

OHIO LAKE ERIE COMMISSION MEETING
The Ohio State University, Stone Laboratory, Gibraltar Island
June 6, 2012

Call to Order and Roll Call –James Zehringer, Commission Chair

The Ohio Lake Erie Commission (OLEC) meeting was called to order by Commission Chairman, ODNR Director James Zehringer at 10:00 a.m.

Commission Members Present:

James Zehringer, Director, Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)
David Daniels, Director, Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA)
Scott Nally, Director, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA)
William Murdock, Director's Designee, Ohio Department of Development (ODOD)
Myron Pakush, Director's Designee, Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)
Gene Phillips, Director's Designee, Ohio Department of Health (ODH)

Staff Present:

Gail Hesse, Executive Director, Ohio Lake Erie Commission(OLEC)
Sandra Kosek-Sills, Ohio Lake Erie Commission (OLEC)
Rian Sallee, Ohio Lake Erie Commission (OLEC)
Heidi Rife, Ohio Lake Erie Commission (OLEC)
Steve Holland, Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)

Welcome and Agenda Overview: James Zehringer, Director, ODNR, and OLEC Chairman

BUSINESS MEETING

Chairman's Report James Zehringer, Commission Chair:

There are two actions before the Commission today:

1. Approval of March 21, 2012 OLEC Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of Fiscal Designee as required by Ohio Revised Code – 1506.23 and 1506.24

Background

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

Ohio EPA has served as the fiscal administrator for these funds for many years and has agreed to continue in this role.

Executive Committee Recommendation: Approve the designation of the Ohio EPA. The Ohio EPA has successfully fulfilled this role and has established practices for fiscal management of the funds for the Commission.

Two action items can now be voted on:

Approval of March 21, 2012 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Scott Nally, Ohio EPA and seconded by Myron Pakush, ODOT to approve the March 21, 2012 OLEC minutes as written. No discussion was offered. The commission members voted all in favor and the motion was carried.

Approval of Fiscal Designee

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

A motion was made by Scott Nally, Ohio EPA and seconded by Myron Pakush, ODOT to approve the Fiscal Designee.

No discussion was offered. The Commission members voted all in favor and the motion carried.

Grants Committee Report, Steve Holland, Committee Chair, ODNR

Holland presented the following resolution and provided the summary for each recommended project. The resolution was moved by William Murdock, ODD and seconded by Gene Phillips, ODH.

Resolved, that the following Lake Erie Protection Fund grant proposals be funded:

- “Lake Erie Angler Survey.” The Ohio State University. \$12,379
- “Cyanobacteria Toxins by qPCR and ELISA.” U.S. Geological Survey. \$15,000
- “City of Sandusky Green Shoreline Demonstration.” City of Sandusky. \$12,770
- “Copper Concentrations at Lake Erie Marinas.” Ohio Sea Grant. \$14,571

Summary:

- **434-12 Lake Erie Angler Survey**
 - ***Brent Sohngen, The Ohio State University, \$12,379***
 - Conduct a survey to assess angler fishing behavior and how behavior is influenced by water quality changes
 - Data collected will allow for an estimate of demand for fishing trips and changes in demand due to water quality
- **435-12 Cyanobacteria Toxins by qPCR and ELISA**
 - ***Erin Stelzer, U.S. Geological Survey, \$15,000***
 - Test and optimize a new molecular based method for monitoring Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) and provide an early warning system for HAB production
 - Data will provide an understanding of which Cyanobacteria genera are producing microcystin toxins
- **437-12 City of Sandusky Living Shoreline Demonstration**
 - ***Scott Miller, City of Sandusky, \$12,770***
 - Install 550 feet of a living shoreline demonstration project by providing soil amendment, erosion control and native grass/sedge establishment

- Benefits include shore stabilization and water quality improvement via filtration of upland runoff
- **439-12 Copper Concentrations at Lake Erie Marinas**
 - ***Sarah Orlando, Ohio Sea Grant, \$14,571***
 - Establish preliminary data on copper accumulation in sediment at marinas and quantify the amount contributed by boat bottom washing
 - Data will provide a clearer view of the contribution of vessel wash water to copper concentrations in near shore sediments

LEPF Summary SFY 2012

Small Grants

\$150,000

- SFY 2012:
 - Q1 Funded: \$30,000
 - Q2 Funded: \$39,860
 - Q3 Funded: -*
 - Q4 Funded: \$54,720
- Remaining Balance: \$25,420
* *funding suspended*

Balanced Growth

\$50,000

- SFY 2012:
 - Q1 Funded: -
 - Q2 Funded: \$49,983
 - Q3 Funded: -
 - Q4 Funded: -
- Remaining Balance: \$17.00

Discussion: Mr. Murdock asked what the areas are prone to algae. What is being done about the water quality for fishing and types of fish being caught? He then asked what happens to the funds after they are gone. Gail stated that we do have a reserve.

