

**Ohio Lake Erie Commission Quarterly Meeting
University of Toledo Lake Erie Center
Wednesday, June 23, 2010**

Welcome, Call to Order, Cathryn Loucas- ODNR

Thank you to those in attendance, to the University of Toledo and to our host Dr. Carol Stepien, Director of the Lake Erie Center. Encourage everyone to take the opportunity to visit the Lake Erie Aquarium. It has been a busy time for those involved with Lake Erie and highlights will be discussed today. The agenda features several items including several voting items.

Roll Call, Cathryn Loucas- ODNR

Cathy Loucas, Director's Designee; Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)
Gail Hesse, Director's Designee; Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA)
Tim Hill, Director's Designee; Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)
William Murdock, Director's Designee; Ohio Department of Development (ODOD)
Michael Eckhardt, Director's Designee; Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA)
Martin Tremmel, Director's Designee; Ohio Department of Health (ODH)

Special Guest- Dave Knight from the Great Lakes Commission (GLC) will present report on Great Lakes dredging and the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund.

Approval of March Minutes, Cathryn Loucas ODNR

The Commission members approved the March 10, 2010 OLEC quarterly meeting minutes. A motion was made by ODOD and seconded by ODOT. The commission members voted all in favor and the motion carried to approve the minutes with no changes.

Executive Committee Report, Ed Hammett for Cathryn Loucas

Ed Hammett reported that the members of the Executive Committee met May 18 and held a conference call on June 17 in preparation for the June quarterly meeting and to finalize the important topics that will be presented today. The Executive Committee discussed and recommended the following items to the commission:

Approval of Fiscal Administration

Ohio Revised Code 1506.23 and 1506.24 states that the Lake Erie Commission members shall designate one of its member agencies to administer the Commission's two funds -- the Lake Erie Protection Fund for grant awards and the Lake Erie Resources Fund for the financial operations of the Commission Office in Toledo.

Ohio EPA has been the fiscal designee for a number of years and has, again, agreed to continue in this administration seat for State Fiscal Year 2011 which begins July 1, 2010. It is the recommendation of the Executive Committee members that the administration remain with Ohio EPA.

A motion was made by ODOT and seconded by OEPA to approve the agency remain fiscal administrator for the Lake Erie Commission. The Commission members voted all in favor and the motion carried.

Proposed FY 2011 Budget

The SFY 2010 & 2011 Biennium requests were approved last year with the General Assembly appropriating for 2011 \$450,000 for grant projects for the Lake Erie Protection Fund and \$383,000 for Lake Erie Resources Fund operations. These amounts have been approved and appropriated, but each year a budget is brought before the Commission members for approval of the expenditures. It is important to note that although \$383,000 has been appropriated for operations, the Commission Office will continue to keep expenditures lean and adhere to a 30% reduction of expenditures for an annual budget of \$350,900.

It is the recommendation of the Executive Committee members that the proposed annual budgets as presented be approved.

A motion was made by OEPA and seconded by ODOD to approve the SFY 2011 Annual Budget as presented. The Commission members voted all in favor and the motion carried.

2010 Balanced Growth Action List

The Ohio Water Resources Council (OWRC), OLEC, and SAWG have been working to generate a list of strategic actions to enhance the Ohio Balanced Growth Program and complete the statewide roll out of the program. The action list is based on experience of state agency staff with the pilot phase of the program, recommendations provided by the Smart Growth Leadership Institute through a technical assistance grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and new and ongoing programs underway at various state agencies that respond to balanced growth issues encountered statewide. The list will be incorporated in overall strategy.

State Support for Watershed Planning Partnerships

- Implementation support of endorsed plans (6 items)
- Planning support (7 items)

Best Local Land Use Practices (5 items)

Program Innovations Under Development

- Urban Redevelopment Options (3 items)
- Regulatory Mechanisms in Support of Balanced Growth (3 items)
- Public and Private Equity Sharing (3 items)
- General Program Innovations (2 items)

The list is available to the public on the program website: <http://balancedgrowth.ohio.gov/>.

