

For Immediate Release
September 18, 2014

Ohio Lake Erie Commission to Hold September Quarterly Meeting at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge

The Ohio Lake Erie Commission (OLEC) will hold its quarterly meeting on Thursday, Sept. 25, at 10 a.m., at the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, located at 14000 West State Route 2 in Oak Harbor.

Winners of the 2014 "Life on Lake Erie" photo contest will be announced. This year's contest featured a new category highlighting the unique winter of 2014. Commission members are expected to announce the 2014 Ohio Lake Erie Award nominations to honor an individual and an organization that have served to protect and restore Lake Erie.

A special report on the *2014 Biggest Week in American Birding* and its regional economic impact will be presented by Kimberly Kaufman, executive director of the Black Swamp Bird Observatory and Larry Fletcher, executive director of Lake Erie Shores & Islands-West. There will be an update on this summer's algal bloom and the progress and status of OLEC projects.

All OLEC meetings are open to the public and include reports from the member state agencies and partner agencies followed by a public comment period. Organizations and citizens are encouraged to attend.

OLEC was established for the purpose of preserving Lake Erie's natural resources, protecting the quality of its waters and ecosystem and promoting economic development in the region. The director of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) serves as the commission's chairman. Additional members include the directors of the state departments of Transportation, Health, Development Services, Agriculture, Natural Resources and five additional members appointed by Governor John Kasich.

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