

OHIO LAKE ERIE COMMISSION MEETING
NASA Plum Brook Station, Sandusky, Ohio
June 19th, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

Call to Order and Roll Call –Scott Nally, OLEC Commission Chair; Director, Ohio EPA

The Ohio Lake Erie Commission (OLEC) meeting was called to order by Commission Chairman, Ohio EPA Director Scott Nally at 10:00 a.m.

Commission Members Present:

James Zehringer, Director, Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)
Denise Franz King, Director's Designee, Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA)
Scott Nally, Director, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA)
Myron Pakush, Director's Designee, Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)
Gene Phillips, Director's Designee, Ohio Department of Health (ODH)
William Murdock, Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, Exec. Director, *via teleconference*

Staff Present:

Gail Hesse, Executive Director, Ohio Lake Erie Commission (OLEC)
Sandra Kosek-Sills, Ohio Lake Erie Commission (OLEC)
Rian Sallee, Ohio Lake Erie Commission (OLEC)
Heidi Rife, Ohio Lake Erie Commission (OLEC)

Welcome and Agenda Overview: Scott Nally, Director, Ohio EPA, and OLEC Chairman

BUSINESS MEETING

Chairman's Report – Scott Nally, Commission Chair:

There are six actions before the Commission today. The first addresses meeting minutes and second addresses the fiscal designee.

ODH moved the following resolution:

Resolved, that the Commission approves the meeting minutes for March 20, 2013.

ODOT seconded the motion. No discussion was offered. The Commission members voted all in favor and the motion carried. Murdock abstained from the vote.

ODOT moved the following resolution:

Resolved, that the Commission approves the fiscal designee Ohio EPA as the fiscal administrator for SFY 2014.

ODA seconded the motion. No discussion was offered. The Commission members voted all in favor and the motion carried. Murdock abstained from the vote.

Chairman Nally then called upon Amy Jo Klei of Ohio EPA to present the Grant Committee recommendations for funding.

Lake Erie Protection Fund

Grants Committee Report: Amy Jo Klei, Grants Committee Chairman

Klei presented four grant proposals to be funded for the fourth quarter cycle. The Ohio Lake Erie Commission administers the Lake Erie Protection Fund (LEPF) grant program with revenue generated by the sales of the Lake Erie license plate and other donations. Following the funding framework adopted by the Commission in June 2012, the 4th quarter grant cycle was open to proposals of up to \$15,000 (with no targeted topics).

Projects must assist with implementation of the Lake Erie Protection and Restoration Plan (LEPR) and provide a direct benefit to Lake Erie of its tributary watersheds in Ohio.

The Commission received seven applications for the 4th quarter of the LEPF Small Grants cycle. The Grants Committee reviewed all applications and recommends the following grants for funding for a total of \$56,620 from the SFY13 Small Grants allocation:

- “Isolation of Microcystin-degrading Bacteria.” Kent State University. \$15,000

The applicant will study the natural processes that lead to microcystin degradation. As an LEPF grantee in 2009, the applicant found that microcystin-degrading bacteria consist of more diverse groups of bacteria than previously thought. They suggest their previous findings show that microcystin turnover in Lake Erie can be accurately studied using local bacteria as a study system. This project aims to isolate representative microcystin-degrading bacteria from Lake Erie and evaluate their growth and microcystin degradation activities under different physical-chemical conditions. They will address three specific objectives: 1) Isolating microcystin-degrading bacteria, 2) Sequencing characterization of microcystin-degrading isolates, and 3) Phenotypic characterization of microcystin-degrading isolates. The results will provide a comprehensive view of microcystin turnover in environments and aid in development of biofilters and other apparatus, or approaches for microcystin bioremediation solutions to Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) in Lake Erie and other freshwater systems.