A motion was made by OEPA and seconded by ODOD to approve the 2010 Balanced Growth Action List. The Commission members voted all in favor and the motion carried.

Grants Committee Report, Steve Holland Committee Co-Chair, ODNR

The primary source of revenue generated for the Lake Erie Protection Fund comes from the sales from the Lake Erie License Plate Program. Each plate sale represents a \$15.00 donation to the Lake Erie Protection Fund which is used to award grants from this Fund. Since the inception of this program in Spring 1993, Ohioans have donated over \$9.3 million to the Lake Erie Protection Fund by purchasing or renewing a Lake Erie License Plate each year. On an average, each year over 20,000 license plates are displayed on Ohio vehicles which gives our citizens the opportunity to personally help preserve and protect Lake Erie and truly show how they support Lake Erie protection.

Forth Quarter FY 2010 Small Grant Recommendations

SG 393-10 City of Sandusky Lions Park Shoreline Restoration, Carrie Handy, City of Sandusky is the project director and the grant request is for \$15,000.

This project will remove concrete debris while re-shaping its slope to provide a gentle transition from the upper park to the water's edge at this 13-acre park in Sandusky. Portions of the park will be maintained as a lawn beach while other areas will be planted with native vegetation for erosion control. An ADA accessible walk to the water's edge will be built and the site will become an important connection to the Sandusky Bay Watertrail. It is important to note that improving public access to the water's edge is the first phase of a 10-year master plan for Lions Park. LEPPF funding would help supplement the capital improvement costs that will transform the 100-year old park into one of the region's premiere low impact land-based waterfront recreation parks.

SG 394-10 Cleveland Botanical Gardens/Vacant Lot Stabilization: Cleveland Best Practices, Geri Unger, Cleveland Botanical Garden is the project director and the grant request is for \$15,000.

During this project, soil lead remediation and restoration of soil organic matter will occur through phosphate soil amendments. Low maintenance lawns will be established on vacant urban land with LEPPF funding being used to test the safety and effectiveness of the vacant lot stabilization protocol at a 0.5 acre site in the Buckeye neighborhood in Cleveland. Funds would primarily be used to establish run-off plots in the test area to measure quality and quantity of water run-off from stabilized lots under various conditions and protocol variations. Projects like this in Pennsylvania have shown to increase neighboring property values by up to 30%.

SG 395-10 Lake Erie Islands Chapter of the Black Swamp Conservancy/Middle Bass Preserve Habitat Restoration, Lisa Brohl is the project director and the grant request is for \$13,875.

The Black Swamp Conservancy is in process of purchasing and permanently protecting 7.8 acres in the Middle Bass East Point Preserve. This site contains exceptional habitat for the Lake Erie Watersnake and this project would support the Lake Erie Watersnake Recovery Plan. LEPPF funding would be used to assist with phase one of the site restoration plan, demolition and related debris removal of a dilapidated single-family resident and garage in close proximity to the shoreline and conversion of its foundation into Lake Erie Watersnake habitat. Removal of this structure on site and related debris will create a habitat near and along 540 ft of shoreline which is the largest natural shoreline along the eastern portion of Middle Bass Island.

SG 397-10 National Center for Water Quality Research at Heidelberg College/ Modeling Dissolved Phosphorus Exports to Lake Erie, Remegio (Rem) Confesor, Jr. is the project director and the grant request is for \$14,995.

Researchers will modify the SWAT model to accurately account for DRP (dissolved reactive phosphorus) in streams. Current estimates from the SWAT model are not accurate under higher flow conditions. The project will add a DRP output variable at the watershed reaches in SWAT, and will calibrate and validate the modified SWAT model with observed data in Rock Creek, Honey Creek and the Sandusky and Maumee Rivers. The project will assess the effect of fertilizer application method and

timing on nutrient DRP export from these watersheds. A modified SWAT model could be used to better and more accurately analyze the selection and optimal placement of best management practices meant to reduce nonpoint pollution from agriculture.

