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**For Immediate Release**

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**OHIO LAKE ERIE COMMISSION TO HOLD ANNUAL MEETING  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 AT THE LAKE ERIE NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER**

*Commission will announce 2008 Ohio Lake Erie Awards and  
Present 2008 "Life on Lake Erie" Photo Contest Winners*

TOLEDO, OH – The Ohio Lake Erie Commission (OLEC) will hold its annual meeting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, September 30, at the Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, 28728 Wolf Road, Bay Village, OH.

Commission Chair Sean Logan, director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the Commission members will finalize the *2008 Lake Erie Protection & Restoration Plan*. The purpose of this Plan is to identify the strategic direction and the near term actions of the State of Ohio related to Lake Erie and its watershed. The Plan also provides a statement of what Ohio is doing to implement the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration.

Winners of the 2008 "*Life on Lake Erie*" photo contest will be announced. Commission members are expected to approve the 2008 *Ohio Lake Erie Award* nominations and vote on the latest round of Lake Erie Protection Fund small grants proposals. Executive Director Edwin Hammett will discuss the 2008 *Coastweeks* program that took place September 12-21 and provide a report on the Lake Erie Balanced Growth Program which includes a viewing of the newly developed *Best Local Land Use Practices* DVD.

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 Ohio Lake Erie Commission 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 Department of Natural Resources serves as the commission's chairman. Additional members include

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the directors of the state departments of Transportation, Health, Development, Agriculture and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

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

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