

OHIO LAKE ERIE COMMISSION MEETING

Bowling Green, Ohio

April 18, 2017 – 10:00 a.m.

Call to Order and Roll Call – Jim Zehringer, Director, ODNR and Commission Chair

The Ohio Lake Erie Commission (OLEC) meeting was called to order at 10:01am

Commission Members Present:

Jim Zehringer, Director, Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)
Gene Phillips, Ohio Department of Health (ODH)
Karl Gebhardt, Director's Designee, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA)
John Schlichter, Director's Designee, Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA)
Lyn Tolan, Director's Designee, Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA)
Harry Allen, Commissioner
Amanda Bryant- Friedrich, Commissioner
Richard Hyant, Ex-officio Commissioner
Jim Stouffer, Commissioner
Bill Wolf, Commissioner

Staff Present:

Sandra Kosek-Sills, OLEC
David Emerman Ohio EPA/OLEC
Jessica Johnson Ohio EPA
Cherie Blair, Ohio EPA
Scudder Mackey, ODNR

(20 observers)

Welcome and Agenda Overview: Jim Zehringer, Director, ODNR, Vice-Chair

Welcome to everyone to the Spring Ohio Lake Erie Commission meeting. Thank you to Ohio EPA for hosting. Director Zehringer remarked that he had never been to Ohio EPA's Northwest District Office but said it was a very nice facility and appreciated their hospitality. He mentioned that unfortunately Director Butler was not able to attend so he would be filling in for his duties as chairman.

Director asked with so many new members present that for roll call each member go around and give their name and who they represented.

(roll call)

Director welcomed the new commissioners to their first meeting and thanked former commissioners, Paul Toth and Kevin Cogan, for their service.

Chair Report: business items

Commissioner Allen moved the following resolution:

Resolved, that the Commission approve the meeting minutes from December 13, 2017. Commissioner Hyant seconded the motion.

No discussion. The Commission members voted all in favor and the motion carried.

Lake Erie Protection Fund – Sandra Kosek-Sills (presentations on file)

Kosek-Sills mentioned that the LEPF is still primarily funded through the sales of the Ohio Lake Erie license plates. Since last year the Commission had changed the grants to semi-annual which meant that the Commission did not have any grants to vote on for this meeting.

She did discuss that she had a closed grant to report on. The closed grant Kosek-Sills presented on was by Dr. Kevin Czajkowski of the University of Toledo, who she pointed out who was in attendance at the meeting. Dr. Czajkowski's project was on remote sensing of BMPs in Swan Creek. This pilot project was geared toward looking at more info to put in watershed models.

The types of BMPs included in this project were cover crops, tillage, buffer strips, crop rotation and drainage. All of these were combined in a map Kosek-Sills presented that showed darker areas where a lot of BMPs were present versus the lighter areas where there was not a lot of BMPs implemented. Kosek-Sills noted that some of this area where not a lot of BMPs were used was not really developed and was close to the airport.

Kosek-Sills then asked if Dr. Czajkowski wanted to add anything to her summary of his project. Dr. Czajkowski just wanted to say thank you to the Commission for the funding. He also mentioned that students really drove this project in Swan Creek which led to a project expansion thanks to funding by Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE). Kosek-Sills then opened it up to questions regarding this project.

Director Zehringer asked if in Swan Creek they looked at septic systems or if this project was strictly geared toward agriculture? Kosek-Sills said that for this project they were not looking at septic systems only agriculture. Gebhardt also responded and said that there are projects out there that look at septic systems through TMACOG and Lucas County Board of Health. Seeing no more questions, Kosek-Sills moved on to state that grant project proposals for next quarter's grants were due in May. Kosek-Sills said that this quarter they have close to \$100,000 to fund.

Kosek-Sills introduced Chris Winslow with Ohio Sea Grant to go over Sea Grant's small and large grant process that the Ohio Lake Erie Commission partners with for funding. Winslow first wanted to discuss Sea grant's small grant process.

