

**Ohio Lake Erie Commission Quarterly Meeting
Euclid Shore Cultural Centre
Wednesday, September 22, 2010**

Call to Order and Roll Call- Sean Logan, Commission Chair, Director ODNR

William Murdock, Director's Designee; Ohio Department of Development (ODOD)
Tim Hill, Director's Designee; Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)
Gene Philips, Director's Designee; Ohio Department of Health (ODH)
Mike Eckhardt, Director's Designee; Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA)
Gail Hesse, Director's Designee; Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA)

Shore Cultural Center, Roy Larick

(Presentation attached)

Mr. Larick introduced City of Euclid Mayor Bill Cervenik and Economic Development Director Frank Pietravoia, also Peter Ruben and Laura Kidder from Coral Management.

Coral Management manages the physical building and set up the room up for today's meeting. Mr. Larick and center staff are committed to the inner ring of Cleveland and educating the changing demographic of the Bluestone Heights area. Currently a quarter of a million people live in the area and it is the goal to reach out to individuals and have them feel the land and water under their feet.

Welcome and Agenda Overview, Sean Logan, Commission Chair, Director ODNR

It was an interesting summer with significant issues for Lake Erie. Algae Blooms returned in west, though we weren't expecting various groups have taken ownership and are addressing the problem. We will hear more throughout the meeting and during the agency reports.

Our Agenda today features several significant action items scheduled today that should be of great interest to our members and guests.

2010 "Life on Lake Erie" Photo Contest Winners

Stephanie Lehr of Oak Harbor was voted as the Overall Favorite. Stephanie named her picture "As the Beak Goes On . . ." She is here today to accept her certificate.

Merle Weiss of Toledo titled his picture: Maumee Bay September Morn

Mr. Weiss accepted his certificate and remarked on how he has lived on Lake Erie for 45 years and that he took the photograph from his front yard. He asked the commission to continue and build on its work fighting the crucial issues facing Lake Erie such as invasive species and agricultural practices and algae blooms.

Richard Hutman of Elyria named his picture as "Lakeview Park in Lorain"

Mr. Hutman noted the photo was taken from Lake View Beach in Lorain. He also commended the Lorain County Metroparks on the fabulous job they have done restoring the beach.

Other winners not present today:

Brian Sims of Port Clinton titled his photo as: "Making Waves"
Julie Oglesbee of Marblehead titled her picture as: "Stunning"
Linda Schneider of North Ridgeville titled her picture as "Cedar Point in the Off Season"
Mike Rosa of Lorain titled his photo as: "Lorain Municipal Pier"
Jerrod Will of Westerville named his picture: "Roaring Waves of the Lake"
Tom Greene of Dayton titled his picture: "Harbor Lights"
Debra Atkins of Findlay titled her picture: "Wintertime at Marblehead"

Approval of June Minutes, Director Sean Logan ODNR

The Commission members approved the June 2010 OLEC quarterly meeting minutes. A motion was made by OEPA and seconded by DOD. The commission members voted all in favor and the motion carried to approve the minutes with no changes.

Executive Committee Report, Gail Hesse OEPA

The Executive Committee discussed and recommended the following items to the commission:

2010 Ohio Lake Erie Awards

The members met on September 1 and selected an outstanding individual and organization to be considered for this year's Ohio Lake Erie Awards.

For individual Award: Ms. Julie Letterhos
For Organization Award: Friends of Euclid Creek

At this time, Executive Committee members respectfully ask the commission member for Motion to Approve these recommendations. Ag and Health moved

The Executive Committee members recommend the following:

For individual Award: Ms. Julie Letterhos
(Citation attached)

Director Logan commended Julie on the work she has done for the State of Ohio and credited her patience and dedication to the progress we are seeing today.

Julie thanked the Commission and her parents for the work ethic they instilled in her.

For Organization Award: Friends of Euclid Creek
(Citation attached)

Grants Committee Report, Ed Hammett, Executive Director, OLEC

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, we are proud to announce that 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.

Grants Committee is recommending two projects:

Bowling Green State University

“Credible Data Collection by the US Coast Guard”

Project Director: Robert McKay \$11,770

Coast Guard personnel will be trained on data collection techniques and Great Lakes issues with a BGSU Course This will enhance the Coast Guard monitoring program to comply with Ohio’s “credible data law” so that Coast Guard personnel can collect data while on cruises Qualified Data Collector Status will allow data to be submitted to OEPA’s online repository. Adds additional data to data base on winter algae created by researcher Opportunity to engage Coast Guard crew in scientific research and take advantage of financially efficient means of collecting samples on Lake Erie

Lake County General Health District

“Pharmaceutical Drug Collection & Disposal Program”

Project Director: Laura Kramer Kuns, \$15,000

Prescription and non-prescription drug collection receptacles will be placed in local law enforcement reception areas.