The Commission members voted all in favor and the motion carried.

Executive Committee Report Gail Hesse, Executive Director, OLEC:

There are four actions before the Commission today:

1. Approval of SFY 2013 LEPF Funding Allocation
2. Approval of SFY 2013 LEPF Funding Framework
3. Approval of SFY 2013 LEPF Application Materials
4. Approval of Allocation for License Plate Marketing Initiative

The following resolution was moved by Gene Phillips ODH and seconded by William Murdock, ODD.

Resolved: That the Lake Erie Protection Fund budget for SFY 2013 be \$150,000 for small grant projects and \$50,000 for project(s) to support the Ohio Balanced Growth Program.

No discussion was offered. The Commission members voted all in favor and the motion carried.

The following resolution was moved by Myron Pakush, ODOT and seconded by Gene Phillips, ODH.

Resolved: that the Lake Erie Protection Fund funding framework for SFY 2013 be revised to allow for up to three, \$15,000 grants in Q1; one, \$30,000 grant in Q2; one, \$30,000 grant in Q3; and up to three, \$15,000 grants in Q4.

Background: Hesse discussed that two options were presented to the Grants Committee and the Executive Committee for consideration. The results of these discussions are a framework for a quarterly allotment that both preserve the consistency of recent years while allowing for slightly larger projects with potential for more programmatic impact.

This structure also provides for identification of a particular policy/priority/theme for the two \$30,000 grants. If approved, the Executive Committee will explore options for one or more targeted themes or priorities over the summer for review and action by the Commission at the September 2012 meeting.

Small Grants Funding Framework			
September 2012	December 2012	March 2013	June 2013
Up to three grants- \$15,000 each	One- \$30,000 grant*	One- \$30,000 grant*	Up to three grants- \$15,000 each

*Potential for identification of a particular policy/priority/theme

Discussion: Myron Pakush, ODOT, stated that it is a good idea, makes sense and has a good approach, theme and the generation of applications is important.

The Commission members voted all in favor and the motion carried.

The following resolution was moved by William Murdock, ODD and seconded by Myron Pakush, ODOT.

Resolved: that the Commission approves the SFY 2013 LEPF application materials.

Discussion: Hesse commented that the materials have been modified to reflect the changes approved in the previous motion. Commission Chair James Zehringer stated that it is straight forward, no discussion is needed.

The Commission members voted all in favor and the motion carried.

The following resolution was moved by Director Scott Nally, Ohio EPA and seconded by William Murdock, ODD.

Resolved: that the Commission to allocate \$25,000 in LEPF funds for a marketing initiative for the Lake Erie license plate program.

Hesse discussed the need for a marketing of the Lake Erie license plate. Annual revenue to the fund has declined steadily at a rate of approximately 5-10% per year. A targeted marketing campaign has not been completed for the Lake Erie plate in over ten years. A reduction in project funding is

occurring at a critical time as the harmful algal blooms, bacterial contamination and phosphorus loading continued to be urgent issues. With the decline in revenue, less progress can be made on these issues and on reaching the goals identified by the State of Ohio in the Lake Erie Protection and Restoration Plan.

OLEC staff is currently in communication with the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (Ohio BMV) to identify trend information on plate sales for the Lake Erie plate and other specialty plates sold in Ohio. We intend to utilize this information to identify how best to target a marketing effort. Depending on the level of detail we can obtain from the Ohio BMV, we may consider a marketing analysis by an outside entity to guide us towards the most effective marketing strategies. Any contract with an outside entity will be subject to Commission approval at a future meeting. We acknowledge that with this option, another request for a future allocation to implement the recommendations may be needed.

The remaining balance from SFY 2012 LEPF fund allocation is \$25,420.