First, Winslow discussed a grant that went to Lauren Kinsman- Costello from Kent State University. It was looking at the potential for beneficially re-used dredge material to sequester or release phosphorus in the Sandusky bay. Winslow said her project was seeing the ability for this material to hold on to nutrients and let them go. He said they can see this from changes in pH levels. Components of her project are meeting with various stakeholders involved in the Sandusky Bay initiative wetland construction and restoration project to understand how the dredge material is going to be used to enhance the ecosystems there, complete a comprehensive suite of geochemical characterizations of dredged sediment material, including assays of phosphate sorption capacity and experimentally assess the movement of phosphorus between dredged materials and Sandusky Bay surface waters at environmentally relevant pH and redox conditions.

The second small grant project Winslow mentioned was by a Bowling Green State University professor, Kevin McCluney that revolved around ditch management. The project was entitled "Evaluating nutrient retention and removal associated with ditch management and exploring the role of biota. In his project, McCluney will be evaluating the potential of ditch management and restoration to reduce downstream nutrient fluxes by altering in-stream processes, measuring multiple pools and fluxes and determining the role that plant life and animal life play in altering nutrient fluxes from their interactions. The overall goal is to "improve the assimilative capacity and ecological functions of Lake Erie tributaries to help reduce nutrient loadings" which is right out of the Ohio Lake Erie Commission's *2016 Lake Erie Protection and Restoration Plan*.

Finally, the last small grant project that Winslow mentioned was regarding hindcasting cyanobacterial harmful algal bloom timing and extent in Western Lake Erie using lake surface temperature variability. This will be conducted by Timothy Davis of Bowling Green State University. Winslow mentioned how BGSU would be partnering with Eagle Rock Analytics and Stony Brook University and leverages 10 years of weekly to bi-weekly water quality data collected by NOAA, Stone Lab, BGSU and University of Toledo. The purpose of this project is timing the bloom in response to surface temperature variation, phosphorus limitation and the potential of a bloom and decoupling responses to Maumee River discharge rates. Sea grant has decided to add addition funding to this project to help better understand when the bloom might begin and end.

Winslow briefly touched on Sea Grant and Ohio Department of Higher Education's Harmful Algal Bloom Research Initiative large grants that are assisted with LEPF dollars. These projects must have a direct component from OLEC's LEPR and to help with that Kosek-Sills sits on the selection committee. The first project was from Laura Johnson of Heidelberg, where she will be looking at glyphosate runoff dynamics in tributaries draining into Lake Erie.

Robert Midden, of BGSU will be tracking and attenuating nutrient loads from manure fertilization. Finally, he mentioned that Harold Keener from OSU would be evaluating the effects of changing on-farm manure management practices on reduction of dissolved phosphorus runoff. Winslow said Keener would be looking at 10 dairy farms and 10 swine

farms. Winslow added that one thing to take away from these projects is that it is many Ohio universities coming up with these ideas and projects not just Ohio State.

Kosek-Sills added that any project getting additional LEPP dollars will have a separate reporting to OLEC. She then opened it up to questions from commissioners.

Commissioner Allen asked if the Midden project had any availability to partner with private entities and did these grant committees try to engage private businesses on projects? Allen thought this project would be extremely helpful in fighting HABs. Winslow responded that although this project did not have private help, there are several projects that do and that OARDC (Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center) was trying to blow that project up to a grander scale.

Commissioner Hylant asked if glyphosate was in the base formula for roundup? Winslow responded that yes; it was and that they want to find out more information on what it does because currently they don't know what it will do in large amounts. Schlichter said recently there has been an uptick in the use of glyphosate because not only do farmers use it but everyday homeowners do to. Winslow said that is what the project was aiming at was seeing real world concentrations and if they can detect real amounts. Director Zehringer said he will be excited to hear more about the glyphosate project.