Education and promotion plan will inform the public of the program and benefits

Public will be educated on the presence of both prescription and non-prescription drugs being found in the nation’s waterways and the associated environmental concerns

Lake Erie Protection Fund, Funding Grant Level- Fiscal Year 2011

Small Grants Program	\$150,000
FY 2011 Q1 Recommended:	\$ 26,770
Remaining Balance:	\$123,230

This table shows the Lake Erie Protection Fund Grants Program budget amount for State Fiscal Year 2010 which is for time period July 1, 2009 through year end June 30,2010. \$150,000 was budgeted for Small Grant Projects in State Fiscal Year 2010. If awarded today, the Sept funding recommendations of \$26,770 for the first quarter of State Fiscal Year 2011 would leave a remaining balance of \$123,230 for the remaining second, third and fourth quarters of SFY 2011.

At this time, both the Grants Committee and Executive Committee members respectfully ask the commission members for approval of the recommendations to fund the two grant projects as presented here today and Request your Action to Approve the funding of these quarterly grant projects.

A motion was made by ODA and seconded by ODOD to approve the 1st quarter small grant recommendations. The commission members voted all in favor and the motion carried to approve the grant projects.

Lake Erie Protection Fund- Fiscal Year 2010 Grant Cycle Timeline

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

Small grant applications are submitted quarterly to the Commission Office. The dates shown are for the SFY 2011 program – deadlines for applications are established 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.

Special Reports

Algae Blooms, Gail Hesse, OEPA

(Presentation attached)

The concern with algae blooms are the Algal Toxins. These toxins are:

- o Microcystin- The World Health Organization benchmark criteria are 1 ppb for drinking water and 20 ppb for recreational contact.
- o Anatoxin-a
- o Saxitoxin
- o Cylindrospermopsin

Toxins have been identified in raw and finished water supplies in the following:

Carroll Township	City of Oregon
Camp Patmos	Huron
Kelley's Island	Marblehead
Ottawa County Regional	Put In Bay
Sandusky	Toledo
Lake Erie Utilities	

PWS Results: Raw water- Microcystin results ranged from .15 to 4.0 ppb. Finished water- 9 of 11 systems had non-detects. In Carroll Township .16 ppb was detected in 1 sample and in Oregon .23 was detected in 1 sample.

Lake Erie Beach Sampling Results

- o Camp Perry: *2.1 ppb*
- o Catawba Island State Park: *5.5 ppb*

- o East Harbor State Park: 3.2-19 ppb
- o Maumee Bay: Bay beach: .16-570 ppb
- o Maumee Bay: Erie beach: .46 ppb
- o Port Clinton: 3.4 ppb

Ohio Inland Lakes

- o Grand Lake St. Mary's
- o 2009 Microcystin level: 84 ppb
- o 2010 Microcystin level: >2000 ppb
- o Anatoxin-a, saxitoxin and cylindrospermopsin also detected
- o Approximately 20 state park beaches posted with advisories

An extreme event occurred this summer at Grand Lake St. Mary's. We noticed the more the media reported on the event bloom reports started coming in from other areas. As a result OEPA then developed system and protocols for posting advisories. The tiered system is:

- Red/No Contact Advisory: Avoid any and all contact
- Orange/Toxin Advisory: Avoid direct contact with water
- Yellow/Bloom Advisory: Avoid direct contact with visible scum

Currently there are several nutrient management efforts underway in Ohio. There is the Ohio Lake Erie Phosphorus Task Force, Gulf of Mexico Nutrient Task Force, Lake Erie Lakewide Management Plan (LaMP) Nutrient Strategy, Nutrient water quality standards and by June 2011 an Ohio Nutrient Management Strategy will be developed.

The OEPA has more information on algae blooms available on its website. The inland lake reports are updating daily. The protocol for taking down a posting is there be 2 weeks of non-detects.

Discussion: A question was asked if the medical community is aware. ODH reported that they have, through local health districts and the Ohio Public Health Communication System, distributed fact sheets. In addition, they have reached out to local providers. As it relates to illness reports ODH worked with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to develop a reporting form. As of today we have 64 humans reported ill. Of that 4 are under investigation, 40 have been probably, 8 suspect and 12 not a case. There have been 9 domestic animals reported ill. Of that 1 is under investigation, 7 are probable and 1 is not a case. Symptoms will depend on the toxin(s). They range from rash on the surface of the skin to gastrointestinal to neurological damage.

