

# PRESS RELEASE

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## LTBB Natural Resource Department Moves Forward in Development of Tribal Fish Hatchery

The Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians (LTBB) is pleased to announce that it is moving forward with the construction of a Tribal Fish Hatchery, thanks in part to a \$250,000 donation from CMS Land. In 2010, CMS Land also contributed \$250,000 to establish the Little Traverse Bay Protection and Restoration Fund at the Petoskey – Harbor Springs Community Foundation to help protect and revitalize the Little Traverse Bay watershed. The company has committed another \$250,000 in 2011 to the fund if the community matches CMS's initial gift.

LTBB Natural Resource Department has been working on the development of a tribal hatchery since 2001. The Tribe has spent a considerable amount of time and resources conducting the proper preparatory work including hydro-geological studies, ground water testing, environmental investigations, and capital acquisition.

The hatchery will fill a key niche in the community. The hatchery is intended to have two main objectives: 1) to aid in fisheries research and 2) to augment native fish populations in the Little Traverse Bay Region of Northern Lower Michigan. The LTBB Natural Resource Department plans on working with the LTBB Natural Resource Commission, the MDNRE and local governments and lake associations in using sound science to govern stocking of local water bodies. The facility will be designed to allow for rearing of species such as walleye and trout. The project is expected to enhance the tribe's fishery research and management capacity while providing opportunities for local partnering, education, and development of future fishery scientists.

The 1.3 million dollar hatchery will be constructed on a parcel that LTBB owns in McKinley Township, just north of Van Road in Emmet County. The initial design calls for a central 40' x 60' building with two fish race ways and two rearing ponds. The facility will be constructed through the use of Tribal and BIA funds and with donations from CMS Land.

LTBB Tribal Chairman, Ken Harrington announced the donation at a Tribal Elder's luncheon December 21, 2010. "Christmas came early", stated Harrington as he announced the generous donation. CMS President and Petoskey native, Dave Mengebier handed a check for \$250,000.00 to the Chairman on Monday, December 20, 2010 and committed an additional \$250,000.00 for 2011. "We are pleased to provide this assistance to support the establishment of the hatchery, a project that will provide positive scientific, economic and recreational benefits to Odawa tribal members and the local community," said Mengebier. "CMS's gifts to the hatchery and the Little Traverse Bay Protection and Restoration Fund will allow our company to continue its support and protection of natural resources and the environment in the Petoskey area long after the Bay Harbor clean up is complete." The Tribal Chairman, also a Petoskey native, stated, "Thank you very much for being proactive in our community." Harrington went on to say that without the CMS Land donation or another source of funding the hatchery would be on hold.

The Tribe is in the beginning stages of the project and hopes to have the hatchery completed by the end of 2011. A ground breaking ceremony is tentatively scheduled for this spring.