Commissioner Wolf mentioned how once he heard of a project looking at the pH levels in the air and its effect on rainfall, to which he asked if any project had ever looked in that? Winslow replied that Witter did early testing on that topic, looking at rainfall pH levels in different soils. Commissioner Stouffer said that USGS does that testing on his golf course and would be happy to share that monitoring with Winslow.

Gebhardt asked Winslow how it was coming with finding projects for the ODHE funding? Winslow said they were finishing up funding from 2016 and are on 2017 funding. Each year they meet with different state partnering agencies and see what they might need addressed. Then they come up with an RFP based on agency needs. He said early on projects were geared toward human health and water quality but now there is a shift toward ag related projects. He said the state wants tangible 2-year projects and are excited to begin the FY18 year.

Gebhardt said that Winslow and him just met with Larry Fletcher of Lake Erie Shores and Islands Center. He stated that since most of these projects are on the ecological side that they wanted to see what the tourism industry might like to see because there is an economic side to all of this too. They said they met with Fletcher to see what his researchers needs were and how they can better promote the lake. Winslow said everything is about messaging with the lake and they want to have a better partnership especially now with the impairment designation.

Gebhardt echoed Winslow's thoughts and said they wanted to see what information people want about the lake. He mentioned that Commissioner Hylant had brought together businesses around the lake to have a positive discussion on better promoting the lake and helping on this issue.

Cherie Blair – Maumee AOC Update

Gebhardt introduced Cherie Blair, of Ohio EPA's NWDO to give an update and a little background on the Maumee Area of Concern. Blair introduced herself as the manager of the Toledo/Maumee AOC. She wanted to welcome everyone to NWDO and she mentioned that since 1996 she has been working in many different capacities on the betterment of Lake Erie.

Blair started off with a little background on the AOC program. She said the program was under Annex 1 of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. There is 43 AOCs across the Great Lakes which include both the US and Canada. These are areas designated in high industrialized sites that could have several surrounding environmental problems. Ohio has 4 AOCs: Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Black and Maumee Rivers.

The Maumee River AOC is a designated boundary, making up 23 miles of the Maumee River that goes beyond the Maumee River and its Watershed. It has 9 of the 14 Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs) as identified from the AOC program. It is an active AOC with 23 projects in the pipeline. Of those 23 projects, 8 are currently funded, 1 is completed and the rest are in some phase of getting funding from a committed USEPA.

Blair said there has been significant progress made on the Maumee AOC. There have been fish and contact advisories (BUIs) on the Ottawa River since 1991 issued by the Ohio Dept. of Health. This year they were able to remove that BUI. Blair said now their focus has turned to identifying and moving forward on some of these projects.

She mentioned a quick update on two other AOCs. She said in 2017 they were able to remove the aesthetics BUI in the Cuyahoga. Blair said with some of the progress they have made there the general perceptions of the area have gone up. As for the Black River AOC, Blair said they are working on final management practices.

Blair also introduced some of the people on the Maumee Advisory committee in the audience: Jenny Carter-Cornell, Chris Winslow, Sandy Bihn (passed member). Blair said they are working to get their final project list approved with Gebhardt. Most of the partners are conservation groups and ODNR. She then asked if there were any questions.

Commissioner Hylant asked if the DeSatos litigation was target on this? Blair responded that the dredging was done but she did not know the overall endgame in that case.

OLEC Officer Report – Karl Gebhardt

Gebhardt wanted to take a minute and introduce the three new public members appointed to OLEC, as well as introduce Commissioner Allen and Commissioner Hylant who were reappointed. He mentioned there is still one vacancy for the commission and one vacancy

for the Great Lakes Protection Fund. Gebhardt asked that each new member give a little introduction of themselves.

Amanda Bryant- Friedrich is a medicinal and biological chemist by trade. She moved to the University of Toledo 10 years ago to study DNA/ RNA damage research and then moved to chemical toxicology. She is also the dean of the graduate studies program at UT. She said her husband is a chemist at the University of Detroit and they share a love for both Ohio and Michigan. She said she was glad to be a part of the commission.

