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**For Immediate Release**

May 16, 2008

**OHIO LAKE ERIE COMMISSION TO HOLD QUARTERLY MEETING  
ON THURSDAY, JUNE 5 IN REYNOLDSBURG**

*Meeting will include tour of Ohio Department of Agriculture laboratories*

TOLEDO, OH – The Ohio Lake Erie Commission (OLEC) will hold its quarterly meeting at 10 a.m. on Thursday, June 5, at the Ohio Department of Agriculture Auditorium A, 8995 E. Main St., Reynoldsburg.

Commission members are expected to approve the annual budget for the 2009 state fiscal year, and discuss the 2008 Lake Erie Protection and Restoration Plan. They are also expected to approve revisions to the Lake Erie Protection Fund grants program. A tour of the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory and Consumer Analytical Laboratory will follow the regular meeting.

The commission's advisory committees, including the Ohio Sea Grant College Program and the Ohio Coastal Resource Management Project, will submit their quarterly reports.

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 was created to preserve Lake Erie's natural resources, enhance its water quality and promote economic development in the region. The director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources serves as the commission's chairman. Additional members include the directors of the departments of transportation, development, health, agriculture and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

The commission 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 15 years, the commission has raised more

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than \$8.8 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. pg. 2

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