

**The Ohio Lake Erie Commission  
Quarterly Meeting  
December 15, 2010  
Ohio Department of Agriculture**

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

Commission Chairman Sean Logan, Director, Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)  
Chris Korleski, Director, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA)  
Dr. Alvin Jackson, Director, Ohio Department of Health (ODH)  
Tim Hill, Director's Designee, Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)  
Robert Boggs, Director, Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA)  
William Murdock, Director's Designee, Ohio Department of Development (ODOD)

**Approval of September 2010 Minutes, Director Sean Logan ODNR**

**A motion was made by ODOT and seconded by ODA to approve the September 22, 2010 OLEC meeting minutes. The commission members voted all in favor and the motion carried.**

**Executive Committee Report, Cathy Loucas, ODNR**

The Executive Committee met on December 1 to discuss a number of items. As a result of the meeting the Committee brings the following recommendations to the Commission for consideration:

▪ **2011 Meeting Schedule**

March 9- ODNR, Columbus

June 15- Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, Oak Harbor

September 21- Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, Bay Village

December 14- OEPA, Columbus

All meetings will start at 10:00 a.m. (Dates and times are subject to change)

**The Executive Committee recommends approval of these dates and locations for 2011. A motion was made by OEPA and seconded by ODOT. All voted in favor and the motion passed.**

▪ **Designation of Chairman and Secretary**

Pursuant to ORC 1506.21(A): "The members of the commission annually shall designate a chairperson, who shall preside at the meetings of the commission, and a secretary."

**The Executive Committee recommends that the commission continue with the same agencies for 2011; the Director of ODNR to serve as Chairman and the Director of ODOT to serve as secretary. A motion was made by OEPA and seconded by ODH. All voted in favor and the motion passed.**

▪ **Lake Erie Protection Fund Targeted Grant**

Heidelberg University- Heidelberg Tributary Loading Program- \$120,000

This grant would provide \$120,000 funding to Heidelberg University to fund four monitoring stations in the Lake Erie Basin from January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011. Dr. Kenneth Krieger would be the Project Director. The stations being monitored cost about \$40,000 per year and the project is as follows:

1. Maumee River station at Waterville- \$19,000. This station will be partially funded in 2011 in the amount of \$21,000 through a National Science Foundation grant to the University of Michigan.
2. Sandusky River station at Fremont- \$40,000.
3. Cuyahoga River station at Independence- \$40,000.
4. Tiffin River station at Stryker- \$21,000. Another \$5,000 of the \$40,000 annual cost is to be covered by the Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA), and those funds are to cover the first 1.5 months of operation of that station. LEPF funds would cover the next 6.5 months of that station's costs. Heidelberg is seeking funding for the balance of the costs for the operation of the Tiffin River station from non-state sources.

It has been made clear to Heidelberg that this funding is for one year and that there will be no continuation. The Small Grant funding proposal to be discussed shortly is intended to allow Heidelberg to identify and seek long term funding for the monitoring network.

**The Executive Committee recommends the Commission approve this project. A motion was made by OEPA and seconded by ODH. All voted in favor and the motion passed.**

Discussion: OEPA inquired what the monitoring was for exactly. Ed Hammett responded that sediment and nutrients, specifically phosphorus and nitrogen along with other parameters. Director Logan (ODNR) added the December 7 letter from Heidelberg University is a result of discussions within the Executive Committee. This is a great example of the process working to make sure public funds are wisely spent.

▪ **Lake Erie Protection Fund Balanced Growth Grant Proposal**

Center for Planning Research and Practice- Levin College of Urban Affairs  
*Best Local Land Use Practices- \$34, 983*

This is a grant to Cleveland State University to continue assistance with the Best Local Land Use Practices portion of the Balanced Growth Program. Kirby Date is the Project Director.

This is the second year of a three year project in cooperation with the Ohio Water Resources Council. In addition to the standard awareness sessions, technical workshops and assistance to communities, the Best Local Land Use Practices portion of the program is in a review and revision phase. First, the training program is being developed to provide the tools for locally based trainer to provide the training rather than relying solely on Kirby Date. Second, the Best Local Land Use recommendations are being updated and revised as it has been seven years since they were first developed. Two meetings have been held with outside stakeholders/specialists to explore needed updates. A plan and schedule of revisions has been developed which will result in a significant overhaul of the practices document within eighteen months. The review will proceed by chapter, and groups of chapters completed will be sent to the Ohio Lake Erie Commission and Ohio Water Resources Council for approval on a rolling basis.