Fiscal Year 2010 Lake Erie Protection Fund Grant Funding Levels:

Small Grants Program	150,000
1st Quarter 2010 Projects	44,944
2nd Quarter 2010 Projects	24,989
3rd Quarter 2010 Projects	14,707
<i>4th Quarter 2010 Projects*</i>	<i>58,870</i>

If awarded today, the June funding recommendations of \$58,870 for the fourth quarter of State Fiscal Year 2010 would leave a remaining balance of \$6,581. The Grants Committee and Executive Committee members respectfully asked the commission members for approval of the recommendations to fund these four projects in the total amount of \$58,870 as presented today.

A motion was made by ODA and seconded by OEPA to approve the 4th quarter small grant recommendations. The commission members voted all in favor and the motion carried to approve the grant projects.

SFY 11 Allocation of LEPF Grant Funds, Ed Hammett

Purpose	Amount
Small Grants Program	\$150,000
Balanced Growth Grants	\$50,000
Targeted Priority Grants*	\$170,000
Chagrin Pass-Through (OWDA)**	\$80,000
Total Appropriation	\$450,000

* \$25,000 match for GLRI project: Toledo Harbor Sediment Management & Reuse

** Pass-through dollars only. Not LEPF dollars, but do count towards LEPF allocation.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Funds

Purpose	Amount
Toledo Harbor Sediment Management	\$250,000
Lake Erie Synthesis Team	\$200,000
Total	\$450,000

The FY11 LEPF allocation as proposed allows for \$150,000 for small grant projects. Including those approved today, the LEPF distributed \$144,000 in small grants in 2010. \$50,000 for balanced growth related grant projects. This project is being completed as implementation of their endorsed balanced growth plan. Finally, \$170,000 is proposed for the Targeted Priority Grants in FY 2011. \$25,000 of the Targeted Priority Grant funds would be used as state match for the GLRI Toledo Harbor Sediment Management project. The remaining funding would not be committed to a specific project at this time, but would remain available for other needs as they arise this year. \$80,000 of spending authority would be used to pass through funds from OWDA to Chagrin River Watershed Partners.

A motion was made and seconded by ODOD to approve the recommended allocation of LEPF grant funds and GLRI Funds. The Commission members voted and the motion carried.

FY 2011 Application and Guidelines, Steve Holland Committee Co-Chair, ODNR

The Grants Committee has worked with the Commission staff to review and update the LEPF application form for Fiscal Year 2011. The form has been re-organized to make better use of space, allow for literature citations, and to allow applications to include a one page resume for project staff. We will once again offer a quarterly small grant RFP with projects limited to \$15,000 each.

The proposed grant cycle timeline is:

Proposal Due Date*	Commission Meeting Date*
August 5, 2010	September 22, 2010
November 4, 2010	December 15, 2010
January 27, 2010	March 16, 2011
April 21, 2011	June 8, 2011

* All dates are subject to change

Deadlines for applications are timed to allow time for the Grants Committee to review the proposals and forward them to this Commission through their Executive Committee. These application dates allow for at least a six-week review period prior to each quarterly Commission meeting based on the Lake Erie Commission quarterly meeting dates. The Grants Committee and Executive Committee have each reviewed these documents and at this time we are requesting approval of the FY2011 application form and the listed due dates.

A motion was made by ODH and seconded by ODOD to approve the FY 2011 application and guidelines. The Commission members voted all in favor and the motion carried.

The new application will be posted on the OLEC website within the week and as always staff are available for assistance if needed.

