

For Immediate Release
June 23, 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 June meeting in Cleveland.

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 donations or purchase of a Lake Erie license plate displaying the Marblehead Lighthouse or the Lake Erie life preserver.

Grants were awarded to:

- **Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District** – \$13,370 to restore stream water quality and function in the Euclid Creek watershed through the establishment of vegetated riparian buffers. Approximately 1,300 streamside private property landowners will receive educational outreach materials about the importance of maintaining and restoring functioning, forested riparian corridors. Tree and shrub seedlings or saplings will be provided to at least 100 interested landowners. These plantings will reforest a minimum of two miles of riparian corridor within the watershed.
- **Cleveland State University** – \$35,000 to build upon progress achieved in recent years in the development of resource materials and publication of "Linking Land Use and Ohio's Waters: Best Local Land Use Practices." There will be three primary elements of the proposed project, including continuation of technical assistance to local communities, outreach and workshops on Best Practices tools and resources, and continuing development of relevant program materials. Materials to be developed include tree and watershed protection recommendations and an inventory of practices implemented in Ohio.

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 donate 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/>.

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For more information, contact:

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

Dina Pierce, Ohio EPA
(614) 644-2160