- “Creating Sustainable Development in an Inner City Neighborhood.” Mercy St. Vincent Medical Center. \$14,785

The Cherry Street Legacy Project is an urban redevelopment initiative within the City of Toledo. The project maximizes reinvestment in an existing core urban area to enhance the economic viability of the community. This applicant will utilize six vacant parcels at the entrance of the neighborhood and create a “Commons” green space near the building site of proposed new housing. Upon clearing of the site, the top 12 inches of soil will be excavated, removing potential lead contamination and debris. The area will be filled with a mixture of soil made up of Toledo Harbor dredge material and Toledo leaf compost. The applicant will coordinate with Dr. Elizabeth Dayton (OSU) to develop a soil recipe using these materials for use in the green space. No mow lawn seed mix and a low maintenance perennial bed will be planted. This project may assist with identification of a beneficial use of dredge material, demonstrate methods for reducing mowing costs of vacant parcels throughout the City, and promote stormwater retention through soil restoration, thereby decreasing loads in combined sewers. The Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority will assist with project outreach efforts.

- “Impacts of Urban River Restoration on Fish Community.” University of Toledo. \$11,835

The applicant proposes to complete a before/after control/impact (BACI) project designed to test the effect of in-stream habitat structures on the fish community of the Ottawa River, within the Maumee Area of Concern. This project takes advantage of on-going river restoration on the University of Toledo

(UT) campus that will install in-stream and river bank structures in the Ottawa. Sampling of the fish community pre-installation will be conducted under sponsorship of UT and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This project will address the post-installation phase including field sampling, data analysis and publication/outreach, with the overall goal of quantifying differences in the fish community pre and post installation to validate the effectiveness of the restoration project. Measuring changes to the biota of the Maumee Area of Concern is critical to status evaluations of the progress being made to restore beneficial uses. This project may provide insight on the impact of restoration projects, and how quickly (or slowly) the natural system responds.

- “Sandusky River Stormwater Reduction Project.” Crawford Soil & Water Conservation District. \$15,000

The aim of this project is to focus on three water quality issues associated with stormwater runoff into the Sandusky River within the City of Bucyrus- reducing stormwater quantity, reducing nutrient loads, and educating the public on the importance of stormwater management. The applicant will provide cost share (75% up to a maximum of \$500) to install rain gardens within city limits. In conjunction with the cost share, a personalized stormwater and nutrient runoff site assessment and lawn nutrient plan will be completed for all participants, with the goal of completing assessments and installing rain gardens on 20 sites within the city. A workshop will be completed at the end of the project to educate local landscape contractors and lawn care professionals on rain garden design and installation, and will provide an overview of their potential benefits within the watershed. The rain gardens will serve as an educational tool for the public regarding stormwater management practices.

The SFY13 budget for LEPF Small Grants is \$150,000. With approval of the above projects, the remaining balance for the LEPF for SFY13 is \$3,380.

ODOT moved the following resolution:

Resolved, that the following Lake Erie Protection Fund grant proposals be funded:

- “Isolation of Microcystin-degrading Bacteria.” Kent State University. \$15,000
- “Creating Sustainable Development in an Inner City Neighborhood.” Mercy St. Vincent Medical Center. \$14,785
- “Impacts of Urban River Restoration on Fish Community.” University of Toledo. \$11,835
- “Sandusky River Stormwater Reduction Project.” Crawford Soil & Water Conservation District. \$15,000

ODA seconded the motion. No discussion was offered. The Commission members voted all in favor and the motion carried. Murdock abstained from the vote.

Hesse then presented the Balanced Growth Best Local Land Use Practices project. The Ohio Balanced Growth Program addresses the link between land use and water resources in the state of Ohio. The program recognizes that fresh water resources are critical to the economic prosperity and quality of life of the residents and businesses of Ohio; that land uses in all watersheds affect the quality and quantity of fresh water resources; and that local government must work regionally and individually to implement opportunities to protect water resources through land use policy.

Background: In SFY 2013 the Commission allocated \$50,000 for the Balanced Growth program. Of that amount, \$35,000 was awarded to Cleveland State University in the third quarter for contractual services in support of the Best Local Land Use Practices program. The remaining \$15,000 was allocated for a Balanced Growth watershed implementation project to be awarded in the fourth quarter.

