

For Immediate Release
October 2, 2013

Lake Erie License Plate Proceeds Fund Projects within the Watershed

The Ohio Lake Erie Commission (OLEC) awarded quarterly grants through Ohio's Lake Erie Protection Fund at its September meeting in Cleveland. The fund was established to help finance research and on-the-ground projects aimed at protecting, preserving and restoring Lake Erie and its watershed. It is supported by Ohioans who purchase a Lake Erie license plate displaying the Marblehead Lighthouse by Ohio artist Ben Richmond, and the new Lake Erie life ring license plate.

Grants were awarded to:

- **Chagrin River Watershed Partners, Inc.** – \$15,000 to promote the Chagrin River Watershed and Eastern Lake County Coastal Tributaries (ELCCT) Balanced Growth Plans. CRWP and Lake County Planning Commission will coordinate on model codes for stormwater management and erosion and sediment control, and assist with code adoption. They will provide technical assistance to communities on the update and implementation of local land use codes, and work with communities to endorse the Chagrin River Watershed Balanced Growth Plan.
- **Bowling Green State University** – \$15,000 to determine otolith element uptake ratios in common carp over a broad range of water chemistries. Otoliths are calcium carbonate masses in the inner ear of fish that incorporate trace elements during growth in proportion to their concentration in the water. This project will allow researchers to develop chemical signatures specific to different rivers. These chemical signatures will be useful for development of control strategies for Asian carps, if introduced into Lake Erie in the future.

Citizens wishing to help fund projects that protect and restore Lake Erie and its watershed can send a donation directly to OLEC's office at 111 E. Shoreline Drive, Sandusky, Ohio 44870. All donations and proceeds from the sale of the Lake Erie license plates are used to fund grants to benefit Ohio's Great Lake.

OLEC was established to preserve Lake Erie's natural resources, protect the quality of its waters and ecosystem and promote 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 and Natural Resources.

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

-30-

For more information, contact:

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

Dina Pierce, Ohio EPA
(614) 644-2160