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## **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 Wednesday, December 17, at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Assembly Center West, 2045 Morse Road, Building E in Columbus.

Jim White of the Cuyahoga River Community Planning Organization will present an overview of their Chippewa Creek Balanced Growth Watershed Plan. The Commission members are expected to endorse the Plan which will be the first Lake Erie Balanced Growth Plan to be brought before the Lake Erie Commission for approval and endorsement.

The Commission members are also expected to approve the latest round of grant projects submitted to the Lake Erie Protection Fund for the second quarter of State Fiscal Year 2009. The 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 Toledo Harbor Lighthouse designed by Ohio artist Ben Richmond. Since 1993, over \$9.0 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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