Two project proposals were submitted for Balanced Growth project funding (\$15,000). The “Big Creek Watershed Stormwater Retrofit Implementation Project” was recommended for funding by the Grants Committee upon completion of a competitive review process.

The purpose of this project is to conduct field surveys for 20-40 potential stormwater retrofit sites and develop preliminary design work for at least four stormwater retrofit projects. This project continues work started in the Big Creek Watershed Stormwater Retrofit Ranking LEPF project, completed in 2012. That project created a ranking of the 156 potential sites noted in the Big Creek Watershed Balanced Growth Plan and included development of conceptual plans for the top three sites. This project will also consider different types of stormwater retrofits than previous work, and will include additional outreach and coordination with local communities. This project will build on efforts from the LEPF project mentioned above and support implementation of the Big Creek Watershed Balanced Growth Plan.

ODH moved the following resolution:

Resolved, that the following Balanced Growth grant proposal be funded: “Big Creek Watershed Stormwater Retrofit Implementation Project” Friends of Big Creek. \$15,000.

ODNR seconded the motion. The Commission members voted all in favor and the motion carried. Murdock abstained from the vote.

Executive Committee Report

The Ohio Lake Erie Commission (OLEC) administers the Lake Erie Protection Fund (LEPF) grant program with revenue generated by the sales of the Lake Erie license plate and other donations. OLEC staff proposes to keep the budget allocation for SFY 2014 the same as in the past several years, which provides \$150,000 for small grant projects and \$50,000 for project(s) to support the Ohio Balanced Growth Program.

Projects must assist with the implementation of the Lake Erie Protection & Restoration Plan and address at least one of the Strategic Objectives. This state fiscal year we will be transitioning from the 2008 LEPR to the newly updated 2013 LEPR.

Small grants have traditionally been available for projects up to \$15,000 and require at least 25% match. Grant awards are paid out 70% up front and 30% upon approval of the final report. Each grant applicant is required to identify an agency advisor that is employed by any of Ohio’s 23 cabinet agencies. Each project also requires an outreach and dissemination component, namely to ensure that appropriate agency staff are aware of the project and its outcomes.

Later this month OLEC and OWRC staff will be meeting with Cleveland State University to review forthcoming recommendations on future programmatic direction for the Best Local Land Use Practices component of the Balanced Growth Program. These recommendations are a part of the work product of the CSU contract for the Balanced Growth Program. OLEC staff will confer with the OWRC prior to

developing funding priorities for the OLEC SFY 14 allocation. Any Balanced Growth grant or contract will come before the Commission for review and final action.

ODOT moved the following resolution:

Resolved, that the Lake Erie Protection Fund budget for SFY 2014 be \$150,000 for small grant projects and \$50,000 for projects to support the Ohio Balanced Growth Program.

ODH seconded the motion. The Commission members voted all in favor and the motion carried.

Murdock abstained from the vote

Last June, the Commission approved an alternative funding framework to allow for two, \$30,000 grants, while maintaining the traditional funding structure in other quarters. This framework proved to be a successful way to preserve the consistency of recent years while allowing for slightly larger projects with potential for more programmatic impact.

The proposed funding framework of the LEPF for SFY 2014 will allow for up to eight \$15,000 grants in September, December and June, and one \$30,000 grant in March. This structure provides for identification of a particular policy/priority/theme for the one \$30,000 grant. If approved, the Executive Committee will explore options for one or more targeted themes or priorities over the summer for review and action by the Commission at the September 2013 meeting.

ODNR moved the following resolution:

Resolved, that the Lake Erie Protection Fund funding framework for SFY 2014 be revised to allow for up to eight \$15,000 grants in Q1, Q2, and Q4; and one, \$30,000 grant in Q3.

ODH seconded the motion. The Commission members voted all in favor and the motion carried.