Ohio Lake Erie Commission Office Report, Ed Hammett
Balanced Growth (BG)

The Best Local Land Use Program (BLLUP) has continued to reach out to audiences across the basin, and across the state. Working with Kirby Date at Cleveland State University the Case Study workshops were completed this spring followed by a presentation on the project and proposed next steps at the Ohio Stormwater Conference in early June. Working on presentations for land use, forestry, and similar conferences across the state later this year. This work is being done in conjunction with OWRC's efforts to expand the Best Practices program statewide. The first meeting of the Best Practices Steering Committee was held. This is a state agency group that will be providing administrative and programmatic guidance to us as we review, revise, and update the Best Practices document over the coming months in an effort to ensure we are providing the most up-to-date guidance available. The first meeting of the Best Practices Working Group will occur later this month. This group is a multi-disciplinary team of experts representing a variety of organizations and points of view around the state. They will provide the technical review and guidance necessary for the Best Practices document update.

Thanks to funding available from the ODNR Office of Coastal Management, Old Woman Creek NERRS, Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG), and others, we were able to offer a series of workshops this spring focusing on improving the development process and incorporating best practices and low impact design into sites. The focus of the workshops was on the process and how to remove barriers to implementing LID practices utilizing a northwest Ohio site.

Over 120 people attended the 4 workshops which focused on small group work interspersed with lecture and discussion. The group is now working with stormwater professionals from several commission agencies, NGOs, consulting firms, and the regulated community to determine how we best address the identified barriers.

Resources are available on the BG website for best practices. Updates to these documents will be made as the new BLLUP document takes shape.

Two new BG Watershed Projects to the balanced Growth program including Lake county Tributaries and Furnace Run in the Cuyahoga Watershed at the same time as we have initiated watershed projects in four Ohio river Basin Watersheds.

- **Furnace Run-** This Watershed Planning Partnership, led by CRCPO, was funded as part of the 2011 cohort with a grant through the LEPF. PCA and PDA maps are under development. This Thursday (6/24/10) the WPP will hopefully be finalizing designation of PCA's. The group will address PDAs in July. In August, the WPP will address reconciliation of proposed PCAs and PDAs with Local Master Plans.
- **Eastern Lake County Tributaries-** The Lake County Planning Commission is working on finalizing their PCA and PDA criteria with the Watershed Planning Partnership..

Coastweeks

The "Call for Events" forms were released this spring for activities to be organized for the upcoming fall program. The annual program takes place during the International Coastal Cleanup on Saturday, September 25 along Ohio's Lake Erie shoreline, throughout the United States and around the world. Once, again, this year the focus of CW is the strong emphasis on cleanups in the Lake Erie watershed, along its beaches, rivers and streams. Event planning forms will be available in March and you can contact the Commission Office or go to the website for your forms. Our main cleanup sponsor is The Ocean Conservancy out of Wash. D.C. Coastweeks emphasizes public awareness of the value and fragility of Lake Erie with a strong focus on cleanup events. Cleanups have been our most popular event with the greatest support and interest from citizens and media. Besides cleanups, other events are also organized under this program including nature walks, canoe trips, birding events that encourage Ohioans to learn more about their Great Lake and bring them out to the shoreline.

2010 Lake Erie Awards

The Ohio Lake Erie Commission established the Lake Erie Awards in 1995 to honor Ohio's citizens and organizations who have made outstanding contributions to enhance our Great Lake. The awards are presented yearly to the most outstanding citizen and organization devoting their life's work to the environmental stewardship of Lake Erie. This award recognition enhances awareness of the citizens of

Ohio and encourages their support of the Ohio Lake Erie Commission programs. Each year the Commission chooses a qualified individual and organization based on name submissions from individual member agencies and collaborative partners. Since 1995, 15 individual and 15 organization awards have been presented. Application forms are available here today and at the Commission's website.

2010 Life on Lake Erie Photo Contest

Photos taken between July 9, 2009 and July 9, 2010 are eligible for entry. Individuals can enter up to 5, 5 x 7 color or black and white prints. The 2010 contest ends July 16, 2010 with the winners being announced and unveiled at the Commission's September 22, 2010 meeting. Flyers are available here today or by calling the Commission Office or visiting the Commission Website for your entry form.

