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Ohio Lake Erie Commission to hold quarterly meeting in Euclid

ODNR Director to recognize Ohio Lake Erie award recipients

TOLEDO, OH - The Ohio Lake Erie Commission (OLEC) will hold its quarterly meeting on Wednesday, September 22 at 10 a.m. at the Euclid Shore Cultural Centre, which is located at 291 E. 222nd Street in Euclid.

During the meeting, Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Director and Ohio Lake Erie Commission Chair Sean Logan will announce the winning images of the 2010 "Life on Lake Erie" Photo Contest and present the 2010 Ohio Lake Erie Awards, recognizing a dedicated individual and an outstanding organization that has made outstanding contributions to enhance Lake Erie and its watershed.

Commission members are expected to approve the latest round of small grants. Special reports on this summer's Harmful Algae Blooms and ODNR's Lake Erie Public Access Guidebook and Web site will be presented. There will also be updates on the Asian carp threat and what Ohio is doing about it, as well as a review of newly announced federal grants for Lake Erie from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, which recently announced \$475 million for Great Lakes programs.

All meetings of the Ohio Lake Erie Commission are open to the public and include a public comment period. Organizations and citizens are encouraged to attend this meeting and provide input on issues of importance to them.

The Ohio Lake Erie Commission oversees Ohio's Lake Erie Protection Fund, which is a 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 the Toledo Harbor Lighthouse designed by Ohio artist Ben Richmond. Since 1993, more than \$9 million has been raised from sales of the Lake Erie license plates.

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 Lake Erie Commission is an Equal Opportunity Employer

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