

For Immediate Release
October 17, 2014

Lake Erie License Plate Proceeds Fund Two New Projects

The Ohio Lake Erie Commission (OLEC) awarded two quarterly grants through Ohio's Lake Erie Protection Fund at its September meeting in Oak Harbor.

The fund was established to help finance research and projects aimed at protecting, preserving and restoring Lake Erie and its watershed. The fund is supported by tax-deductible donations and by purchasing Ohio license plates displaying the Marblehead Lighthouse or the Lake Erie life preserver.

Grants were awarded to:

- **Kent State University** – \$14,970 to explore the beneficial reuse of dredged material for storm water management on urban brownfields. The project will evaluate the suitability of dredged material from Cleveland Harbor for use in green infrastructure technologies in brownfield remediation. The use of green infrastructure at brownfield sites is expected to produce multiple benefits including the reduction of storm water pollution, combined sewer overflow events and wastewater treatment costs. Results of a field implementation project will inform further exploration of the long-term viability of this type of beneficial reuse of dredged material.
- **Bowling Green State University** – \$14,981 to quantify the distribution of Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) in a section of Maumee Bay as a baseline for assessing the effects of invasive species. The project will provide data on SAV distribution, composition and abundance relative to the fish communities associated within these habitats in Maumee Bay. The objective is to establish a relationship between SAV in Maumee Bay and the fish community to determine the effects on the nearshore area of Lake Erie.

Citizens may make a tax-deductible donation directly to the Lake Erie Protection Fund by sending a check to the OLEC at 111 E. Shoreline Drive, Sandusky, OH 44870.

OLEC was established to preserve Lake Erie's natural resources, protect the quality of its waters and ecosystem and promote economic development in the region. The director of Ohio EPA serves as the commission's chairman. Additional members include the directors of the state departments of Transportation, Health, Development Services, Agriculture, Natural Resources and five additional members appointed by Governor John Kasich.

For more information on the Lake Erie Protection Fund or to read about past grant projects, visit: <http://lakeerie.ohio.gov/>.

- 30 -

For more information, contact:
Rian Sallee, Ohio Lake Erie Commission, (419) 621-2040

111 E. Shoreline Drive • Sandusky, Ohio 44870
lakeerie.ohio.gov • (419) 621-2040 • (419) 621-2042 (fax)