

Ted Strickland, Governor
Ed Hammett, Executive Director

One Maritime Plaza, Fourth Floor
Toledo, Ohio 43604
(419) 245-2514 lakeerie.ohio.gov

Contacts: Ed Hammett, Executive Director at (419) 245-2514

For Immediate Release

March 6, 2008

**OHIO LAKE ERIE COMMISSION TO HOLD QUARTERLY MEETING
ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19 IN OAK HARBOR**

New WTOL-TV weather and environmental education program will be showcased

TOLEDO, OH – The Ohio Lake Erie Commission (LEC) will hold its quarterly meeting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, March 19, at the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Visitors Center, 14000 State Route 2 in Oak Harbor.

Steve Davis of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Bob Chirdon of WTOL-TV in Toledo will report on *EcoTrack 11*, a new multi-media educational tool of the station that links regular weather broadcasts and a variety of environmental information. Goal of *EcoTrack 11* is to inform viewers in northwestern Ohio about how their quality of life and the environment are inextricably linked. *EcoTrack 11* will premier on WTOL-TV on March 18. The Natural Resources Conservation Service, the University of Toledo, The Anderson's Market, the Western Lake Erie Basin Partnership and the Maumee Valley Growers are sponsors.

Commission members are also expected to approve the latest round of small grants and revisions to the grants program guidelines.

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 than \$8.5 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.

###

The Lake Erie Commission is an Equal Opportunity Employer

One Maritime Plaza, Fourth Floor Toledo, Ohio 43604
p. 419.245.2514 f. 419.245.2519 w. lakeerie.ohio.gov