

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 2, 2010

Ohio Lake Erie Commission to Hold Quarterly Meeting

TOLEDO, OH - The Ohio Lake Erie Commission (OLEC) will hold its quarterly meeting at 10 a.m. on March 10 at the Horace R. Collins Laboratory meeting room located at Alum Creek State Park in Delaware, Ohio.

Featured speakers include Dr. Jeffrey Reutter, director of the Ohio Sea Grant College Program, who will present a summary of results from the Phosphorus Research Forum, Gail Hesse, of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, who will discuss the nearly completed Phosphorus Task Force Report, and Edwin Hammett, executive director for the OLEC, who will discuss the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

Commission members are expected to approve the latest round of small grants and discuss the Balanced Growth Program including best local land use practices and the commission's public outreach programs for 2010.

The Ohio Lake Erie Commission oversees Ohio's Lake Erie Protection Fund, which is a 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 the Toledo Harbor Lighthouse designed by Ohio artist Ben Richmond. Since 1993, more than \$9 million has been raised from sales of the Lake Erie license plates.

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

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