



QUARTERLY MEETING
December 4, 2024, 10:00 am

*Ohio Department of Transportation Headquarters
1980 West Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43223*

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order and Roll Call: Director Anne Vogel, Ohio EPA, Commission Chair
The Ohio Lake Erie Commission (OLEC) Meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

Commission Members Present:

Anne Vogel, Director, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, OLEC Chair
Brian Baldridge, Director, Ohio Department of Agriculture
Mary Mertz, Director, Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Pamela Vest-Boratyn, Director, Ohio Department of Transportation
Scott Ryan, Designee for Lydia Mihalik, Director of Department of Ohio Development
Gene Phillips, Designee for Bruce Vanderhoff, Director of Ohio Department of Health
Diane Miller, Commissioner
Danielle Giannantonio, Commissioner
Kate Bartter, Commissioner

Commission Members Present Virtually:

Crystal Davis, Commissioner
Richard Hylant, Commissioner

Staff Present:

Joy Mulinex, OLEC
Kris Patterson, OLEC
Nicole Knab, OLEC

Public: 12 people

Welcome and Agenda Overview: Director Anne Vogel, Ohio EPA, Commission Chair

- Director Vogel welcomed everyone and asked for roll call.
(roll call)
A quorum was declared, and the meeting came to order at 10:02 a.m.

Welcome from Meeting Host:

- Director, Pamela Vest-Boratyn made the welcoming address from Ohio Department of Transportation Headquarters.

ACTION: Approval of September 18, 2024, Meeting Minutes

- Motion to approve by Brian Baldridge, seconded by Mary Mertz. Motion carried with no dissent.

ACTION: Approval of Extension for Lucas SWCD Ag Dredge Research Grant [LEPF SG 572-21]

- Motion to approve by Diane Miller seconded by Gene Phillips. Motion carried with no dissent.

Special Reports:**Robert Priestas, Paul Wilson & Fang Cheng of The City of Columbus Department of Public Utilities**

- Presented information on eliminating sewer overflows through Blueprint Columbus.

Chris Auffrec of Greater Cincinnati Water Works

- Presented on lead service line replacement, and efforts to limited lead exposure through lead service lines.

Ohio Lake Erie Commission Office Report**Joy Mulinex**

- Confirmed Commission Meeting Dates of March 12, June 11, September 10, and December 3rd with accompanying themes of Chemicals of Concern, Economic Development, Microplastics, and Compact/Water Use.
- Steve Adams is assisting developing budget for next biennium, Governor will release budget in early 2025 and work with General Assembly through the normal process to rollout.
- Great Lakes Authority was authorized. The administration proposed Matt Kaplin as Executive Director of Authority, who did get a hearing.
- Great Lakes Executive Committee Meeting with US EPA and Environmental and Climate Change Canada Meeting December 10-11.
- Kris Patterson is attending Great Lakes State Forum, the forum where states and EPA Great Lakes National Program Office to discuss GLRI and changes with administration.
- Lake Erie Lake Wide Management Plan is underway 2024 – 2028. As part of GLRI application process projects should point back to specific actions within Lake Wide Action Plan.
- Noted Annex 4 two-day, and it serves as a good forum for the state of Ohio to participate in regarding overall challenge of tackling harmful algae blooms in Lake Erie, and to get additional feedback on the Domestic Actin Plan.
- Annex 10, draft sections of the next Great Lakes indicator report and nearly complete. This becomes the blueprint for the next 2025 State of the Great Lakes.

Nicole Knab

- Working towards getting the Lake Erie Environmental Justice Grant RFP ready for January 2025.
- Hosted Outreach Committee Workshop to education on application process, criteria, and other relevant grant information. Additional information on the LEEJGP can be found under “Funding Opportunities” on lakeerie.oiho.gov
- Life on Lake Erie Traveling Photo Exhibit has kicked off, highlighting 2024 Life on Lake Erie Winning Photos at locations including: Riffe Gallery, Cleveland Boat Show, Lake Erie Nature & Science Center,

Maumee Bay State Park Trautman Nature Center, Shores & Islands Welcome Center, Cleveland Metroparks Canalway, National Museum of the Great Lakes.