Bill Wolf is retired vice president of plant nutrients for the Andersons. He moved to Cleveland, Ohio in 1969 just as the Cuyahoga River caught on fire which made him take an interest in the environment. He said he brings a little knowledge on the Ag side of things as well as the business environment. He also mentioned he loves walleye fishing.

Jim Stouffer is the President and CEO of the Catawba Island Club, which has been in his family for 50 years. A native Clevelander, in 1980 he became president of the club. He is also the president of the Lake Erie Foundation. He said he feels he will be representing the businesses interests on the Commission. Stouffer mentioned some of the things going on with the Lake are not easy but that he is excited to be working together on these issues and being a father of five he wants to make sure the Lake is sustainable for their futures.

Gebhardt said he was glad of the different backgrounds each new member would be representing. He also asked that the other public members please introduce themselves.

Harry Allen said he was glad to be reappointed to OLEC. He said that some of the Lake's problems don't have easy solutions but that they are working hard to solve them and he was happy to be a part of the conversation. He has been a member for 4 years and is chair of Great Lakes Power Products. He lives on the east side of Cleveland.

Richard Hylant stated he grew up playing and fishing in the Ottawa River, the same river Blair referenced in her presentation. He started studying environmental science at the University of Michigan before moving to the business side but has always been a supporter of the environment. He lived for years in the Western Basin on the Michigan side. He is a Governor Kasich appointed member of the Great Lakes Protection Fund which allows him to sit on OLEC as well. He has also been a state trustee of the nature conservancy for 10 years. He has a strong passion for the Lake and believes that science and education are the keys to its success. He said we must remember there is a lot of good about the Lake since the bad seems to sometimes overshadow it.

Lake Erie Dredged Material Program Update - David Emerman (presentation on file)

David mentioned the open lake disposal ban deadline coming up in 2020 and that the state is working on different alternatives to open lake disposal. One the 3 alternatives that state has identified, David will be discussing today and that is farm field application.

He stated that Toledo Harbor has the most dredge material coming out of it each year of Ohio's ports and it accounts for 25 percent of all material in the great lakes. In Toledo, there is the Center for Innovation, a CDF that houses much of this material.

David said in the next few days there will be an RFP coming out to receive projects for farm field application using the Center of Innovation material. The goal is to have these projects implemented and planted by 2019.

Also, regarding farm field research, OLEC and Ohio EPA recently applied for a grant through US Army Corps of Engineers on farm field research in the City of Oregon. Of the projects submitted, the Corps will be selecting 10 projects to fund. David said he has confidence that Ohio will be selected for one.

The project itself is to create a staging lagoon to make sure it is good to apply to farm fields. Then it will be sent through a pipeline to put on actual farm fields. Overall goal is to expand in the city of Oregon if it is successful. David quoted Karl in stating that some of the best farmland is at the bottom of Lake Erie, a statement that he said can now can be shown with data.

David also brought up the formation of a new OLEC committee called DRIFT. It will be an advisory committee with advisors from the farming and business communities. Their purpose is to advise on the benefits, appropriateness, and effective methods of applying dredged material to farmland in Northwest Ohio. David said the Commission will be voting today to establish the committee and hopes to have their first meeting in June, hopefully close to when the Corps will pick their project. The Governor has reupped the Healthy Lake Erie Funds, giving \$10 million more dollars. Emerman said that most projects require a federal match that some of the Healthy Lake Erie Funds can contribute to.

Commissioner Wolf asked if there had been prior research on allowing dredge on farm fields. Emerman responded that Ohio EPA is working on sediment profiling and that the state has millions of data points to classify and understand the material it has. He also said that because of SB 2, this gave the Director the authority to "de-regulate" the material as a waste.

Gebhardt said the initial question regarding using dredge was the potential risk but now thanks to the sediment profiling, we can go harbor by harbor to classify the material and for the most part the majority of this material is safe.

