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OHIO LAKE ERIE COMMISSION TO HOLD QUARTERLY MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 6 IN ELYRIA

TOLEDO , OH – The Ohio Lake Erie Commission (LEC) will hold its quarterly meeting at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, September 6, at the John A. Spitzer Conference Center , 1005 Abbe Road North , Elyria . The meeting is in conjunction with the 2006 Lake Erie Conference, scheduled for the following day.

Commission members are expected to lay the groundwork for the conference by approving various awards and reports to be released the following day. They are also expected to approve the latest round of small grant applications.

LEC Executive Director Edwin Hammett will report on ongoing projects, including the Balanced Growth and license plate programs and the 2006 Coastweeks celebration.

The Chairman of the Black River RAP will present an updated report on remediation of the Black River and the recent activities of the Black River RAP organization that received the Commission's Ohio Lake Erie Award in 2004.

Advisory committees will report on the Ohio Coastal Resource Management Project, Ohio Sea Grant College Program, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency and the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments.

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

The Ohio Lake Erie Commission is comprised of the directors of the ODNR and OEPA, as well as the 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 also oversees the Ohio Lake Erie Protection Fund, which is the source of grant money for projects that benefit the Lake Erie watershed economically and environmentally. This fund is supported by Ohioans who purchase a Lake Erie license plate displaying the Marblehead Lighthouse or Toledo Harbor Lighthouse designed by Ohio artist Ben Richmond.

During the last 13 years, the commission has raised more than \$8 million through the sale of Lake Erie license plates. The money has gone to a wide range of efforts to preserve and enhance life along Lake Erie .

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