**The Executive Committee recommends approval of the Cleveland State proposal. A motion was made by OEPA and seconded by ODH. All voted in favor and the motion passed.**

Director Boggs (ODA) thanked the Commission and its members for the work accomplished over the last 4 years for Lake Erie and expressed his hopes that it continues. Director Logan thanked Director Boggs for his commitment and service.

### **Lake Erie Protection Fund- Small Grants Committee Report, Steve Holland, Grants Committee Chair**

Heidelberg University- Coalition for Funding Tributary Loading Program- \$15,000  
Submitted by Kenneth A. Krieger

Funding is requested to organize an Advisory Group for the Heidelberg Tributary Loading Program that will provide guidance in developing a strategy for achieving stable, long-term funding for this program. The continuation of the program has been threatened by a lack of stable funding. This long term monitoring program provides the information that is needed to monitor nutrient loading-particularly phosphorus- to Lake Erie and is essential for us to understand the dynamics of nutrients and algal bloom problems. This data should help us devise solutions to the sediment and harmful algal bloom problems we are experiencing in Lake Erie. The proposed project will focus on a strategy to achieve long-term support for the monitoring program, develop a plan to scale the level of monitoring effort to available resources, identify and prioritize the essential components of the monitoring program and develop a plan to adjust the program annually as needed. In addition the plan will: evaluate costs for each component to

determine how to achieve cost savings, determine funding needs based on the objectives identified above, and identify funding opportunities to meet the funding needs. The proposed project does not seek to directly fund any monitoring activity.

**At this time, both the Grants Committee and Executive Committee members respectfully ask the commission members for approval of the recommendations to fund the grant project as presented here today. A motion was made by ODH and seconded by ODOD. All voted in favor and the motion passed.**

Director Logan noted that the Executive Committee discussed this project extensively at their meeting.

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

<u>Small Grants Program</u>	<u>Balanced Growth Program</u>	<u>Targeted Priority</u>
\$150,000	\$50,000	\$170,000
FY 2011:	FY 2011:	FY 2011:
Q1 Funded: \$28,770	Q1 Funded: \$0	Q1 Funded: \$25,000
Q2 Recommended: \$15,000	Q2 Recommended: \$34,983	Q2 Recommended: \$120,000
Remaining Balance: \$106,230	Remaining Balance: \$15,017	Remaining Balance: \$25,000

**Lake Erie Protection Fund Fiscal Year 2011 Grant Cycle Timeline**

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.

<b>Proposal Due Date*</b>	<b>Commission Meeting Date*</b>
August 5, 2010	September 22, 2010
November 5, 2010	December 15, 2010
January 27, 2011	March 9, 2011
April 21, 2011	June 15, 2011

\* dates are subject to change

### **Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)- Sub-grants**

At the June OLEC Meeting, the commission approved the 2 federal GLRI grants. Today OLEC is seeking authority to issue sub-grants.

Toledo- Lucas County Port Authority

*“Toledo Harbor Sediment Management & Reuse”*

Project Director: Joe Cappell                      \$250,000

The Ohio State University / Ohio Sea Grant College Program

*“Lake Erie Synthesis & Coordination Team Project”*

Project Director: Jeff Reutter                      \$111,375

**At this time, the Lake Erie Commission office respectfully asks the commission members for approval of the recommendations to fund the sub-grant projects. A motion was made by OEPA and seconded by ODH. All voted in favor and the motion passed.**

Discussion: Director Logan asked, for the sake of transparency, if the commission will be charged with the reporting. Ed Hammett responded yes, and to date everything is in line and he has been working with the US EPA grant managers.

### **Western Lake Erie Basin Study**

The November 2010 newsletter is now online at [www.WLEB.org](http://www.WLEB.org). This issue includes articles on the WLEB partnership and WGTE documentary on “A Watershed Mentality”, Congresswoman Kaptur’s visit to Toledo announcing GLRI projects, St. Mary’s watershed funding from the Great Lakes Commission, new data services from the USGS, information regarding the Lake Erie Public Access Guidebook released by OCM.

### **Life on Lake Erie Photo Contest**

The 2011 “Life on Lake Erie” Photo Contest will also get underway shortly for photos taken between July 9, 2010 and July 8, 2011. This year five photos per household can be entered. An individual can win up to two times and there is no limitation of categories.

