



Meeting Minutes
Quarterly Meeting December 6, 2023
Horace R. Collins Laboratory, Delaware, OH

Call to Order and Roll Call – Anne Vogel, Director, Ohio EPA and Commission Chair

The Ohio Lake Erie Commission quarterly meeting was called to order at 10:09 a.m.

Commission Members Present:

Anne Vogel, Director, Ohio EPA, OLEC Chairman
Brian Baldrige, Director, Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA)
Jack Marchbanks, Director, Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)
Scott Ryan, Director's Designee, Ohio Department of Development (ODA)
Gene Phillips, Director's Designee, Ohio Department of Health (ODH)
Bill Wolf, Commissioner (on the phone)
Jim Stouffer, Commissioner
Danielle Giannantonio, Commissioner
Kate Bartter, Commissioner

Commission Members Absent:

Mary Mertz, ODNR
Crystal Davis, Commissioner
Diane Miller, Commissioner
Richard Hylant, Commissioner

Staff Present:

Joy Mulinex, OLEC
Lynn Garrity, OLEC
Sandra Kosek-Sills, OLEC
Hannah Boesinger, OLEC

Welcome and Agenda Overview: Anne Vogel, Director, OEPA

Action: Approval of December Minutes: Scott Ryan made a motion to approve the December minutes, and Danielle Gianantonio seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Action: Resolution--Staff recognition: Director Vogel announced that Lynn Garrity is leaving the Commission, thanked her for her service, and wished her well. Jim Stouffer made a motion to approve a

resolution recognizing Lynn's accomplishments in the protection and restoration of Lake Erie, and Director Marchbanks seconded the motion. The resolution was approved unanimously.

Special Reports

Dr. Chris Winslow – Director, Ohio Sea Grant, - Harmful Algal Bloom Research Initiative (HABRI)

HABRI has been around since 2018, and 5 state agencies are involved in setting the research priorities. To date, 97 projects have been funded. This research has elevated Ohio's role with GLWQA Annex 4 parties and WLEB Partnership. He provided a table that demonstrated projects, stats, results, and funding. For FY 24 & 25, 52 pre-proposals were reviewed on Dec. 1, and 31 of those were encouraged to submit full proposals by January 18. The average funding request is \$266,000. More information about the HABRI funded projects is available at <https://ohioseagrant.osu.edu/research/collaborations/habs>.

Ruth Briland, Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water – HABS Collaborative

The HABS Collaborative has a Steering Committee of 24 people. The overall goal of the HABS Collaborative is to create a collective laboratory that enables science-based information sharing among scientists and decisions makers working on HABS in the Great Lakes. The HABS Collaborative also provides a network for developing a common knowledge basis of current science and science needs, strategies for transmitting key science to managers, and opportunities getting management feedback on science-based decision support needs. The Collaborative produces fact sheets and webinars on topics of interest to management community. There is also a mapping tool with current projects. Additional information is available at www.glc.org/work/habs/webinar.

David Emerman, Ohio EPA, Northeast District Office Chief Community Officer – H2Ohio Technology Assessment Program (TAP)

H2Ohio TAP (Technology Assessment Program) was originally created to develop a solicitation for emerging technology demonstrations. Now that the technology has been vetted, the team is working to deploy demonstration projects for Dispersible Granular Struvite Fertilizer, QuikWash, and Regen. These projects will be funded with GLRI dollars and will demonstrate their ability to address phosphorus as well as economic value.

Ohio Lake Erie Commission Office Report

Director Joy Mulinex: The top meeting themes for 2024 are Nutrient Management, Drinking and wastewater infrastructure, Recreation and Tourism, and Port Infrastructure and Maritime Commerce. The meetings will be held on March 13, June 12, Sept. 18, and Dec. 4th. The Commission is meeting budget expectations for FY-24.

Sandra Kosek-Sills: Sandra gave an update on the progress updating Ohio's Domestic Action Plan (DAP). What's new in this DAP? It includes project and program updates from H2Ohio efforts and other agency specific changes; some target setting adjustments; post-TMDL development: revision of far field loads and related info; incorporate new information from and ideas for research & modeling; and technology solutions. All materials for the Draft Ohio DAP can be found at www.lakeerie.ohio.gov.

Sandra report that the Lake Erie Lakewide Action and Management Plan for the years 2024-2029 is underway. It should be completed in the January-March 2024 timeframe.

Lynn Garrity: Presented on the Lake Erie Protection Fund. Two LEPF grants closed in the last quarter. One grant went to the Chagrin River Watershed Partners for Implementation Planning. The other was to the University of Toledo for research on the soil properties, hydrology and nutrient retention capacity of

wetlands. Progress on the GLRI Action Plan 4 continues, and this new plan should be in place by October 2024. There was interest in seeing the total federal GLRI investment in Ohio.

Hannah Boesinger: Presented on the progress being made at the Black and Cuyahoga Rivers AOCs.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioners provided short updates on Lake Erie-related activities.

Public Comment

Sandy Bihn, Executive Director of Lake Erie Waterkeepers provided written comments and also gave remarks about manure, public health and nutrient management.

Adjourn Business Meeting

Director Baldrige made the motion to adjourn, and Commissioner Giannantonio seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.



Signature of Secretary



Signature of Chair



Date

3/18/2024

Date