Current winners are on display at the Ottawa Nation Wildlife Refuge. The display will then move to the Lake Erie Shores & Islands Welcome Center for the months of July and August. Then to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for September.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)

US EPA announced its list of finalists for its GLRI RFP from November 2009. The projects were announced in late May and formal applications for funding are due June 25th. Contracts are expected to be signed within 60-90 days in most cases. Breaking projects down by state or lake has been done in several press articles and on many websites based on the information available from US EPA. Of course, the project state is based on the home state of the lead applicant. It does not paint a clear picture of where dollars will end up, or where benefits will be realized. One metric of interest is the success rate of applications. Ohio agency projects were at or above the average both in terms of dollars awarded and the number of projects funded. We feel the success of the state agency applications can to some degree be attributed to the efforts of the Commission agencies to work together on applications and to maintain open communication with one-another during this process.

Ohio based projects:

Starting with the state agencies, four agencies are expected to receive a total of over \$5.2 million dollars. Ohio EPA will be the 6th largest recipient of dollars through the GLRI.

- ODH (Health) 2 projects @ \$349,511
- ODNR (Natural Resources) 3 projects @ \$264,333
- OEPA 5 projects @ \$4,147,000
- Lake Erie Commission 2 projects @ \$450,000

This information will be available on the OLEC website after today.

<http://www.lakeerie.ohio.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=kqDG6LHK-AA%3d&tabid=146>

Special Report- Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund

Dave Knight, Great Lakes Commission

The Great Lakes Commission is a compact agency comprised of the eight Great Lakes states and the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund was established to provide maintenance to ports and harbors.

History and evolution

- Created in 1986 and established .04% fee on cargo
- The amount tripled in 1990 to .125%
- In 1998 the US Supreme Court ruled it was not a true user fee.
- Much of the fund has not been used for stated purpose.

Reform measures

H.R. 4844 and S 3213 (Harbor Maintenance Act of 2010) are bills to ensure that amounts credited to the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund are used for harbor maintenance. The measures are supported by Lake Carriers Association, the Great Lakes Maritime Task Force, the Great Lakes Commission and the Great Lakes Small Harbors Coalition.

The Great Lakes Small Harbors Coalition is a group that represents small harbors around the Great Lakes with dredging and harbor maintenance issues. Ohio is in talks now to participate in the group. Accomplishments include receiving \$45 million in funding for Michigan projects (\$6 mil in 2009 Omnibus, \$20 mil in 2009 in Corps' budget, and \$19 mil in Stimulus Bill) and the establishment of the concept of a regional dredging fund.

Great Lakes Short Sea Shipping Enhancement Act

- To amend the Internal Revenue Code to exempt from the harbor maintenance tax commercial cargo (other than bulk).

Beneficial use of dredged material in the Great Lakes

- The challenge is changing perception of waste to commodity.
- Beneficial Use categories include beach/nearshore nourishment, habitat creation or restoration, landscaping, topsoil creation or enhancement, road construction, land creation (strip mines and brownfields) and manufacturing of aggregates such ceramics or asphalt.

The Great Lakes Commission Website now has a page titled: *Recycled Dredge Material in the Great Lakes*. This resource includes:

- **Frequently Asked Questions** about the location, sources and kinds of sediment available for reuse at Great Lakes harbors and sediment storage facilities
- **Map Finder** to retrieve additional details on harbors and sediment storage facilities around the Great Lakes
- **Advanced Query** to input your location and the distance you are willing to travel to find sediment or sandy sediment

Discussion/Questions

Cathy Loucas (ODNR) inquired if US Senator Sherrod Brown had introduced a bill for the use of the funding. No, however Senator Brown is a co-sponsor on S 3213. Mr. Knight added that a critical component is the cost share where will it come from. There will need to be creative thinking to address the problems.