On the positive side, Director Logan noted that we have the tools to address this issue and that we are doing so. It is important to note that some cases are totally unrelated from the agricultural practices of permitted farms. With the Grand Lakes St. Mary's situation, there are 400 farms its watershed. Of those 400, 15 are permitted farms.

City of Euclid Waterfront Improvement Plan

Mayor Bill Cervenik and Economic Development Director Frank Pietravoia

(Presentation attached)

The Euclid Ohio Waterfront Improvement Plan has been in the works now for 20 years. Moving forward with a plan is important as it will expand public access and stewardship of waterfront, improve shoreline conditions, support downtown reinvestment and integrate the City with a sustainable waterfront.

The plan before you was created with input from various organizations and groups including a couple of the departments on the Commission. This is a 4 part vision:

- 1.) Sims Park Enhancements
- 2.) Public Fishing Pier and Waterfront Festivals
- 3.) Central Shoreline Public Access and Habitat
- 4.) Public Marina and Recreational Programs

Discussion: Audience member asked if the area and plan had been named yet. The Mayor noted it had not yet been named, but it probably will as we move forward. In addition, a restaurant has been incorporated in the area near the proposed marina.

Lake Erie Public Access Guidebook, Brenda Culler ODNR

(Presentation attached)

Ms. Culler walked through how to use the on line version of the Lake Erie Public Access Guidebook.

For anyone interested in obtaining a guidebook or distributing guidebooks they can talk to Ms. Culler after the meeting.

Advisory Committee Reports

Ohio Coastal Resource Management Project (OCRMP), Lynn Garrity

OCRMP has changed leadership with the retirement of Edith Chase. Currently we are working on building a new generation of board members. OCRMP commends the OLEC on efforts to encourage public involvement and would appreciate this continued invitation. OCRMP is concerned with reporting measures on Ohio beaches for Algae Blooms. Lastly, OCRMP received an invitation from ODNR Office of Coastal Management to provide feedback on Section 309 of the Coastal Act, and again appreciates invitation for feedback.

Ohio Sea Grant College Program, Frank Lichtkoppler

The Ohio Sea Grant Program continues their work on the 7 critical issues: Sanitation; Nutrient Phosphorus; Algae Blooms, Dead Zone; Invasive Species; Climate Change; Coastal Community and Economic Development.

Ohio Sea Grant received Lake Erie Protection Fund grant last year to put together a harmful algae bloom fact sheet. We have received good feedback from the fact sheet and it will be used as a model by the State of California as they develop an algae fact sheet.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Steve Davies

NRCS received Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funds of \$6.4 million for Ohio. Funds will be targeted to land owners in western basin. Western Lake Erie Basin Funds were used to help with the Lake Erie Tributary Monitoring Program this past year but we do not have funding to continue to support this Heidelberg College program in this next year.

Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency

No report

Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments

Tomorrow is TMAGOG Environmental Council Meeting. The council will hear from Gail Hesse on algae blooms and the impacts on region and community. Completion by end of year of Ottawa river contaminated sediment dredging will be a milestone accomplishment.

Wolf Creek project, public meeting on Nov. 4, at Maumee State Park is to help protect Lake Erie beaches from contamination. We have been working for number of years to figure out where the bacterial contamination is coming from. The proposal being presented is a 2 stage system. Catch the water in the creek and then place it in a wetland system in the park. The next step will be to discuss with ODNR and City of Oregon on how to move forward. The project will be a significant improvement for the Park.

Ohio Lake Erie Commission Office Report, Ed Hammett, Executive Director OLEC

The 2011 “Life on Lake Erie” Photo Contest

Photos taken between July 9, 2010 and July 8, 2011 are eligible for entry for the 2011 Contest. This year five photos per household can be entered. An individual can win up to two times and there are no limitation of categories – just capture those beautiful pictures of Lake Erie and its watershed and send them in.

Flyers will be available shortly or you can fill out your mailing information after today’s meeting and an entry form will be mailed directly to you.

Each year the winning photos tour the shoreline and are featured in the Commission’s Lake Erie Photo Gallery. These 2010 winning photos will be displayed September and October of 2010 at the “Art in the Halls” program located in Columbus at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

These images serve as Ohio’s Lake Erie Photo Library and are online at the Commission’s Website for promotion of Lake Erie through educational, informational and environmental publications.

Ohio’s Coastweeks Program

Coastweeks is part of an International celebration of our waters and shorelines held in the States and around the world. Ohio’s program focuses on the theme, “I Can Help Lake Erie” to encourage people to be part of the solution, not the pollution that finds its way into the lake.

In 2009 Ohio volunteers collected over 47,500 pounds of debris.

This year Ohio Volunteers will take action at 22 sites to catch the trash before it gets carried away.

