

For Immediate Release
April 9, 2013

Lake Erie License Plate Proceeds Fund Projects within the Watershed

Lake Erie Protection Fund grants have been awarded to two Ohio universities to conduct research aimed at improving water quality in the Lake Erie watershed.

The Ohio Lake Erie Commission (OLEC) administers Ohio's Lake Erie Protection Fund, which was established to help finance research and implementation projects aimed at protecting, preserving and restoring Lake Erie and its watershed. The fund is supported by Ohioans who purchase a Lake Erie license plate displaying the Marblehead Lighthouse by Ohio artist Ben Richmond.

Grants were awarded to:

- **Case Western Reserve University** – \$30,000 to investigate internal phosphorus loading in Lake Erie. The results will assist in developing estimates of internal nutrient releases from bottom sediments and forecasting areas of low oxygen also known as hypoxia. The project will improve the ability of resource managers to assess management strategies and make informed decisions regarding nutrients and hypoxia in Lake Erie.
- **Cleveland State University** -- \$30,000 to create and analyze an inventory of water conservation measures by different types of industries using water in the Lake Erie basin. Researchers will identify types of water conservation and efficiency measures that are currently implemented or could be implemented by various water use sectors. The results will assist the State with development and implementation of a water conservation and efficiency program.

Citizens wishing to help fund projects that protect and restore Lake Erie and its watershed can send a donation directly to OLEC's office at 111 E. Shoreline Drive, Sandusky, Ohio 44870. All donations and proceeds from the sale of the Lake Erie license plate are utilized for funding grants to benefit Ohio's Great Lake.

OLEC was established for the purpose of preserving Lake Erie's natural resources, protecting the quality of its waters and ecosystem and promoting economic development in the region. The director of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) serves as the commission's chairman. Additional members include the directors of the state departments of Transportation, Health, Development, Agriculture and Natural Resources.

For more information on the Lake Erie Protection Fund, or to read about past grant projects, please visit: <http://lakeerie.ohio.gov/>.

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