Jeff Reutter commented that the presentation was excellent overview and questioned if the \$5.3 billion was a national figure. Mr. Knight responded yes. In addition Dr. Reutter inquired if there

are any figures regarding the amount generated and spent by the Great Lakes. To date, no. It would be difficult to get, but interesting.

Cuyahoga River RAP inquired if the definition of “Maintenance” included capture of sediment prior to arriving in the harbor area. No, it’s not a function. Hard to address non point sources with this funding.

Agency Updates

Ohio Department of Health (ODH)

The Bathing Beach Monitoring Program: ODH began monitoring over Memorial Day weekend and will continue up until the week before Labor Day. ODH is in contract with a variety of local health departments and using interns to conduct the sampling. The results are posted every four days and can be viewed on the ODH website.

Senate Bill 110- Household Sewage and Small Flow On-Site Sewage Treatment Systems: This landmark legislative effort was recently passed by the General Assembly. The legislation revises the law on household sewage treatment systems. It is a great achievement for Ohio. ODH is working with interested parties to develop rules that will go into effect January 1, 2012.

GLRI: ODH received 2 projects: Sanitary Surveys to Reduce Pollution at Lake Erie Beaches \$249,511 and Improving Communication about Beach Water Quality \$100,000.

Discussion/Questions: Sandy Bihn of Toledo inquired if ODH was testing for Algae Blooms and how the public is being notified if the results. ODH stated they are working with EPA to collect info through website and they encourage locals to call their local health department to collect a sample. Ms. Bihn reiterated something needs to happen to make the public aware of potential water quality hazards.

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA)

Ohio Lake Erie Phosphorus Task Force Final Report: The final report was released, but due to budget limit no hard copies were produced. The full report, executive summary and news release are online.

Permitting Issues: Bayshore Power Plant is about 8 weeks away from decision.

OEPA 401 Certification for Toledo Harbor dredging for 1 year, was appealed Environmental Review Appeals Commission and the appeal is scheduled for a hearing on August 23

OEPA GLRI Projects:

- Phosphorous Reduction: Variable Rate Technology Program
- Cuyahoga County Surface Water Improvement Grants Program
- TMDL for Ottawa River (Lima) Watershed
- Ohio Lake Erie Comprehensive Nearshore Monitoring Program- This project will build on work from the 90’s that did not have funding for. OEPA hopes to secure an ongoing state program.
- Ashtabula River Area of Concern Habitat Restoration- OEPA is very excited about the Ashtabula River fish shelves project could result with taking Ashtabula River off the Great Lakes Area of Concern list.

Julie Letterhos is retiring on July 30. She will be greatly missed and please feel free to send her notes of congratulations.

Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)

Middle Bass Island Dock renovation is near the completion of design. The new design will create a large habitat area.

Cleveland Innerbelt Replacement will be in design-build phase early next year. This includes using green bulkhead replacements.

ODOT Future Plan Program- The agency is outlining goals and objectives for the future of Ohio transportation. The plan is currently in draft form, but should be out for public review later this year. The agency is also drafting a "Green Plan" to focus on increasing green operation throughout the entire agency. This includes; spraying, paint, contractors, recycling, water quality, rags, oils/gases. Draft plan is currently being reviewed internally. When the plan is implemented it will benefit water quality and Lake Erie.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)

GLRI:

North Bass Island Habitat Restoration, Parks and Recreation

Reforestation of Maumee Bay & Mary Jane Thurston State Parks, Parks and Recreation

Cuyahoga AOC Habitat and Fish Restoration Opportunities, Wildlife

The Office of Coastal Management submitted projects to NOAA for CELCP including one for the Lake Erie Bluffs in Lake County.

The Office of Coastal Management recently developed a Lake Erie Public Access Guidebook. The guidebook includes general information about Lake Erie and specific details about the 164 sites where the public can access Lake Erie. The publication is currently in its production phase and will be available to the public in July. An electronic version is on the ODNR website now.