The 2010 contest ends July 15, 2011 with the winners being announced and unveiled at the Commission’s September 2011 meeting.

Each year the winning photos tour the shoreline and Columbus. The 2010 winning photos will travel to the Cleveland Boat show, via Coastal Management this January. OLEC is currently arranging the rest of the schedule for the display in 2011.

### **Coastweeks**

It 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.

This year Ohio cleaned 13 sites, covering 72 miles with 945 volunteers. These volunteers picked up 25,830 pounds of trash before it got carried away.

This year volunteers recorded items that they thought were rather "peculiar." Such as: shopping carts, school books, gas grill, carpet, rolling pin, rear view mirror, fire extinguishers, front door, ladder, bakery rack, car bumper, garden gnome, bank bag, traffic cone, whistle, employee of the month award, just to name a few. Volunteers found enough tires to outfit 68 cars.

### **GLRI**

Toledo Harbor- Task force has been formed and request for proposals has been circulated and a consultant selected.

Lake Erie Synthesis & Coordination Project- First forum of all the Ohio grantees was held on November 10. Fact sheet is available today.

### **Ohio Balanced Growth Program**

The Ohio Balanced Growth Program has been very active in the past quarter. A projects meeting was held last week and all projects are making good progress at mapping PCA and PDAs. They will move into the local review and support phase at the beginning of next year. The state agencies involved in the Ohio Balanced Growth Program are working on implementing the action items that were identified as part of the current Balanced Growth Strategy. The highest priority item was to enhance the state incentives package. Staff from the Ohio Lake Erie Commission and the Ohio Water Resources Council met with Ohio EPA and ODNR and are discussing the incentives with each of the other agencies. We are developing a searchable spreadsheet to assist local communities in identifying state program opportunities for implementing BG Plans. The Best Local Land Use Practices portion of the program is in a review and revision phase. Two meetings have been held with outside stakeholders/specialists. A plan and schedule of revisions has been developed.

SAWG members will also meet in early 2011 as we expect to start the endorsement process for the Big Creek Watershed in the Cuyahoga River watershed.

### **Advisory Committee Reports**

Ohio Sea Grant, Dr. Jeff Reutter

- Stone Laboratory is shut down for the season. It will re-open on April 15.

- The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Program and Silent Auction for F.T. Stone Laboratory will be held January 26 at the OSU Fawcett Center. This year's special guest is Dr. Ed Herdendorf. Dr. Herdendorf will be speaking on "Treasures of a Lost Voyage: Discovery and Exploration of the Gold Rush Steamer SS Central America.
- Construction on new roofs for the lab will begin in the spring.
- The Lake Erie Synthesis and Coordination Project- This is a very promising project and will be good way to explain what is happening along with the results of GLRI projects..
- Reg. groups for Stone Lab 2011. Circ. Complete. Call for prep out in March.
- 2010 Stats for Stone Lab- 225 field trips, 25 courses w/ 222 participants, 56 scholarships worth \$59,000 were distributed.
- The last 4 years have been a wonderful opportunity for partnering with the Ohio Lake Erie Commission. We look forward to keep it going.

Natural Resources Conservation Service, Cheryl Rice

- NRCS Farm Bill program funding cutoff was December 1<sup>st</sup>. NRCS is in the process of getting those applicants into contracts for conservation.
- The Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB) Partnership has welcomed the new USACES Lt. Col. Stephen Bales. The next WLEB leadership meeting is scheduled for March 17<sup>th</sup>.

Ohio Coastal Management Resources Project- No report

Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency- No report

Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments- No report

### Agency Reports

#### **Ohio Department of Agriculture**

The Ohio Ag Venture Fund- This funding opportunity provides low-income loans and grants for rural Ohio. Max is around 100,000 per project.

#### **Ohio Department of Development**

Clean Ohio Council approved a new track of funding for the Sustainable Reinvestment Pilot for brownfields on waterfronts. Projects can pay up to 1.5 million for clean up or green infrastructure.

ODOD has established a partnership with the OWDA on a new loan product for green infrastructure and storm water impacts. This will be rolled out in the next couple of weeks.

#### **Ohio Department of Health, Director Alvin Jackson**

Lake Erie Beach Monitoring Program- 2010 season

Sampling occurred on 62 beaches on Lake Erie. Four organizations assisted in sampling (Lake County General Health District, Erie County General Health District, Cuyahoga

County Board of Health, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District) and 21% of the samples were at or above the maximum E. coli detection limit. This is an increase from last year.