Discussion: Director of ODA, David Daniels asked how the \$25,000 figure was generated. Executive Director Hesse stated that it was based on being a good steward of the fund and not going too far too fast. The rollover SFY 2012 was \$25,420. The Ohio Lake Erie Commission is working on a list of interested parties to do a marketing study. The Commission is also looking to get sales facts and trend information. We want to evaluate the value of a study, the best way to reach stakeholders, as well as the effectiveness of online advertising. Director Daniels stated there is more competition with plate sales and the “look” drives the sales of the plate. Will there be a redesign of the plate? What was the success of the last campaign? What was the increase in the revenue of the last campaign? Executive Director Hesse stated the reserve is \$400,000. Several years ago the Commission looked at a suite of different lighthouses for the plates. The Toledo Lighthouse plate is no longer available. There are pros and cons with brand identity and loyalty. There is a need to look at the localized interest that wants plates and to appeal to a broad range of purchasers. Commission Chair and ODNR Director, James Zehringer asked if all plates are down with their sales. Director Daniels and ODNR Director Zehringer think \$25,000 is a lot of money. ODD William Murdock asked if the \$25,000 is an allocation and wanted to clarify what it was. Executive Director Hesse stated that yes it was. Ohio EPA Director Scott Nally asked if the motion was just to allocate dollars. He also stated that it should be further discussed to see what can be done. Director Daniels stated that they all need to review the plate dollars for all the plates available. Director Daniels has reservations. ODH Gene Phillips asked if better ideas would be presented in September and if there would be figures from the BMV. Executive Director Hesse stated yes, while this request is for the allocation, we would come back at a future meeting with a spending plan for the allocation as well as authorization of specific expenditures.

The Commission members voted all in favor and the motion carried.

Hesse introduced Pat Barker, Assistant Director, Ohio Office of Tourism *who presented the report: Economic Impact of Tourism in Ohio and Lake Erie*

Key themes for 2011

- The Ohio visitor economy continued to expand in 2011. Visitor spending within Ohio rose 6.5% after a 7.4% increase in 2010.
 - Visitor volumes rose for a second straight year, 181.5 million people travelled in Ohio in

2011 – a new high.

- Growth in overnight visitation remains strong. Domestic overnight visitation grew 4.7% buoyed by strong hotel room demand growth of 6.4% in 2011.
- Per trip spending rose as gas prices rose and hotels and other tourism providers start to recoup recessionary price cuts.
- Visitor spending of \$26.3 billion generated \$40 billion in total business sales in 2011 as tourism dollars flowed through the Ohio economy.
- Tourism taxes grew faster than overall state tax receipts.

Key results

- More than 443,000 jobs, with associated income of \$10.5 billion, were sustained by visitors to Ohio last year.
- These jobs represent 8.7% of total employment in Ohio – 1 in every 11.5 jobs in Ohio is sustained by the tourism economy.
- Including indirect and induced impacts, tourism in Ohio generated \$2.7 billion in state and local taxes and \$2.6 billion in Federal taxes last year.
- In the absence of the state and local taxes generated by tourism, each Ohio household would need to pay \$600 to maintain the current level of government services.

Questions: ODNR Deputy Director Karl Gephardt asked if we know about the casino industry and the numbers. Pat Barker stated that visitors come from 50 mile radius and there is a benefit but not much. Visitors go into the casino, spend money and leave. Ohio's market is its surrounding states and anything that touches the state. The farther you go out to get business the more it costs. Pat also stated that the numbers will be larger because data is being updated in the next few weeks. Executive Director Hesse asked if there was any way to discern outbound vs. inbound? Ms. Barker stated that comparing regionally as to what the traffic is vs. years ago the trend is regional and people are staying in the region. Long haul trips are being "pent up" and short haul is more popular due to the economy.

Dave Ritter, NOACA asked what kind of insight can be given to the Commission to market the plates and is it different than 10 years ago. It was also stated that the BMV needs to cooperate.

William Murdock, ODD asked where is the focus for the tourism for fishing... where is done at? Pat stated that it's done online and by direct email for hunters, fishers, and boaters.

Dr. Chris Winslow, from the Ohio SEA Grant program stated that OSU Research results will be out soon for HABs, which if directed correctly with media it will have a positive effect on the tourism.

The full presentation is on file at the Ohio Lake Erie Commission office.