Commissioner Allen asked if the Corps would be taking the lead on the project or can it stay with the state? Emerman said that it was a 2-1 Federal to State match that the Corps would have the lead and they have the resources to do so. However, there is a lot of state projects in the works so this would allow attention to go there and as a backup plan if we don't get selected is for the state to take over.

Commissioner Hylant asked if the metro parks have asked to take any material? Gebhardt responded that they had reached out to them but that this was not the material they had

wanted. Scudder Mackey added in regards to Allen's question, was that the reason the Corps was in charge was that it was a federal navigation system.

Emerman concluded with they will be moving forward with receiving research proposals, narrowing down the potentials and bring in potential researchers to meet and the see material. Gebhardt said they have a lot of room to expand with this project in Oregon and wanted to thank the city and port.

Director Zehringer moved the following resolution:

Resolved, that the Ohio Lake Erie Commission (Commission) hereby establishes the Dredge Research and Innovation in Farming Team ("DRIFT") under Ohio Revised Code 1506.21(B)(8) to advise on the benefits, appropriateness, and effective methods of applying dredged material to farmland in Northwest Ohio. DRIFT will consist of an executive committee and members. The executive committee will be chaired by an Ohio EPA designee (David Emerman) and co-chaired by designees from Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority (Joe Cappel) and the Lucas County Soil and Water District (Joey Sink-Oiler). DRIFT membership and meeting location, times, and agendas will be determined by the executive committee.

Commissioner Stouffer seconded it.

No discussion. The Commission members voted all in favor and the motion carried.

Gebhardt said that they hope to create more advisory committees for different aspects of Commission business.

Other OLEC Office Updates-- Karl Gebhardt

Gebhardt moved on to discuss the Great Lakes Commission semi-annual meeting in D.C. He and Director Zehringer attended the meeting. Gebhardt said a lot of relevant information was discussed going on around the great lakes states and provinces. He mentioned that the Commission has a new director, Darren Nichols. Gebhardt said Nichols served as director for a similar commission out in Oregon.

Director Zehringer said Nichols seemed very interested in meeting with each of the states and their stakeholders. Zehringer was hoping to set up a meeting in the Toledo area sometime soon. Gebhardt said the next GLC meeting would be in Indianapolis in September.

Gebhardt reported on the OLEC finances. He said they just received their Great Lakes Protection Fund money. He said the 5D80 transfer to 4c00 was in process which would zero out the 5D80 account. He mentioned that OLEC was in the process of hiring a part-time communications person, Barbara Hesselgrave. She would be assisting on some publications for OLEC. He said she would be having an article in Stormwater magazine coming out very soon. He stated that since OLEC had been cutting costs they were in position to hire her to assist in communications.

Gebhardt wanted to discuss that Ohio EPA had issued the Western Basin as impaired in their integrated report to USEPA. There has been a court case because in 2014 USEPA did not accept Ohio EPA's report to not designate Lake Erie as impaired. He said back then that Ohio EPA did not have their methodology in which they believe they could or could not declare it impaired. Michigan decided to but Ohio only designated near shore because they had the science to do so.

Today, researchers with NOAA, University of Toledo, Sea Grant and other universities came up with a methodology to incorporate satellite data and ground truthing to declare the lake impaired. This method is described in the integrated report and explains how to get in and out of being impaired. Gebhardt said being impaired means open waters, near shore, and drinking water in takes.

He said that the state could still hit their goal of 40 percent reduction and have the lake be impaired. Since declaring, the judge on the case with USEPA and Ohio EPA has yelled at both agencies for not doing this sooner. The integrated report is open for public comment for the next 30 days.

Gebhardt explained that many questions have been asked about how to fix this. He said one, there could be a TMDL placed on the basin and watershed. Currently there is not a Lake Erie TMDL. The Domestic Action Plan has many of Ohio's ideas to reach its goal and USEPA will be receiving Domestic Action Plans from each of the states and Canada.

Winslow added that the process to develop the methodology as looking at the '04 and '12 blooms from NOAA satellite data. He said that this would be a good research project because when they created this method they are only using past data but that someone could look at toxins, etc. He said they will continue to define the measurements of what it takes to list something as impaired, but this should not deter anyone from going to Lake Erie.

