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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BIG BUSINESS SHARES WITH MOTHER NATURE
Local Businesses Reap Rewards of a Safe Water Supply

NORTHWEST OHIO, Ohio, January 2006 – Untreated chemical spills, liquid waste and oozing dumpsters... just a few environmental offenders leaking their way into our fresh water supply. Proper disposal of waste, treatment of spills and building maintenance can help business owners save money while doing their part to protect our waterways.

Through a collaborative partnership, the *Give Water a Hand* program is educating business owners of Northwest Ohio about water conservation, proper site maintenance and waste disposal procedures that ultimately protect our streams, rivers and lakes. “Clean water benefits all who live, work, and play in this area,” says Kurt Erichsen, Give Water a Hand Project Manager. “As proactive participants, business owners play a vitally important role in protecting our water supply and promoting economic growth in our region.”

The importance of our waterways cannot be overstated. Healthy waterways are needed for economic growth; they provide us with recreational opportunities, supply us with drinking water and enhance our overall quality of life. Throughout the region, many businesses and individuals are making great strides toward cleaner streams, rivers and lakes.

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Give Water a Hand is a cooperative education effort among the following:

Maumee RAP (419-241-9155)
Toledo Metropolitan Area Council
of Governments (419-241-9155)
Lucas County (419-213-4500)
City of Northwood (419-693-9327)
City of Oregon (419-698-7047)

Village of Haskins (419-823-1911)
Village of Holland (419-865-7104)
Village of Millbury (419-836-9671)
Village of Ottawa Hills (419-536-1111)
Village of Waterville (419-878-8100)
Village of Whitehouse (419-877-5383)

Township of Jerusalem (419-836-8921)
Township of Monclova (419-865-7862)
Township of Spencer (419-865-2883)
Township of Springfield (419-865-0239)
Township of Sylvania (419-882-0031)
Township of Washington (419-726-6621)

Township of Waterville (419-878-5176)
Ohio Environmental Education Fund
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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The *Give Water a Hand* business campaign is the first water quality education program in our region to focus entirely on helping businesses save money, time and resources while protecting our area's rivers and streams. This voluntary program will provide business owners and managers information and assistance to help them save money and prevent pollution.

The following business sectors have been identified for participation in the program: restaurants; vehicle service (gas stations, service stations/body shops, junk/salvage yards, towing services, outdoor storage); general businesses (industrial, dry cleaners, office complexes); home repair & maintenance (painters, plumbers, carpet cleaners, HVAC, general contractors, fire & water damage, septic & drain cleaners).

In return for participation in pollution prevention efforts, free publicity will be provided for businesses through a variety of news articles, window stickers and advertising. Here are some benefits to your business for participating:

- Save money! Reduce operating expenses by improved housekeeping;
- Save time! Less time will be needed to fix a problem if it is managed properly;
- FREE promotions from a window static sticker, web sites, news articles and paid advertisements provided by the program;
- FREE technical assistance to identify opportunities for preventing pollution;
- Possible storm water tax credit depending on your community;
- Potential customers will be informed of which businesses are *Give Water a Hand* partners;
- Personal satisfaction that your business is doing something to help protect the environment.

The *Give Water a Hand: You Can Make a Difference* campaign is a cooperative educational effort focused on educating residents and business owners of Northwest Ohio about storm water and other water quality issues. The average citizen and business owner does impact water quality and can make a positive difference. The Maumee RAP (Remedial Action Plan) and Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) are partnering with local cities, villages, and townships to educate the region about improving water quality and managing water quantity. The following jurisdictions are participating in the program: Lucas County, Cities of Toledo, Northwood and Oregon; Villages of Haskins, Holland, Millbury, Waterville; Townships of Monclova, Springfield, Sylvania and Washington.

For more information about the *Give Water a Hand* program, please call 419-241-9155 or visit us at

www.MaumeeRAP.org.

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