Murdock abstained from the vote

William Murdock then left the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

Special Report: Dr. Patrick Kocovsky, USGS; Jeff Tyson, ODNR

U.S. Geological Survey Asian Carp Research and Collaborative Efforts in the State of Ohio

Dr. Patrick Kocovsky, USGS presented the USGS Science in Support of Asian Carp Management in Ohio.

There are four species of carp native to SE Asia: BigHead Carp, Silver Carp, Grass Carp, and Black Carp. USGS and Partner Objectives are Attraction, Detection, Exclusion, and Removal. Dr. Kocovsky stressed that carp eat more than plankton. Two non-planktonic potential foods that are highly abundant in the Great Lakes – *Cladophora* algae and dreissenid pseudofeces – will provide additional nutrition for bigheaded carps in areas and times of low planktonic food availability. There are also Asian carp-bluegreen algae relationships. Bluegreen blooms will be an important food source for bighead carp in the Great Lakes.

Pheromone and Chemical Attractants may be useful in aggregating and removing Asian carp from aquatic systems. Pheromones: Wild male carp attracted to caged female carp (hormonally induced to produce attractant pheromones) Food stimuli: Lab and field studies show AC are very responsive to

powdered algal mixtures. These stimuli are presently being used to condition Asian carp to feeding stations along tributaries of the Missouri River.

There may also be a use for Toxic Microparticles and controlling carp. Its purpose will be capturing a piscicide (a toxin poisonous to fish) in a microparticle formulation is expected to enhance the selectivity of the application to the target species (Asian carp) and limit the impact on nontarget species.

Seismic Waterguns: Technology to exclude and remove Asian carp. Observed fish behavioral and movement response in study ponds at UMESC in Fall 2012 and Spring 2013

We want to determine the most effective deterrent at the lowest energy level. Waterguns have been tested in the field and in USGS study ponds last fall; fish behavioral and movement responses were examined. Analyses of responses are in progress.

Tributary Assessment Tool: A model to identify suitable Asian carp spawning rivers and inform potential management actions. A prototype model has been developed that incorporates biological and hydraulic data to assess risk of successful Asian carp spawning. The model will help managers target locations in Great Lakes tributaries where eggs may settle to the river bottom and die. This will inform control efforts.

Environmental DNA Calibration Study: USGS research

Improvement of technology:

Developed alternate eDNA extraction kit that is cheaper, faster and extracts more DNA than existing methods

Designed >20 markers for silver carp and bighead carp for cPCR and qPCR

Developed “stairstep” markers to determine mtDNA degradation

Improvement of interpretation:

Piscivorous birds can be vector of eDNA

Asian carp carcasses can be sources of eDNA

Silver carp DNA persist in Bald Eagle feces and in fish slime under ambient “summer” conditions

Jeff Tyson, ODNR, presented *Cooperative Research for Management*

History in Lake Erie

Asian carp collected in Lake Erie

1995

- Bighead carp
- Cedar Point, OH
- Commercial trapnet

2000

- Bighead carp
- Sandusky Bay, OH
- Point Pelee, Ont
- Commercial trapnet/seine

- No documented occurrences since 2000
- Likely from live haul/trade
- Injurious species
 - Silver carp (2007)
 - Bighead carp (2010)
- Extensive fishery and fishery-independent surveys

Tools for Detection

- Fishery Dependent sampling
 - Commercial
- Gillnet – 30,000 km/yr
- Trapnet – 15,000 lifts/yr
- Plus seines, other gear
 - Recreational
- > 5 million angler hours/yr
- Fishery independent
 - Gillnet
 - Trawl
 - Electrofishing
 - Seine
 - ~1,500 sites per year
- eDNA!
- Environmental DNA (eDNA)
 - Detect Asian carp DNA through water samples
 - DNA remnants from excretions, slime coating, scales etc.
 - Indicates presence/absence

Lake Erie eDNA Positives...

Source/Meaning?