Ohio Lake Erie Commission – Office Report: Gail Hesse, OLEC

Introduction of new staff. ODNR Director James Zehringer thanked Sandra Kosek-Sills for her gallant efforts taking on more work and responsibilities as the Commission sought to replace staff.

Hesse presented the SFY13 Work Plan for the OLEC office which includes:

- **LEPF (.7)**
 - Grants management

- Marketing, Revenue development
- **Lake Erie Protection and Restoration Plan Update (.5)**
 - Solicit input from agencies, stakeholders
 - Public review, Commission review and adoption
- **Balanced Growth Program (.6)**
 - BG Strategy implementation
 - BLLUP, incentives, outreach to agency program staff
- **Public Outreach (.5)**
 - Photo Contest, LE Awards, Coastweeks
- **GLRI (.3)**
 - Synthesis & Coordination Team
 - Toledo Harbor
- **P Task Force Phase II (.2)**
- **Administrative and Fiscal Functions (.8)**

2012 Ohio Lake Erie Awards

- In honor of Ohio citizens and organizations who have made outstanding contributions to enhance our Great Lake
- One Individual
- One Organization
- Deadline to nominate is August 15, 2012

A "Call for Nominations" has been released for this year's recipients of the 2012 Ohio Lake Erie Awards. Application forms are available at the Commission's website.

Background

Ohio Lake Erie Commission established the awards in 1995 to honor Ohio's citizens and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to enhance our Great Lake. It is 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 individuals, member agencies, and collaborative partners. Since 1995, 16 individual and 16 organization awards have been presented.

2012 "Life on Lake Erie" Photo Contest

The 2012 "Life on Lake Erie" Photo Contest will also get underway shortly. Submitted photos taken between July 14, 2011 and July 13, 2012 are eligible for entry. 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.

The 2012 contest ends July 16, 2012 with the winners being announced and unveiled at the Commission's September 2012 meeting. Flyers are available online at the Commission's website. Each year the winning photos tour the shoreline (...or are on display in Columbus) and are featured in the Commission's Lake Erie Photo Gallery.

Coastweeks 2012

Coastweeks emphasizes public awareness of the value and fragility of Lake Erie with a strong focus on cleanup events in the Lake Erie watershed. Other events have included nature walks, canoe trips, and birding events.

Plans for Ohio's annual Coastweeks 2012 program are underway. The "Call for Events" forms were released this spring for activities to be organized for this coming fall program. The annual program takes place during the International Coastal Cleanup on Saturday, September 15 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 are available 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 Washington 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.

Lake Erie Protection Fund Update

The Ohio's Lake Erie Protection Fund supports protection and restoration of Lake Erie by sponsoring over 300 research and improvement projects throughout the Lake Erie watershed. Since the Fund was created, over \$9 million in grants have been awarded to researchers and implementing agencies and organizations. The Fund receives revenue through donations made by the public directly to the Fund or through the purchase of the *Erie...Our Great Lake!* License plate. It is an opportunity for Administrators to name and claim priorities and put a workgroup together so that there will be priorities put in place for the plan.

LEPF Completed Projects 4th Quarter 2012

- ***Modeling Dissolved Phosphorus Exports to Lake Erie***
 - LEPR Priority: Non-Point Source Pollution
 - Principal Investigator: Rem Confessor, Jr., Heidelberg University.

- ***The Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) was used to simulate the flow, sediments, dissolved P, total P and nitrite + nitrate from Rock Creek, Honey Creek, Sandusky River, and Maumee River***
 - SWAT aids in selection/placement of best management practices (BMPs) to reduce nonpoint source pollution (e.g., dissolved phosphorus) from agricultural lands

- ***SWAT was used to evaluate the effects of changes in mode of fertilizer application: broadcast vs. incorporation***
 - Incorporating fertilizer instead of broadcasting decreased dissolved P