#### Harmful Algae Bloom

Proud of the partnership formed to address the issue and of the continued efforts to develop policies and protocols.

#### Household Sewage Program

The rules committee has met 3 times. Rules could be ready in January 2011.

Dr. Jackson thanked the commission and its members for their work over the past 4 years and expressed his gratitude being a part of it.

### **Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Director Sean Logan**

Asian Carp- ODNR along with the GLC is going to accomplish in 18 months, what the USACOE refuses to look at and that is the reworking of Chicago waterway system. The Joyce Foundation submitted grant to examine if there should be a separation of Great Lakes and the Mississippi River and if so, how. Three teams from around the country were interviewed and the consultant chosen will provide a report in 12 months that will propose a permanent ecological separation. Funding for this project was also provided by the Great Lakes Protection Fund

JCARR approved new rule package to designate distressed watersheds. Designation will be based on criteria and in conjunction with OEPA and will have greater restrictions on how agricultural manure is applied.

The Office of Coastal Management- Working with ODH to link beach monitoring sites to the Lake Erie Public Access Guidebook; working with its stakeholders on the draft Coastal Design Manual; Coastal Management Assistant Grant applications have been received and are in being reviewed; CELCP RFP will be issued next month.

Director Logan noted that the new Huron Boat Ramp has received the 2010 Outstanding Project (Large Access) Award from the States Organization for Boating Access.

Director Logan signed a letter of support for an ODOT application for GLRI funding to study birds and bats associated with wind turbines at rest stops.



### **Ohio Department of Transportation, Tim Hill**

The department is moving forward on installing wind turbines (3 total) at rest stops along I-90, I-75 and I-70. Each turbine will be around 100-150 ft tall. This will not completely sustain each rest stop, but will go a long way. ODOT will also participate in 3 year research program to study impacts on bat and birds.

### **Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Director Korleski**

Director Korleski stressed the importance of the Nonpoint Pollution issue. There has been tremendous progress over the last 4 years and crucial it is that people keep the momentum going.

### **Special Report- Lake Erie Protection**

Ed Hammett, Lake Erie Commission  
(Slides Attached)

Director Logan attributed the Commission's success to professionalism and patience of Ed Hammett and his staff.

### **Public Comments**

Joseph Barrett, North Tonawanda, New York  
*Submitted by e-mail on December 12, 2010*

Lake Erie Commission,

I would like to submit a statement to you regarding any attempts to improve Lake Erie and have it entered into the record. I have been preaching this for about 5 years and it has largely gone ignored but I am certain history and science will prove me correct. Here goes....., "Any attempt to solve Lake Eries ecological problems without first restoring the natural, annual cycle of ice movement will be futile. You will be treating a symptom rather than the cause. Lake Erie's ice out process has been halted by the New York Power Authorities use of an ice boom and this has set in motion a chain of environmental disasters. Lake Erie and it's life forms bear the brunt of the effects but the Niagara River and Lake Ontario also suffer." This ritual was recently approved by an indifferent IJC and rubber stamped by the complacent F.E.R.C. A Western New York power Production facility is able to profit at the expense of the people at the West end of Lake Erie. The natural conveyor system of nutrient and sediment transport has been disabled and now the backlog of spent fuel or detritus has reached you. You can read a summary of my research at [www.bantheboom.com](http://www.bantheboom.com) and link to various articles about my "Ice boom Theory". I only regret that I am not able to help you more but I have done everything I can with my resources. It is now time for others, like yourself, to join the cause an help to right this wrong. Thank you for listening but you need to take action. Truly, Joe Barrett

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Kristy Meyer, Ohio Environmental Council

Senate Omnibus Bill- Currently has extension language for Great lakes programs The U.S. House passed a continuing resolution for GLRI funds, it is now with the U.S. Senate.

The Great Lakes Ecosystem Protection Act- There is strong support from Senators Voinovich, Reid and Boxer.

### **Final Comments**

Executive Director Ed Hammett recognized Director Sean Logan for his years as Chairman and presented the Director with a Lake Erie Photo Contest picture.

**A motion was made by OEPA and seconded by ODOT to adjourn the December 15 OLEC meeting. All voted in favor and the motion passed.**