- eDNA in 2011
- Fish?
- Bird Feces?
- Storm Runoff?
- Bait?
- Water?

2012 Response & Experience

Traditional Sampling 2012...

- Electrofishing/Gill netting
- >200 samples
- Maumee/Sandusky bays and rivers
- Commercial/recreational fisheries

- 5 million angler hours
- 850 seine hauls
- 14,000 trap net lifts
- NO ASIAN CARP FOUND

What We Know:

- No physical specimens in > 10 yrs (targeted and incidental sampling)
- eDNA evidence
- Habitat in western Lake Erie suitable
- If present, likely in low abundance
- No evidence of establishment

What We Don't Know:

- eDNA
 - Live/dead fish
 - Persistence
 - Abundance
 - "Sensitivity"
 - Variation with conditions
 - Sources
- Suitable habitat?
- Impacts?

Future

- Continue to work with partners to:
 - Identify sources
 - Minimize risk
 - Monitor for adults
 - Monitor for establishment
 - Foster research
 - Asian carp tactical plan

Discussion: Director Nally asked if the migratory pathways of birds are being looked at. Jeff said Cormorants could be a viable source. Director Nally also asked if it could be linked to Eagles coming from the Wabash River or could be ballast water, live haulers with water or getting water. Director Zehringer asked if Asian Carp can be grown in Ohio. Jeff said no that they are primarily in the south. Zehringer also asked if reverse sexing can be done in the carp and can it be pushed? Jeff responded that Grass Carp are only legal to do so with and there are no requirements as of right now for others. Director Nally asked about sterility on the Federal level for Asian Carp. Tom Jackson of the Sandusky Register asked if there is a tactical plan in place and what the strategies to minimize the introduction thru connections. Will there be any control? Chris Winslow of Ohio SeaGrant asked if there was any profit benefit to the fish. Jeff responded that they are commercially harvested in the Illinois River, processed and utilized for fish food. They are only worth 8-10 cents a pound. Trade off in fish \$ is not good. Right now fisheries get \$2.00 per pound for perch. Scudder Mackey, Chief of Coastal Management stated from a scientific perspective harvesting is subsidized by Illinois. Ohio does not. Can the industry be built up? They are very tough to remove.

Lake Erie Bicentennial Celebration:

Larry Fletcher, Lake Erie Shores & Islands

Larry Fletcher gave a brief overview of the upcoming events for the celebration and provided a power point of the ships coming into port for the battle and celebration. He also handed out newly minted Bicentennial quarters to every one as a keepsake.

2013 Lake Erie Protection and Restoration Plan: presented by Hesse. There are 12 LEPR Priority Areas. There are two new priority areas which are Jobs & the Economy and Dredged Sediment Management as well as differences in the Harmful Algal Blooms initiatives, Asian carp management, Nearshore monitoring; monitoring collaboration, technical resources: shoreline erosion control, Restoration: habitat, streams, invasive species control. The next steps in the LEPR 2013 process will be Public outreach and comment. The commission will hold a webinar, 2 public meetings (NE and NW), and use social media as a tool. Final action will take place at the September commission meeting.

Office Report – presented by Hesse

License Plate Design Update – No formal plan to market the new plate as of yet. There will be a plan to present to the commission soon.

Phosphorus Task Force - Phase I:

- Comprehensive analysis of possible sources
- Identified relative contribution of dissolved phosphorus
- Point sources have remained relatively constant, other sources contribute
- Agriculture is the prevailing source
- Exacerbated by changing weather patterns
- Management of land application of fertilizer is key (*how it is applied, not how much*)
- Hot spots change continually, timing of application is critical

Phosphorus Task Force – Phase II

- Finalizing report
- Multiple recommendations, including:
 - Targets for load reductions
 - Tracking mechanisms
 - Emphasis on fertilizer placement rather than incorporation

Phosphorus Loading Targets

Dissolved Reactive P

- Spring: 150 metric tons
- Reduction of 256 tons from the 2007-2012 average
- 41%
- No annual loading target recommended