Gebhardt reiterated Winslow's last statement by saying that Lake Erie's fish was still good to eat, there will still be plenty of boating this season and if you were to come near green water don't interact with it. He said they are still making efforts to get info out on HABs and how to act around it. The public comment period for the integrated report will end April 24th.

Gebhardt also wanted to mentioned the idea of a Watershed in Distress. He said that Director Butler and himself had been meeting with stakeholders and the Governor who have asked for more aggressive actions to treat Lake Erie algae problem. The Governor would like to see new tactics taken. He said ODNR has had some success with Grand Lake St. Mary's because the root cause in their watershed nutrient problems had been manure not fertilizer and ODNR was able to regulate it. Gebhardt mentioned how the law was currently written only allows for manure regulation but that they are hoping to change that to agriculture pollution which would include fertilizer.

He said in a new bill Ohio EPA is working on language to allow for fertilizer to be included to declare a watershed in distress. They have been meeting with concerned stakeholders to hear their concerns and start the process of working on this issue.

Commissioner Wolf asked if this bill would include synthetic fertilizers? Gebhardt said Ohio Department of Agriculture would determine the checklist. Director Zehringer added that nutrients are nutrients and that the primary focus is that they needed to include all nutrients. Commissioner Hylant asked if there had been any new practices down in the "distressed" zone? Gebhardt answered that what they know is each watershed is different and that if they do an analysis of all the watersheds they could determine better BMPs for the area. Gebhardt mentioned that maybe Schlichter could speak to progress.

Schlichter added that they now had 18,000 certified applicators in the state and as of 2018 Ohioans had to be certified. He said ODA was very happy with the progress to get applicators certified because when they started they didn't know the number out there, now they will begin work to get others recertified.

Commissioner Allen asked if there was any watershed small enough to be a test as a control for some of these practices. Gebhardt responded saying that Platter Creek in Defiance County was the smallest at the HUC 12 level that they have identified. Gebhardt said that they want to go down to the HUC 12 level to begin monitoring, similar to the edge of field monitoring that Kevin King is doing.

Commissioner Stouffer asked if there had been a distinction between 40 vs. 20 rate. Gebhardt and Schlichter both replied there was not and that it wasn't in the current legislation. Gebhardt said that this was still being discussed and that ODA was having stakeholder meetings regarding the issue.

Moving on, Kosek-Sills gave a brief update on the 2017 Monitoring Summary. She mentioned that the 2017 Summary was now available online. She said the state's goal is still being exceeded but that it had been a wetter year than average. Kosek-Sills said they will continue to put this report out each year and that USEPA decided not to report monitoring results at the Great Lakes level. She concluded with some of the funding for these monitoring sites are sponsored by GLRI dollars.

Gebhardt also mentioned Ohio EPA's Nutrient Mass Balance Study was out. This study identifies the source of nutrients flowing from the state's watersheds into Lake Erie. Gebhardt said each of the commissioners received a palm card with their packet of materials that gives a summary of the Maumee watershed.

Agency Reports:

John Schlichter, ODA – He mentioned that they had met the requirements from SB 1 and had 18,000 applicators certified before the 2018 deadline. He said now they had an idea of the number out there to get people reenrolled.

Tim Hill, ODOT – Hill said ODOT has several projects currently up on the lake in the Port Clinton and Ottawa areas. He said they were analyzing and fixing county washouts. He mentioned they just entered into a partnership with Lorain County to create bike paths in Elyria and Lorain, something they hope improves tourism.

Director Jim Zehringer, ODNR – Director Zehringer introduced Scudder Mackey to give ODNR's update. Mackey said they had corresponding slides with his presentation but for the sake of time he didn't bring them up. (presentation on file) Mackey said that current Lake Erie levels were high and that the Great Lakes overall were high. High levels mixed with waves can add for worry regarding shoreline protections. He mentioned that permit requests were up.

