

Stephenson County Brownfields Program

THE FACTS

EPA's investment in the Brownfields Program has resulted in many accomplishments including:

-Creating Nearly 30,000 New Jobs

-Assessing More Than 4,800 Properties

-Creating 4,280 Redevelopment, Cleanup, and Construction Jobs in Region 5

**It is estimated that there are more than 450,000 Brownfields in the United States

Region 5 is composed of the following states: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin



If you have any information regarding potential Brownfields, please contact Chairman John Blum or Joel Zirkle of Fehr-Graham & Associates

CHAIRMAN BLUM ATTENDS NATIONAL BROWNFIELDS CONFERENCE IN DETROIT

In May of 2008, the National Brownfields Conference was held in Detroit, Michigan. The National Brownfields Conference is the largest, most comprehensive conference focused on cleaning up and redeveloping abandoned, underutilized, and potentially contaminated properties in the nation.

Addressing the nation's brownfields—abandoned or underutilized properties stigmatized by a past contamination—is an ongoing challenge for communities of every size. By focusing on redevelopment, brownfield properties can be put back to productive use, creating revenue and jobs for local communities, reducing the pressure to develop on natural green space, and protecting our environment and the health of our families.

Chairman John Blum attended the National Brownfields Conference on behalf of Stephenson County. Other area attendees included representatives from other area municipalities and Fehr-Graham & Associates. With more than 6,000 estimated participants, the conference was overall very well attended.

The National Brownfields Conference featured various educational programs for participants to attend and engage in discussion with other attendees. The Conference's educational programs featured more than 150 sessions on topics such as green development, remediation, risk management, real estate and much more. Each session was interactive and provided an opportunity for attendees to learn how other communities

deal with similar issues as those that they are experiencing.

In addition to the educational programs, attendees had the opportunity to meet their U.S. EPA Grant Administrators for their specific region. This proved to be some extremely valuable face time.

Chairman Blum came back from the conference inspired with ideas to energize the County's Brownfields Program. One main idea in particular really struck a cord with Chairman Blum. It was an idea that he saw recurring in each brownfield success story he heard about: **A successful Brownfields Program requires partnerships.** This is an idea that he plans to deeply instill in the County's Brownfields Program.

Brownfields2008



BROWNFIELDS UPDATE

Since its inception, Stephenson County's Brownfields Program has been diligently working to redevelop potentially contaminated and/or contaminated sites to return them to productive use. Below is an update of three such sites:

1. **Lena Depot Site - Lena ,Illinois:** Assessment is completed and the Site Investigation Report (SIR) has been submitted to the State. The County is currently waiting for the State's review of the SIR to be completed.
2. **Hank's Town Pump - Pearl City, Illinois:** Assessment has been completed, the building has been demolished, and the tanks have been removed. The property is ready for redevelopment.



3. **Former Milk Creamery - Pearl City, Illinois:** Assessment was completed and the site was prepared for redevelopment. Mike Dinderman, a local farmer, purchased the property to create a viable business called Blackhawk Attachment Lifts. Blackhawk Attachment Lifts introduced the HD Series of the hydraulic scissor platform lift. It is the first in a family of "attachment lift" designs for the construction industry. This product can be utilized on skid loaders, compact loaders, and utility tractors. More information on this company can be found at:

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

COUNTY SEEKS FURTHER GRANT FUNDING

Stephenson County's Brownfields Program has made significant strides since its inception in 2005. Due to U.S. EPA grant funding and community input from the County's BRAC (Brownfields Redevelopment Advisory Committee), approximately 83 potentially contaminated sites have been identified throughout the County.

While the County has made successful progress, there is still vital work that needs to be done. The County is at a critical juncture in their Brownfields Program and need additional funding to continue their important work. Stephenson County will be submitting three (3) grant proposals to U.S. EPA for additional brownfields grant funds that will enable the County to obtain the goals of their Brownfields Program. The grant proposals submitted to U.S. EPA include the following:

- ◆ \$200,000 Hazardous Substances Assessment Grant
- ◆ \$200,000 Petroleum Assessment Grant
- ◆ \$1,000,000 Revolving Loan Fund Grant

U.S. EPA's grant period is expected to open in late August of 2008 and will close 90 days following its opening. Grant awards are expected to be announced in Spring 2009.



**Follow the County's
Brownfields Grant
Proposal Process on
their website!**

www.co.stephenson.il.us