Total P

- Spring: 800 metric tons
 - Reduction of 1275 tons from the 2007-2012 average
 - 37%
 - Annual: 1600 metric tons
 - Reduction of 2630 tons
 - 39%
- No phosphorus concentration recommendations at this time*

Balanced Growth

- Best Local Land Use Practices:
 - Close of three year period of work
 - Evaluation meeting June 24
 - OLEC and OWRC
- BG Watershed Plans
 - Guidance manual
 - Little Cuyahoga R. BG planning project underway
- OWRC to fund ½ time FTE

SFY 2014 Special Projects

- Lake Erie Quality Index 2015
- GLRI Synthesis Project
- P Task Force
- Balanced Growth Guidance Manual
- LEPF development

Toledo Harbor Update

SITE VISIT: June 26

AGRICULTURAL FIELD IMPROVEMENTS USING DREDGED MATERIAL: EAST HARBOR STATE PARK

2013 Ohio Lake Erie Awards

- In honor of Ohio citizens and organizations who have made outstanding contributions to enhance our Great Lake
- One Individual
- One Organization
- Deadline to nominate is August 15, 2013

A “Call for Nominations” has been released for this year’s recipients of the 2013 Ohio Lake Erie Awards. Application forms are available at the Commission’s website.

Background

Ohio Lake Erie Commission established the awards in 1995 to honor Ohio’s citizens and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to enhance our Great Lake. It is presented yearly to the most outstanding citizen and organization devoting their life’s work to the environmental stewardship of Lake Erie. This award recognition enhances awareness of the citizens of Ohio and encourages their support of the Ohio Lake Erie Commission programs.

Each year the Commission chooses a qualified individual and organization based on name submissions from individuals, member agencies, and collaborative partners. Since 1995, 17 individual and 17 organization awards have been presented.

2013 “Life on Lake Erie” Photo Contest

The 2013 “Life on Lake Erie” Photo Contest will also get underway shortly. Submitted photos taken between July 14, 2012 and July 31, 2013 are eligible for entry. This year five photos per household can

be entered. An individual can win up to two times and there are no limitation of categories – just capture those beautiful pictures of Lake Erie and its watershed and send them in.

The 2013 contest ends July 31, 2013 with the winners being announced and unveiled at the Commission's September 2013 meeting. Flyers are available online at the Commission's website. Each year the winning photos tour the shoreline and are featured in the Commission's Lake Erie Photo Gallery.

Coastweeks 2013

Coastweeks emphasizes public awareness of the value and fragility of Lake Erie with a strong focus on cleanup events in the Lake Erie watershed. Other events have included nature walks, canoe trips, and birding events.

Plans for Ohio's annual Coastweeks 2013 program are underway. The "Call for Events" forms were released this spring for activities to be organized for this coming fall program. The annual program takes place during the International Coastal Cleanup on Saturday, September 21 along Ohio's Lake Erie shoreline, throughout the United States and around the world. Once, again, this year the focus of CW is the strong emphasis on cleanups in the Lake Erie watershed, along its beaches, rivers and streams. Event planning forms are available and you can contact the Commission Office or go to the website for your forms. Our main cleanup sponsor is The Ocean Conservancy out of Washington D.C. Coastweeks emphasizes public awareness of the value and fragility of Lake Erie with a strong focus on cleanup events. Cleanups have been our most popular event with the greatest support and interest from citizens and media. Besides cleanups, other events are also organized under this program including nature walks, canoe trips, birding events that encourage Ohioans to learn more about their Great Lake and bring them out to the shoreline.