Mackey mentioned that the Sandusky Bay currently had 5 projects in the works. He said they have finished the engineering and design work on 3 so those projects were moving forward. Most of these projects were in water wetland projects. Mackey stated that ODNR's fisheries division had put out its Lake Erie report. He mentioned that the walleye year classes were huge that they have increased the quota. Mackey said this was "fin"tastic.

Finally, Mackey gave an update on the Ballview Dam Removal. He said they have advanced the removal date to July and are working on the restoring the fishing habitats.

Karl Gebhardt, Ohio EPA - None.

Lyn Tolan, ODSA – She mentioned that Tourism was ready for their big season on the Lake. She said that they had partnered with Cedar Point for larger advertisements and were looking for other larger companies to partner with. Tolan said they are spending more money than they ever had on tourism and are focusing on the neighboring cities of Louisville, Pittsburgh and Indianapolis. Finally, she said that May 9th will be Tourism Day out on the Statehouse lawn and everyone was invited.

Gene Phillips, ODH – He mentioned that ODH was gearing up for Lake Erie's recreational season with their beach monitoring. He said there had been many updates to the beach guard including being mobile device friendly.

Public Comment –

Rick Graham, Izaak Walton League – He wanted to bring up the 40% reduction by 2020 and that he was not seeing where the progress was being done. He mentioned how the league had been an advocate of impairment and appreciated the change in focus to declare the lake impaired. He said that the Izaak Walton League is there to assist in anyway moving forward on this.

Matt Fisher, Lake Erie Foundation – He wanted to follow up from the last meeting in which he brought up the 40 ppm. He asked that OLEC consider an independent group do a literature search on the subject.

Mike Libben, Ottawa Soil and Water Conservation District – He said that from his perspective he is not seeing a decrease in loading, that one year it is up and one year it is down. He referenced that Ohio has spent \$3 Billion dollars on this and only 1% of that has gone to agriculture.

Sandy Bihn, Lake Erie Foundation – She asked if OEPA could give a better summary on their Integrated Report and asked that the public comment period be extended an extra 30 days.

Tahree Lane, Lake Erie Foundation – She wanted to extent her compliments to the new commission members. She mentioned she was a believer in impairment and that now the state can get USEPA involved. She believes this will be the best process and the quickest.

Ron Wyss, Lake Erie Foundation – He also wanted to extent his thanks to the new appointments. He said that the Lake Erie Foundation supports the ruling. He hopes this will put in place loading requirements and going to the legislature with the logical solution. He asks to consider the recommendations laid out in the White Paper.

He said Lake Erie Foundation has met with USDA and legislators regarding the moonshot conversions. He hopes they can get federal or state dollars for this so that it doesn't put the cost on the farmer. He said this cost should be passed to the consumer not the producer. Lake Erie Foundation wants to continue working with the Commission and move forward on more research.

Keith Banachowski, USGS – He mentioned how USGS was involved in the water monitoring summary. They coordinate also with Indiana and Michigan when it comes to Lake Erie. He wanted to announce they will be adding more monitoring sites soon in the Lake Erie Basin.

Gebhardt added that many of the concerns mentioned today need to be also heard by legislators.

Chairman Zehringer asked if there was anything else for the good of the order.

Commissioner Allen wanted to comment on the high water levels he was seeing on the eastern side of Lake Erie. He said there is SB 51 out there that would create a special improvement district for just these occurrences but that it has stalled in the legislature.

Winslow asked that people mark their calendars for July 12 which will be the 2018 Algal Forecast and September 13 will be State of the Lake.

Finally, Zehringer wanted to conclude the meeting by discussing Grand Lake St. Mary's. He mentioned that after being declared "distressed" and going through that process, the Lake is beginning to get better especially in terms of water quality and farmers are thriving around it. He said we should not get hung up on the idea of a watershed being deemed in distress.

Zehringer adjourned the meeting at 12:29 p.m.

Signature of Chair:



Date:

7/3/18