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Minnesota Brownfields Names Winner of Mac Hyde Award

SAINT PAUL, Minn. – (November 6, 2015) – Maclay (“Mac”) Hyde, a pioneering environmental law attorney and real estate developer of polluted, often abandoned brownfield sites, passed away in March of 2013. However, his legacy continues to inspire individuals in the redevelopment field. Minnesota Brownfields, a non-profit organization which benefitted from Hyde’s vision and leadership, is proud to announce the winner of this year’s award, Heidi Timm-Bijold of the City of Duluth. The awards ceremony will take place at the historic Union Depot in downtown Saint Paul on November 12.

The Mac Hyde Award honors an individual who demonstrates some of Mac’s unique traits: high ethical standards, commitment to serving the community and the environment, excellence in brownfields redevelopment, and a genuine interest in helping and mentoring others in the field.

Timm-Bijold has been a driving force for economic redevelopment in the City of Duluth. She has demonstrated creativity and risk-taking in working to revitalize Duluth’s brownfield properties, as well as serving as a mentor for professionals entering the field of redevelopment. Timm-Bijold “is one of the finest public servants I have worked with and this recognition is very well deserved,” said Duluth Mayor Don Ness.

“Mac Hyde was a remarkable individual and I am privileged to have known him. In the brownfield arena, he won over people with his intelligent and helpful, yet quiet demeanor. His accomplishments are unparalleled, first as a highly successful environmental litigation attorney and later as the first highly successful redeveloper of Superfund Sites and other extensively contaminated land. Mac was a hardworking, insightful leader and an inspiration to us all,” stated Gerald Stahnke, Project Manager at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

The Mac Award will be a glass sculpture evoking the mythological bird that is continually reborn, the phoenix. Mac saw the symbolism of the phoenix’s regeneration as parallel to contaminated, forgotten urban sites that can be cleaned up and revitalized through the dedicated efforts of communities and developers.

Minnesota Brownfields will also honor ReScape Awards project finalists in four categories: Economic Impact, Environmental Impact, Community Impact and Small City Impact. Each award recognizes projects that serve as statewide models for brownfield redevelopment by transforming abandoned or underutilized sites using innovative solutions to significant environmental issues, and in the process providing community, economic and/or environmental benefits.

The 2015 ReScape Awards ceremony will take place at Union Depot in Saint Paul on November 11, 2015; from 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. The event will include a Redevelopment Showcase highlighting notable projects from throughout the state, a seated dinner, and networking.

About Minnesota Brownfields

Minnesota Brownfields is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization whose mission is to promote, through education, research, and partnerships, the efficient cleanup and reuse of contaminated land as a means of generating economic growth, strengthening communities and enabling sustainable land use and development.

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