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**For Immediate Release**

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**OHIO LAKE ERIE COMMISSION SCHEDULES QUARTERLY MEETING ON  
MARCH 15 IN REYNOLDSBURG**

TOLEDO, OH – The Ohio Lake Erie Commission will hold its quarterly meeting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, March 15, at the Bromfield Administration at the Ohio Department of Agriculture, 8995 East Main Street in Reynoldsburg.

Commission members are expected to select the latest round of Small Grant projects. Executive Director Edwin Hammett will provide a progress report on the implementation of the commission's Balanced Growth Program, as well as other lake-related programs and issues.

Gary Isbell from Fish Management with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) will update commission members on aquatic nuisance species. An ODNR representative will report on the Great Lakes Charter Annex, while a representative with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) will provide an update on the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration. Other topics to be discussed include Coastweeks 2006 and the 2006 "Life on Lake Erie" photo contest.

All meetings of the Ohio Lake Erie Commission are open to the public and include a public comment period. Organizations and citizens are encouraged to attend this meeting and provide input on issues of concern.

The Commission is comprised of the directors of the OEPA and ODNR, as well as the directors of the state departments of transportation, development, health and agriculture. It 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 commission oversees the Ohio Lake Erie Protection Fund (LEPF), which is the source of grant money. This fund is supported by Ohioans each time they purchase a Lake Erie license plate displaying either the Marblehead Lighthouse or the Toledo Harbor Lighthouse designed by Ohio artist Ben Richmond. This money is used to fund LEPF grants that focus on improving the quality of Lake Erie and furthering the goals laid out in the *Lake Erie Protection & Restoration Plan*.

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*The Lake Erie Commission is an Equal Opportunity Employer*

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