Kris Patterson

- Lake Erie Restoration & Protection Plan update is in process with help of Ohio agency staff. The final plan will be distributed to Governor and Legislature before July 30, 2025.
- GLRI Coordination – OLEC led multi-day AOC Coordination meeting with federal agencies and Ohio EPA. Work on Sediment Summits to coordinate Great Lakes Legacy Act projects in Ohio AOCs.
- GLRI released action plan 4 in November, 2025.], and it's available at glri.us
- ODNR FA 3 proposal for restoration at Thoreau Wildlife Reserve was selected for GLRI funding. U.S. EPA will roll out an online submittal process for state's Focus Area proposals in the spring.
- The Lake Erie Communities and Coastal Resilience Grants (LECCR)RFP for the last round of funding has closed. OLEC received seven proposals and is working on final selections.
- Maumee AOC work on sediment remediation for GLLA Projects and BUI removal including BUI 7. 12+ habitat restorations underway for 2025.
- Cuyahoga & Black River AOC's removal of Gorge Dam sediment remediation in the spring. BUI closings for Cuyahoga AOC and Black AOC.

Commissioner Reports:

Scott Ryan, Designee for Lydia Mihalik, Director of Ohio Department of Development

- TourismOhio came out with Holiday Events Guide and Holiday Lights Trail

Kate Bartter, Commissioner

- Report from the Great Lakes Protection Fund – ODNR funded two projects through Great Lakes Projection Fund relevant to the group including a design project to develop a new standard for sustainable dairy grazing being developed with American Dairy Alliance in Wisconsin and could be relevant to Ohio. The other grant awarded was for AI system to develop toolkit for stormwater systems in Ohio.
- Extended thanks for coming to Ohio State to kick-off the Great Lakes Renew Engines Program. A \$160 million opportunity over the next 10 years to look beneficial use of wastewater.

Comimssioner Danielle Giannantonio

- With the change of administration NEORS is working to request an exemption from water/wastewaters PFAS.
- Working on PFAS pretreatment Study which is funded by Emerging Contaminants.

Commissioner Diane Miller

- Noted that TMACOG Water Quality Council submitted recommendations for Lake Erie via Agenda For Lake Erie Repot.

Gene Phillips, Designee for Bruce Vanderhoff, Director of Ohio Department of Health

- Wrapping up end of year sampling report for to US EPA for beach water quality monitoring

Pamela Vest-Boratyn, Director, Ohio Department of Transportation

- Reminder with winter weather season to reference ohgo.com platform for winter weather notifications.

Director Mary Mertz, Ohio Department of Natural Resources

- Noted writing a letter for reauthorization for GLRI on behalf of Lake Erie Commission could be beneficial. Noted how we continue to get attention, funding, and favorable legislation for the Great Lakes.
- Further conversation around US Army Core Engineers assisting in dredge material removal/funding.

Director Brian Baldrige, Director of Ohio Department of Agriculture

- Recognized collaboration with Ohio EPA on a water quality violation in Wayne County which has been addressed.
- Reported on the historic drought in SE/S Ohio.

Anne Vogel, Director, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, OLEC Chair

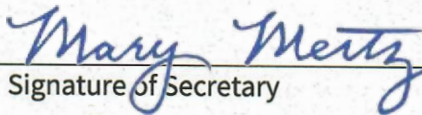
- Privilege to represent Ohio EPA and collaborate with Commission Members on different items.
- Rolled out sixth H2Ohio funding round with continued support from Legislature and noted the beneficial partnerships with other Ohio agencies.
- The Central Ohio Water Study will identify gaps in infrastructure needs and economic development and will be rolled out in coming weeks/months.

Public Comment

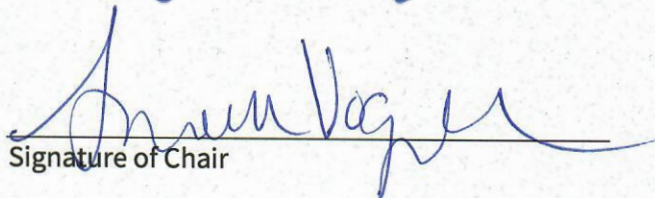
Adjourn Business Meeting

A motion to adjourn was made by Director Boratyn and seconded by Gene Phillips. The motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:02 pm


Signature of Secretary

May 15, 2025
Date


Signature of Chair

Date