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OHIO LAKE ERIE COMMISSION AWARDS MORE THAN \$38,000 IN GRANTS

TOLEDO, OH – A total of \$38,674 has been awarded to four research projects that will benefit Lake Erie and its environmental and economic resources, according to the Ohio Lake Erie Commission.

The Lake County General Health District will receive \$8,700 to design and install a drip distribution sewage treatment system on county-owned property that will serve as a host site for training installers; sanitarians; and others associated with home sewage disposal systems. New system technologies will be used to show how local organizations can meet the new regulations recently adopted by the Ohio Department of Health.

The Cuyahoga River Community Planning Organization will receive \$9,974 for a project to inventory the land use ordinances of the Cuyahoga River watershed. The project will catalogue land use ordinances and related stormwater measures in the region into a central database. This database will help the partnership more effectively project watershed protection in the area.

The U.S. Geological Survey will receive \$10,000 for a project to improve the predictability of E.coli levels in lakefront beaches, using Huntington Beach in Bay Village as a model. Results of the project will provide for more accurate and timely water quality advisories along the lake for swimmers.

Bowling Green State University will receive \$10,000 to research the possible detoxification of heavy metals in Lake Erie sediment, using microbial communities as a new tool.

These quarterly grants are limited to \$10,000 or less each and are generally awarded for one year unless the specific nature of the project warrants a longer time period. Small grants may be used as seed money to test the feasibility of larger research projects or to support other small projects. Small grant proposals are reviewed and selected at each quarterly meeting of the Ohio Lake Erie Commission.

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 funding. This fund is supported by Ohioans each time they

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purchase a Lake Erie license plate displaying the Marblehead Lighthouse as designed by Ohio artist Ben Richmond.

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