Ohio's Balanced Growth Program

You will recall that we have added 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. Priority Conservation Area and Priority Development Area 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

No specific update is available from this group at this time, however they are working on finalizing their PCA and PDA criteria.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

US EPA announced its list of finalists for its GLRI RFP from November 2009 RFP. The projects were announced in late May and formal applications for funding were due June 25th. Contracts are expected to be signed within 60-90 days in most cases. One metric of interest is the success rate of applications Ohio 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. Non-agency projects in Ohio were selected for ten organizations

The NPS category was extremely competitive. Five Ohio projects including efforts for Toledo Harbor and a Phosphorus Reduction project that stems from the Phosphorus Task Force efforts are among those listed.

The Toledo Harbor Sediment Management and Reuse Project is to develop a plan to reduce sediment and pollutant loading to the near shore area of the lake. This will be achieved by development of a plan guided by a Task force that will include short and long term options for to eliminate open water disposal, restore aquatic and upland habitat as well as provide alternatives for the reuse of dredged material. Four habitat and wildlife projects have been selected, including two AOC projects and a restoration project on north bass island. Two projects were funded in the AMECP category.

The Lake Erie Synthesis & Coordination project funded through our office is a joint effort with Ohio Sea Grant. We hope to, among other things, communicate to researchers, managers, and the public the progress being made on Lake Erie, especially here in Ohio, on restoration. We

will begin work on this project later this summer and will utilize our website and a variety of other outreach tools in an effort to share information and promote cooperative progress.

Ed Hammett announced recent staff changes at the Ohio Lake Erie Commission. Chris Riddle taken a new position and has moved to the OEPA office in Bowling Green. Sandra Kosek-Sills (formerly in the ODNR Office of Coastal Management) has accepted a position with OLEC.

Next Lake Erie Commission Meeting will take place on December 15, 2010 at the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

Agency Reports

Ohio Department of Agriculture, Mike Eckhardt

ODA was able to fund one of the pilot projects at Grand Lakes St. Mary's, results are expected in 6 weeks.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Director Logan

Grand Lakes St. Mary's- Sulfate in raw water will be applied on Friday. It will help determine what type of treatments will be needed for the spring in order to control algae blooms..

Lake Carriers Association and others are talking to congress about the increasing the use of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund to allow for more dredging activity Great lakes dredging is economic and environmental issue.

Governor Strickland asked President Obama for an Asian Carp leader. Mr. John Goss was appointed. We will work with him and we will all need to create a sense of urgency to prevent the Carp from entering the Great Lakes.

Ohio Department of Health, Gene Phillips

The ODH Beach Monitoring Program, which measures E Coli levels, was conducted May 24 through Sept. 4. ODH contracted with 4 organizations with sampling in Erie County, Cuyahoga County, NEO and Lake County. 2900 samples were collected and 623 exceeded E Coli standard.

The Department has received notice of its \$250,000 GLRI money.

There will be a Sewage Treatment System Technical Advisory Committee meeting September 30.

Ohio Department of Transportation

The newly formed Office of Maritime added two employees including a Lake Erie watershed representative, Monica Drake. The primary focus will be to work with agencies and programs on maritime issues.

The Department continues to look for ways to enhance watershed access in its projects and will be looking to partner more with sister agencies on that issue.

Ohio Department of Development

The Clean Ohio Fund consists of 4 programs across 5 agencies. Development oversees brownfield development and has recently adopted the Sustainable Reinvestment Pilot Track that will include urban waterfronts.

Last Friday, the Clean Ohio Council adopted a new \$8 million track of the Clean Ohio Fund to support solar and wind energy projects on brownfields (brightfields/cleanfields) and urban waterfronts and parks as well. We're also using the track to pilot funding of sustainable infrastructure as part of these projects – especially focused on reducing stormwater impact. Applications for the pilot round are due in January 2011. .

Public Comment

Frank Lichtkoppler from Ohio Sea Grant commended Julie Letterhos on her work and honor today.

Virginia Aveni of Friends of Euclid Creek asked the commission for an update on the Great Lakes Compact. Director Logan stated they hope to write draft report soon and have available for the public in mid November. There will be two public meetings on the report. Currently the conversation is centered on the conservation and regulatory components and inventory of withdrawals. The may not come to a unanimous agreement. Director Logan informed the audience that he has reminded the group that we are creating a regulatory program and it will take time for it to mature. Ms. Aveni added that she encourages the group to base the report on scientific data.

Steve Gokorsch- Madison, North Perry. Mr. Gokorsch wanted to inform the Commission that there has been a decrease of beaches since North Perry village build the marina.

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