Background: The recurrence of massive harmful algal blooms (HABs) in the western basin of Lake Erie since the mid-1990s is largely attributed to excessive loads of sediment and phosphorus (P) from the Maumee and Sandusky rivers. Data from the National Center for Water Quality Research (NCWQR) show that the dissolved P load has been increasing since the mid-1990s, corresponding to the reappearance of HABs in Lake Erie. The use of watershed models such as the Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) is a vital component in exploring the selection and optimal placement of best management practices (BMPs) to reduce nonpoint source pollution (e.g., dissolved phosphorus) from agricultural lands. SWAT decently simulated the flow, sediments, dissolved P, total P and nitrite + nitrate from Rock Creek, Honey Creek, Sandusky River, and Maumee River. SWAT was successfully used to evaluate the effects of changes in mode of fertilizer application: switching from broadcast to incorporation and from incorporation to broadcast. Simulations showed that broadcasting fertilizer instead of incorporating tremendously increased the dissolved P, while incorporating the fertilizer instead of broadcasting decreased dissolved P. SWAT has a great potential in aiding selection and placement of BMPs to reduce dissolved P exports from the Lake Erie watersheds

- **Wet Meadow Restoration in a Floodplain in Sylvania**
 - LEPR Priority: Habitat & Species
 - Organization: The Olander Park System (TOPS)
 - Project Director: Erika Buri

- **Restored 18 acres of wet meadow at 150-acre Sylan Prairie Park (SPP) in Sylvania Township**
 - Originally old field
 - TOPS installed 18 acres of wet meadow in the floodplain in 2009
 - Goal of the LEPF project was to install 18 more acres in 2011

Background: The Olander Park System (TOPS) received \$15,000 from Lake Erie Protection Fund (LEPF) to restore 18 acres of wet meadow at 150-acre Sylan Prairie Park (SPP) in Sylvania Township. SPP is in the Ten Mile Creek/Ottawa River Watershed, part of the Maumee Area of Concern. Much of SPP is floodplain, and much of that was old field. In 2009, TOPS installed 18 acres of wet meadow in the floodplain, and the goal of the LEPF project was to install 18 more acres in 2011. To prepare the 18 acres for seeding, a boom sprayer was used to apply aquatic safe glyphosate herbicide. Mowing was also done to the standing dead vegetation to increase seed to soil contact. In early November 2011, a Great Plains Seed Drill was used to plant Ohio Prairie Nursery's Ohio Moist Meadow Seed Mix at a rate of 7 PLS pounds per acre. To restore a more natural hydrology to the floodplain, a backhoe was used to crush and back-fill field tile drop inlets and outlet pipes. The now 36 acres of wet meadow will mature into a native plant community that can support native wildlife and critical ecosystem functions like water filtration, pollution reduction, and flood control.

Overview of Lake Erie Projects/Initiatives

The Toledo Harbor Dredging Project is largest project in the Great Lakes. There is a sediment management plan being worked on for the reuse of dredging materials. It is in draft form. The public forum is June 19, 2012. The plan provides a suite of what can be done with material. It will be finalized this summer.

The Phosphorus Task Force is in Phase II and hoping to build on results of Phase 1. What has happened since 2010? There need to be informed deliberations to move forward. Dissolved

phosphorus and tile drainage are being discussed with a one year effort. Wants to wrap up by Spring 2013.

Lake Erie Quality Index: The Lake Erie Quality Index needs to be updated. In the past the commission has paid for the data and it was expensive. There is not that kind of funding as of right now. The next step is to determine what has been done vs. how much has been spent in the past. Hesse indicated she committed to the Executive Committee that an analysis of options will be discussed at the Committee's meeting in August.

Discussion: Chairman and ODNR Director, James Zehringer asked if there is an action plan for the index and when it will be finished. Hesse stated the Lake Erie Protection and Restoration Plan is scheduled for action by the Commission in June 2013. The Lake Erie Quality Index is scheduled for 2014. Director Zehringer also commented on the Phosphorus and dissolved Phosphorus. He stated that a lot of farmers and others have stepped up to help get data and are anxious for the report to come out. Executive Director Hesse stated that people can help through science, monitoring, research, forums, taskforces as well as on the ground implementation of management practices. All have their place in the solutions to the issues. There are a lot of dynamics going into the whole solution. It's about collective problem solving and it's a complex issue. What will summer of 2012 be like? We expect to see it thinner and less. The suspension will be from the bottom sediment that will trigger the blooms. Director Zehringer stated that the agriculture community is interested in the results of the study. The Phosphorus is moving and all need to know why. Executive Director Hesse said that it's about coming together to sort thru this. ODA Director Daniels stated that we want to make sure that there are correct moves being made to solutions, instead of guessing about what they are. Research is being finalized. Ohio EPA Director Nally stated that the groups are being productive. Executive Director Hesse stated that there is a lot to learn from each other and the research. We all have something to learn and teach. Ohio EPA Director Nally suggested that we can avoid finger pointing with correct media alerting and facts.