Wind Energy- The Division of Wildlife and the Office of Coastal Management have been very involved in wind talks. LEED Co. of Cleveland issued an RFP for small pilot project and results from RFP coming soon.

Ohio Department of Development (ODOD)

The Ohio Energy Resources Division- New incentives were recently announce to help position Ohio in green energy: \$6 Million for green job training program and an advanced energy tax exemption.

Clean Ohio Program-Brownfield Revitalization- The program is well funded for sites to get cleaned up. Local governments and port authorities are eligible. As you drive past sites, call your community and make sure they are aware of the potential funding/grants that are available to assist. Although Clean Ohio funds are reserved for work on the ground the Urban Development Division is working with the Clean Ohio Council to see how grants could work in coastal communities for the areas near the water.

Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA)

The Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board has had conducted six sessions to establish standards. The legislative priority for the Fall will be the Farm Land Preservation Program.

Advisory Committee Reports

Ohio Coastal Resource Management Project (OCRMP), Lynn Garrity

(Written report submitted)

Lake Erie Phosphorous Task Force Report

The Lake Erie Phosphorous Task Force Report is a commendable step in assessing, evaluating and determining strategies and priorities to manage phosphorus and its impacts to Lake Erie. The Task Force Report outlined numerous research and implementation recommendations to address phosphorous. OCRMP recommends that the Task Force continue to outline specific and definitive tasks, timelines, funding, monitoring and agency responsibilities. Implementation of these recommend will be critical to the future impacts of phosphorus.

Lake Erie Local Economy

Some of the Lake Erie coastal counties continue to have some of the highest unemployment rates in Ohio. Advancing coastal tourism during peak summer season, but also year-round needs to continue as a priority to the Lake Erie Commission. Enhancing current public access areas and identifying opportunities for nature tourism with limited impacts will be an added benefit in serving the local economies and tourism businesses. OCRMP recommends continue economic research and tourism promotion and strategies for Ohio Coastal Counties and provide information on the "State of Coastal Tourism" to assess current conditions and strategies to enhance both coastal public access areas and the supporting local economies.

Ohio Sea Grant College Program, Dr. Jeffrey M. Reutter

Friends of Stone Lab (FOSL) Spring Work Weekend was in April and very successful. FOSL will be hosting an Open House September 11.

Ohio Sea Grant College Program:

10 scholarships.

Conducting 5 workshops with 20 courses over the summer

9 Research Experience for Undergraduates Scholarships

35 scholarships all over the state

2010 Guest Lecture Series has started.

7/29 Gail Hesse, Chair, Lake Erie Phosphorus Task Force, OEPA: *"Algae Blooms in Lake Erie: Overview and Findings of the Ohio Lake Erie Phosphorus Task Force"*

8/5 Roger Knight, ODNR Division of Wildlife: *"The Asian Carp Threat to Lake Erie Fisheries"*

Aquatic Visitor Center is opened for tours today and will be open through August 21.

18th Annual State Legislature and Congressional Day will be July 16.

3rd Annual Lake Erie Day for Coastal County Commissioners, Mayors and Decision Makers will be August 11.

Buckeye Island Hop is October 1-3. The annual event is volunteer project to benefit the Lake Erie region. This year's project is in conjunction Ohio State Parks to plant 500 trees.
Registration information: <http://stonelab.osu.edu/events/island-hop/>

Ohio Sea Grant's 2010-2014 Strategic and Implementation Plan is now on the website. It's a "living documents" and can be modified annually.
<http://www.ohioseagrant.osu.edu/about/#programreports>

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Steve Davis

GLRI Funding: NRCS was awarded \$33 million nationally that divides among 8 states. Ohio received 30%. The work with the Western Lake Erie Basin Partnership positioned us well.