LEPF Completed Projects 4th Quarter 2013

- Big Creek Stormwater Retrofit Ranking Project
 - Bob Gardin, Friends of Big Creek
 - Ranked optimal retrofit sites in the Big Creek watershed to:
 - Reduce runoff volume,
 - Reduce the stormwater peak flow rate, and
 - Improve overall water quality.
 - Conducted field assessments on 20 sites, developed plans for the top 3
 - Furthered implementation of their endorsed Balanced Growth Watershed Plan
- Sandusky Bay Algal Bloom Early Warning Study
 - Robert England, Erie County General Health District
 - Partnered with NOAA to track algal blooms
 - Analyzed 42 microcystin toxin samples and 120 quantitative water characterization samples in Sandusky Bay and Lake Erie
 - Assisting in the validation of predictive models produced by NOAA from their satellite imagery for more accurate HAB forecasting
- Expanding Coast Guard Credible Data Collection
 - Robert Michael L. McKay, Bowling Green State University

- Collaboration project with the US Coast Guard to investigate winter limnology in Lake Erie
 - Expanded Lake Erie winter monitoring program while maintaining compliance with Ohio's "Credible Data Law"
 - Sampling captured distribution of biomass with accompanying nutrient concentrations at 86 sites under different ice cover extremes
- Linking Land Use & Yellow Perch Recruitment
 - Jonathan Bossenbroek, The University of Toledo
 - Used different models to link changes in land use and climate in the Maumee River watershed to growth of yellow perch in Maumee Bay
 - Results show that alterations to land use and climate in a watershed can significantly alter the growth of a visually foraging fish species

Agency Reports

Denise Franz-King, ODA: Director Daniels testified on regulation for fertilizer licensure for all applicators in fertilizer application.

Gene Phillips, ODH: Recently released beach monitoring contracts. Applied for funding at USEPA for monitoring. Sewage treatment rules are in the first draft – should be out December 2013 or March of 2014. 2100 comments on draft. Advisory committee will be meeting next week.

James Zehringer, ODNR: Part of the bill in the house to "Grain Farmers" – nutrient management plans. Gives farmers a chance to use commercial fertilizers. Aggressively monitoring Asian Carp – Dr. Mackey does a great job running Coastal and the Habitat Restoration. Chief Mackey said they are in collaboration with UT, EPA, and Fisheries with permits and regulation of shore monitoring for habitat. Using science for decision making. River Access Guide is now available.

Myron Pakush, ODOT: ODOT received a national "Green 7" award for the innerbelt project.

Commission Chair and Director, Scott Nally, OEPA: forming a partnership with ODA, ODNR for management strategy for State and Federal. New algal bloom map is on the OH EPA website.

It was also stated that there is an amendment to the budget bill to include ODSA as a member agency of the lake Erie Commission.

Advisory Group Reports:

- **OSU Sea Grant Program-** Dr. Chris Winslow: Water quality lab is done and fully equipped. Dr. Reutter is in process with sampling and meeting with charter captains. Lecture series is every Thursday in June and July. Solar panels at Stone Lab are being doubled. Classes are in full swing. Biolab and vessels will be part of the boat reenactment for Bicentennial. Ducks Unlimited is in collaboration with OSU, ONWR with the Toussaint Wetlands.
- **Natural Resources Conservation Service** – Michelle Lohstroh: Western Lake Erie Basin re designated as Urban Waters. Need help getting word out for Best Land Use Practices as far as funding and participation.
- **Northeast Ohio Area wide Coordinating Agency** – Pam Davis – not in attendance.

- **Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments** – Mark Horvat – 208 Plan – approving update. Swan Creek plan is in revision to include stream side buffers in township lands – placing a conservation area wetland based on stream. Will help with future funding. Watershed plan for Portage River is complete. Submitting to OHEPA for endorsement. Will be starting at UT on Ottawa River Instream Habitat Area Restoration. Toledo Botanical Garden Project is complete with removal of two dams.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No comments made.

Director Nally adjourned the meeting at 12:07 p.m.

Powerpoint presentation slides used at this meeting are on file at the Ohio Lake Erie Commission Office.

NOTE: Next Lake Erie Commission Meeting: Wednesday, September 25, 2013 10-12 at the CanalWay Center, 4524 East 49th Street, Cuyahoga Heights, OH 44105