Agency Reports and New Business

Director, David Daniels, ODA: Reported that they are working on processes with water quality issues. The agency has been working on the government requirements on how it can best implement programs. There is also tracking of the invasive species right now, with regards to the Asian Carp. The Dangerous Wild Animal legislation has passed. Introduction of Denise Franz King, who will be responsible for overseeing and promoting the department's Farmland Preservation Program and working on water quality issues.

William Murdock, ODD: Introduction of the alternative storm water programs and the Local Government Innovation Fund – which is new. 117 applicants so far and there are 400 local governments. There are grants for planning & dollars for funding. There are a lot of great opportunities for collaboration.

Gene Phillips, ODH: update on e-coli monitoring - up and running also a mobile app for the beach monitoring is now available. There is a draft set up for household sewage treatment rules.

Commission Chair Zehringer turned to Deputy Director, Karl Gephardt, ODNR for the following report: – The Ohio House Bill 473 (The law, intended to comply with the 2005 Great Lakes Compact, imposes new permit requirements for water withdraws permit limits and is designed to protect excessive water use from the Lake Erie Basin. Water withdraw limits vary from 100,000 gallons to 2.5

million gallons, depending on the source of the water.) was signed. Currently, implementations of the rules for the program are being addressed. ODNR is also looking at the Agri-business community. There is a lot of new research being done to address issues. There is also ongoing involvement with western basin activities and soil testing. The Asian carp Rapid Response Program is being developed with Indiana. ODNR met with Eagle Marsh, near Fort Wayne, IN on developing a rapid response for Ohio. Eagle Marsh installed a 1,200 foot fence designed to keep Asian carp from getting into the Great Lakes in the event the marsh area is flooded. Deputy Director Gephardt also mentioned that Great Lakes Week in Cleveland will be on September 10-13, 2012.

Myron Pakush, ODOT – Looking at cost reductions. The Transportation Review Advisory Council meeting is today. Some projects are moving up.

Director, Scott Nally, OEPA – There has been a very aggressive legislative session. Ohio EPA items will be moving very soon. There will also be intensive monitoring of Lake Erie this year in collaboration with OSU and Heidelberg for decisions and policies.

Advisory Group Reports:

- OSU Sea Grant Program: Dr. Jeffrey M. Reutter – Updates: In the process of remodeling classrooms on first floor and renovating labs and the research building. Workshops and conferences will be intense through spring and summer. They have purchased equipment from funding for water quality testing.
- Ohio Coastal Resource Management Project (OCRMP): Alison Ball - board is currently evaluating their future focus and asking for guidelines for their endeavors.
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS): Cheryl Rice – continuing sign-ups for programs for research. WLEB meeting at Stone Lab next week, June 12, 2012.
- Northeast Ohio Area wide Coordinating Agency (NOACA): Dave Ritter – There is a new Executive Director – Grace Gallucci. They are in the process of updating facility planning areas and currently served areas. Working on repairing ordinances with areas within the region.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Doug Clark – OWEA The OWEA wants to be part of the solutions for water quality. OWEA would like to let people know who they are & where they are and want to partner with anyone they can with water quality.

Fran DiDenato – Fresh Water Innovation Alliance - anew nonprofit – working to share information and innovation on fresh water issues. Very new. Looking to launch the organization before Great Lakes Week in September, 2012.

Sandy Bihn – Western Lake Erie Waterkeepers Association - Wanted to make sure that there is monitoring being done in the lake. Talked about reports of how Lake Erie was “fixed” in the 70’s and gave the Commission copies of excerpts of a USEPA 1984 report. Sandy also stated that she wanted to

make sure that the 3 million dollars is used for good reasons and that lake to land monitoring is essential.

Myron Pakush, ODOT motioned to adjourn. William Murdock, ODD motioned second.

Powerpoint presentation slides used at this meeting are on file at the Ohio Lake Erie Commission Office.

Adjournment at 12:10 p.m.

NOTE: Next Lake Erie Commission Meeting:
Thursday, September 19, 2012, 10 a.m.