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**For Immediate Release**

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**OHIO LAKE ERIE COMMISSION AWARDS MORE THAN \$56,000 IN GRANTS TO  
FOUR ORGANIZATIONS FOR RESEARCH AND RECREATION**

TOLEDO, OH – The Ohio Lake Erie Commission has awarded a total of \$56,111 to four projects that will increase knowledge of the lake's ecosystem, educate the public, and further the development of Balanced Growth Watershed Plans.

**Bowling Green State University** will receive \$11,154 for a project that will enhance an ongoing effort funded through Ohio Sea Grant which focuses on the capacity for cyanobacteria and other microorganisms to utilize glyphosate as a source of nutrients. Glyphosate is the active herbicide in Roundup®.

**Ohio Sea Grant** will receive \$14,962 to implement an outreach program that will educate the public on harmful algal blooms (HABs) in the Lake Erie basin. This program will be the implementation of a plan developed through a multi-agency workgroup organized by Ohio EPA.

**The Ohio State University** will receive \$15,000 for a project that will determine the role of thiamine in reproductively active yellow perch, and establish connections between thiamine and mercury levels in the fish.

**Cuyahoga River Community Planning Organization (CRCPO)** will receive \$14,995 to develop a Balanced Growth Watershed Plan for the Brandywine Creek Watershed in Summit County. The planning process will follow the model that was developed during the Chippewa Creek planning process, which was also led by CRCPO.

The Ohio Lake Erie Commission 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 Department of Natural Resources serves as the commission's chairman. Additional members include the directors of the state departments of Transportation, Health, Development, Agriculture and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

The Commission also oversees the Ohio Lake Erie Protection Fund, which is the source of grant money for projects that benefit the Lake Erie watershed economically and environmentally. This fund is supported by Ohioans who purchase a Lake Erie license plate displaying the Marblehead Lighthouse or Toledo Harbor Lighthouse designed by Ohio artist Ben Richmond

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