Handouts submitted to Commission:

Press Release: USDA Commits Funding to Help Clean-up the Great Lakes

Key Findings from the CEAP- Cropland Assessment of the Effects of Conservation Practices on Cultivated Cropland in Upper Mississippi River Basin

USDA/NRCS Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Fact Sheet

Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG), Kurt Erichsen

Areawide Water Quality Management Plan Update- The plan is a statement from local governments answering to Clean Water Act. The document makes clear who needs to do what and lays out who is responsible for serving what area.

Wolf Creek Watershed- The creek which flows into Lake Erie has a long history of high bacteria levels which have impacted the beaches at Maumee Bay State Park. Oregon has invested millions in a remedy. The next step is to put together an implementation plan to capture and treat before it gets to beaches. Looking at a two stage system. Requesting actions from ODNR to help move ahead by recommending funding/grant resources.

Natural Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA), Mary Wells

Not in attendance.

Public Comment

Mayra Czech, Lourdes College

Great Lakes Innovative Stewardship through Education Network (GLISTEN)

GLISTEN is three-year initiative of the National Center for Science and Civic Engagement in collaboration with Corporation for National and Community Service's Learn and Serve Program. The program is funded by grants and clusters universities and colleges together to harnesses the expertise and innovation of citizen scientists and community based organizations to promote stewardship of the Great Lakes.

Recently students were sent to the LaMP meeting in Michigan phosphorus levels. GLISTEN welcomes cards and contact information from those present at today's LEC meeting.

Sandy Bihn, Western Lake Erie Waterkeeper Association

Toledo Harbor Lighthouse Festival is coming up July 10 and 11 at Maumee Bay State Park..

Ms. Bihn inquired about the nutrient issues at Grand Lake St. Marys and how this ties in with the recent standards developed in the State of Florida. OEPA responded that they will be reviewing USEPA comments when there are released.

Ms. Bihn also inquired if there were any updates on the Great Lakes Water Compact. ODNR responded that Director Logan attended the recent meeting in Chicago of the Compact Council and Regional Body. Prior to voting on interim procedures, Director Logan offered an amendment to eliminate a requirement that the proposed interim guidance contained for those who wanted to speak to the proposed diversion application at the public meeting on the project to have to register to speak three days in advance of the meeting. The Director's amendment was adopted unanimously, therefore anybody can show up on spot and provide testimony on the proposed diversion without having to register in advance. After adopting that amendment, the full interim procedures were also voted favorably.

Mark Hoover

Mr. Hoover inquired about what, if any oversight is administered on environmental projects in Ohio. Specifically he is interested in the recent clean up of the Ottawa River. He expressed concern that project was awarded to two out of state contractors and at an increased amount than originally stated.

OEPA responded that the funding was provided by the Great Lakes Legacy Act and more information on this specific project could be obtained from the USEPA. OEPA offered to provide Mr. Hoover with contact information at the USEPA.

ODNR added that the OLEC was recently funded by the GLRI to develop a Lake Erie Synthesis and Coordination Team that would address similar issues.

Kristy Meyer, Ohio Environmental Council

Ms. Meyer provided an update to the Commission on the Great Lakes Ecosystem Protection Act. The bill is set to be marked up next week and most likely rolled into larger bill with funding down from \$650 million to \$475 million. There are discussions to lower the cost share from 35% to 5%.

Great Lakes Compact Advisory Board has stopped meeting as large group. Instead small work groups are meeting every other Tuesday. Next meeting will be in Columbus.

Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement- US and Canada are negotiating to update. Deadline is July 9.

The Healing Our Waters 6th Annual Great Lakes Restoration Conference will be September 22-24 in Buffalo, NY.

A motion was made by ODA and seconded by OEPA to adjourn the June Lake Erie Commission Meeting. The Commission members voted all in favor and the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.

Public Sign-In Sheets Attached

Other Documents Submitted for Record:

Great Lakes Maritime Task Force- News Release: End to Lakes Dredging Crisis in Sight

Cuyahoga River RAP- Memo: CRCPO, CLEERTEC and Sustainable Sediment Management