

**Ohio Lake Erie Commission
Request for Proposal (RFP)
Lake Erie Coastal Wetland Vegetative Index of Biotic Integrity (VIBI-E_{COASTAL}) Project
Proposal Due Date: November 8, 2013**

The Ohio Lake Erie Commission is soliciting proposals through the Lake Erie Protection Fund to perform an assessment of Lake Erie coastal wetlands utilizing the Coastal Wetland Vegetative Index of Biotic Integrity (VIBI-E_{COASTAL}). The 2004 *Lake Erie Quality Index* (LEQI) evaluated coastal wetland sites for their plant diversity and the Ohio Lake Erie Commission is seeking to replicate this study for comparison with present day conditions. A complete list of wetland sites to be studied in this project is included as the second page of this RFP. Results of this project will be used for a 2015 update to the *Lake Erie Quality Index*.

Proposals should include assessments for the listed sites using the VIBI-E_{COASTAL}. The number of VIBI plots at each site should be selected based on representative areas of each dominant plant community. The applicant is responsible for making contact with site owners, and obtaining permission to access sites and conduct the analysis.

Applicants should be experienced with the VIBI methodology and have documented experience identifying and cataloging wetland plants. Data submission of data results from all sites will be in a format to be prescribed by the Ohio Lake Erie Commission staff.

Please see the following links for appropriate VIBI-E_{COASTAL} methodology, as well as a reference report from Ohio EPA:

http://epa.ohio.gov/portals/35/wetlands/Part9_field_manual_v1_4rev4sept07.pdf
<http://lakeerie.ohio.gov/Portals/0/LEQI%20Mack%20VIBI%20Report.pdf>

The 2004 *Lake Erie Quality Index* may be viewed at the following link:

<http://lakeerie.ohio.gov/Portals/0/Reports/2004stateofthelakereport.pdf>

Funding for this project seeks to address the Habitat and Species Objective in the *Lake Erie Protection and Restoration Plan* (2013) to “Protect, enhance and restore wetlands and their functionality and expand wetland acreage within the watershed, with a priority focus on coastal wetlands.”

Please visit the Commission’s website at <http://lakeerie.ohio.gov/LakeErieProtectionFund.aspx> for application materials and to obtain more information about the Lake Erie Protection Fund.

If you have any further questions, please contact Rian Sallee, the Commission’s Grants Coordinator, at 419-621-2040.

Table 1. Summary table of Lake Erie Coastal wetlands sampled, 2000-2004. Sites with * = reference sites. EOLP = Erie-Ontario Drift and Lake Plains. HELP = Huron-Erie Lake Plains.

Site Code	Site Name	Sample date	County	Latitude	Longitude	Ecoregion	Subregion	HGM Subclass	Plant Community
ARCOLA	Arcola Creek*	12-Jul-2001	Lake	41.8497	-81.0058	EOLP	Erie Lake Plain	drowned river mouth	mixed emergent marsh
BEULAH	Beulah Beach	7-Aug-2002	Erie	41.3928	-82.4397	EOLP	Erie Lake Plain	drowned river mouth	mixed emergent marsh
CDRPT-NE	Cedar Pt. NE	7-Jul-2004	Ottawa	41.7011	83.3285	HELP	Maumee Lake Plains	diked-managed	mixed emergent marsh
CDRPT-SW	Cedar Pt. Swale	8-Jul-2004	Ottawa	41.7037	83.3384	HELP	Maumee Lake Plains	beach swale	mixed emergent marsh
COWLESCR	Cowles Cr Swale	27-Jul-2004	Ashtabula	41.8576	80.9694	EOLP	Erie Lake Plain	beach swale	mixed emergent marsh
DUPONT	Dupont Marsh	2-Jul-2001	Erie	41.3633	-82.5567	EOLP	Erie Lake Plain	drowned river mouth	mixed emergent marsh
FOXMARSH	Foxes Marsh	18-Sep-2002	Ottawa	41.7114	-82.8281	HELP	Marblehead Drift/Limestone	barrier-beach lagoon	mixed emergent marsh
MEADWBRK	Meadow Brook	12-Aug-2002	Ottawa	41.5086	-82.7733	HELP	Marblehead Drift/Limestone	closed embayment	mixed emergent marsh
MIDHARBR	Middle Harbor	12-Aug-2002	Ottawa	41.5483	-82.8178	HELP	Marblehead Drift/Limestone	closed embayment	mixed emergent marsh
NORPND-E	North Pond Emergent*	3-Jul-2001	Erie	41.6114	-82.7011	HELP	Marblehead Drift/Limestone	barrier-beach lagoon	mixed emergent marsh
NORPND-S	North Pond Shrub*	14-Aug-2002	Erie	41.6114	-82.7011	HELP	Marblehead Drift/Limestone	barrier-beach lagoon	mixed shrub swamp
OLDWO-IN	Old Woman Cr Inlet	15-Aug-2001	Erie	41.3766	-82.5092	EOLP	Erie Lake Plain	drowned river mouth	mixed swamp forest
OLDWO-MO	Old Woman Cr Mouth	2-Jul-2001	Erie	41.3814	-82.5153	EOLP	Erie Lake Plain	drowned river mouth	mixed emergent marsh
OLDWO-WE	Old Woman West	7-Aug-2002	Erie	41.3844	-82.5167	EOLP	Erie Lake Plain	closed embayment	buttonbush swamp
PLUMBRK	Plum Brook Channel	6-Aug-2002	Erie	41.4267	-82.6406	HELP	Marblehead Drift/Limestone	drowned river mouth	mixed emergent marsh
PTRSPOND	Potters Pond	14-Aug-2002	Lucas	41.6794	-83.3092	HELP	Maumee Lake Plains	closed embayment	cattail marsh
SHELDON	Sheldons Marsh	22-Sep-2000	Erie	41.4179	-82.6026	HELP	Marblehead Drift/Limestone	barrier-beach lagoon	mixed emergent marsh
WESTSTMA	West St. Marsh	7-Aug-2002	Erie	41.3981	-82.5586	EOLP	Erie Lake Plain	drowned river mouth	mixed emergent marsh
WHEELMD	Wheeler Cr Meadow	26-Jul-2004	Ashtabula	41.8541	80.9908	EOLP	Erie Lake Plain	drowned river mouth	blue joint meadow
WHEELMSH	Wheeler Cr Marsh*	26-Jul-2004	Ashtabula	41.8536	80.9895	EOLP	Erie Lake Plain	drowned river mouth	mixed emergent marsh