, a Harrison Township Republican, grew up in an environment where the Great Lakes, and particularly boating, were integral parts of her life.

Miller recalled a time when boaters who didn’t know better simply dumped garbage overboard without giving a second thought to the damage such activity might cause.

The grants, Miller said, is “a way for us to try to make amends to Mother Nature.”

“We all love ... the Great Lakes, but we have a funny way of showing it sometimes,” Miller said. “We haven’t been as kind to the Great Lakes as we should have.”

The \$20 million earmarked for restoration projects is “a lot of money, even in today’s dollars,” Miller said, and will go a long way toward ensuring the Great Lakes remain a valuable resource for generations to come.

“For future generations, you’re going to see a tremendous impact,” she said.