

For Immediate Release  
October 14, 2014

### **Lake Erie License Plate Proceeds Fund Projects within the Watershed**

The Ohio Lake Erie Commission (OLEC) awarded two quarterly grants through Ohio's Lake Erie Protection Fund at its September meeting in Oak Harbor.

The fund was established to help finance research and projects aimed at protecting, preserving and restoring Lake Erie and its watershed. The fund is supported by Ohioans through tax-deductible donation or purchase of a Lake Erie license plate displaying the Marblehead Lighthouse or the Lake Erie life preserver.

Grants were awarded to:

- **Kent State University** – \$14,970 to explore the beneficial reuse of dredged material for stormwater management on urban brownfields. The project will evaluate the suitability of dredged material from Cleveland Harbor for use in green infrastructure technologies in brownfield remediation. The use of green infrastructure at brownfield sites is expected to produce multiple benefits including reduction of stormwater pollution, combined sewer overflow events, and wastewater treatment costs. Results of a field implementation project will inform further exploration of the long-term viability of this type of beneficial reuse of dredged material.
- **Bowling Green State University** – \$14,981 to quantify the distribution of Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) in a section of Maumee Bay as a baseline for assessing invasive species effects. The project will provide data on SAV distribution, composition and abundance relative to the fish communities associated with these habitats in Maumee Bay. The objective is to establish a relationship between SAV in Maumee Bay and the fish community to determine the effects to the nearshore area of Lake Erie.

All donations and proceeds from the sale of Lake Erie license plates are used to fund grants to benefit Ohio's Great Lake. Citizens may make a tax-deductible donation directly to the Lake Erie Protection Fund by sending a check to the commission office at 111 E. Shoreline Drive, Sandusky, OH 44870.

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.

For more information on the Lake Erie Protection Fund or to read about past grant projects, visit: <http://lakeerie.ohio.gov/>.

***For more information, contact:***

Rian Sallee, Ohio Lake Erie Commission  
(419) 621-2040

Dina Pierce, Ohio EPA  
(614) 644-2160