



QUARTERLY MEETING
September 18, 2024, 10:00 am

*West Creek Watershed Stewardship Center
2277 West Ridgewood Drive, Parma, OH, 44134*

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order and Roll Call: David Emerman, Designee for 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:

David Emerman, Designee for Anne Vogel, Director, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, OLEC Chair
Tim Fulks, Designee for Director Brian Baldridge, Director, Ohio Department of Agriculture
Mindy Bankey, Designee for Director Mary Mertz, Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Tim Hill, Designee for Director Jack Marchbanks, Ohio Department of Transportation
Scott Ryan, Designee for Lydia Mihalik, Director, of Ohio Development
Gene Phillips, Designee for Bruce Vanderhoff, Director, Ohio Department of Health
Crystal Davis, Commissioner
Diane Miller JD, Commissioner
Danielle Giannantonio, Commissioner

Commission Members Absent:

Kate Bartter, Commissioner
Richard Hylant, Commissioner

Staff Present:

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

Public: 25 people

Welcome and Agenda Overview: David Emerman, Designee for Director Anne Vogel, Ohio EPA, Commission Chair

David Emerman welcomed everyone and asked for roll call.
(roll call)

A quorum was declared, and the meeting came to order at 10:05 a.m.

Welcome from Meeting Host

- Brian Zimmerman, Chief Executive Officer, made the welcoming address from Cleveland Metroparks and gave a broad overview of the Cleveland Metroparks and the West Creek Watershed Stewardship Center.

ACTION: Approval of June 12, 2024 Meeting Minutes

- Motion to approve by Tim Hill, seconded by Daniella Giannantonio. Motion carried with no dissent.

ACTION: Approval of Life on Lake Erie Winning Photos

- Kris Patterson gave an overview of the 32nd annual photo contest. Approximately 200 photos were submitted this year. She thanked Nicole Knab for her work behind the scenes, and the various agencies that promoted the contest and to the judges. Ten prize winners were given prizes for their talented work. The photos will be on display at various locations throughout the state for the next year.
- Winning photos were announced:
 - 1st Place - Judges' Favorite: "Aurora Borealis," by Scott Dommin
 - 2nd Place: "A River Runs Through It," by Maggi Dandar
 - 3rd Place: "Kayaking Through the 'Bergs" by Daryl Mummey
 - 4th Place: "Shake it Off," by Molly Dresser
 - 5th Place: "Captain Charlotte," by Caitlin Quinlan
 - 6th Place: "Seagull Wake-Up Call," by Daryl Mummey
 - 7th Place: "Courtship Dance," by Greg Peiffer
 - 8th Place: "Look at That Sunset," by Richard McBride
 - 9th Place: "Whitewater Paddlers at Cuyahoga Falls," by Wendy Hess
 - 10th Place: "Across the Bay," by Mike Pinzone
- Motion to approve the winning photos by Danielle Giannantonio seconded by Crystal Davis. Motion carried with no dissent.

ACTION: Approval of H2Ohio Technology Assessment Program Public Advisory Council

- David Emerman provided background information on the H2Ohio Technology Assessment Program (TAP). He discussed how the public advisory council would be reestablished, how technology ideas would be submitted, and then evaluated by independent consultants for review.
- Danielle Giannantonio made a motion to approve, seconded by Tim Fulks. Motion carried with no dissent.

Special Reports:

Will Friedman, President & CEO Port of Cleveland

- Will Friedman presented the economic impact of the Port Cleveland followed by current and past initiatives. He briefly reviewed the outcome of the 2023 Green Marine Evaluations of the port.
- He presented the Cleveland Harbor Electrification project which will reduce emissions of machinery at the port as part of their Climate Action Plan. The installation of solar panels will supplement an electric hub to power equipment for the Port. The project will be funded through grants from federal and state resources, such as PIDP and Maritime Assistance program.

- The Port is a partner on the CHEERS project, the development of a marina and public recreational areas on the Cleveland shoreline using confined dredge material. Mr. Friedman provided historic and current practices for dredge material management. The capacity of the current CDF site will end in 2029.
- Lastly, the Port's work on the Irishtown bend stabilization and rehabilitation project was discussed. This project includes removing historic hillside material and building a green bulkhead to stabilize the hill. This project is critical due to the keeping the river channel open due to the threat of hillside collapse.

Ohio Lake Erie Commission Office Report

Joy Mulinex

- While Hannah Boesinger is on maternity leave, please direct all AOC inquiries to Kris Patterson.
- The Lake Erie LAMP is in review and should be available by the end of 2024.
- We're tracking appropriations bill for GFRI and WRDA 2024.
- Developing the next biennium budget for OLEC.

Kris Patterson: LEEJGP, AOC, LECCRG, LEPP, LoLE

- Update on the Lake Erie Environmental Justice Program.
- Lake Erie Communities and Coastal Resilience Grants applications are open until 10/25/24. The grant is \$900,000 and is given to communities that apply for projects that protect shorelines, public access, flood control, and wetland enhancements.
- USEPA concluded the public comment period on the GLRI Action Plan IV, and the plan will be in place at the beginning of FFY25.
- Highlighted the recent progress in BUI removals, including Beach Closing BUI removal for Cuyahoga AOC, Dredging Restrictions BUI removal for Maumee AOC, and Beach Closing BUI removal for Black River AOC.
- The new Lake Erie License Plate design will be available by the end of the year.
- Shared the Lake Erie Protection Fund Annual Report, a five-year snapshot of priority areas.

Commissioner Reports:

Commissioner Danielle Giannantonio

- NEORSD's annual Clean Water Fest is this Saturday, 9/21 and open to the public. The festival is an educational event for all ages to enjoy games, tours, food trucks and giveaways.
- The sewer district started a 2-year study on PFOS pretreatment. The study is funded by at \$500,000 grant.
- NEORSD is applying for Ohio EPA grant for PFOS detection equipment and they are researching solar energy grants that can benefit their plant.

Commissioner Diane Miller

- Recognized the 10 year anniversary of the HAB crisis in Toledo area.

Commissioner Crystal Davis

- Attending the Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes conference in Chicago.

Tim Hill, Designee for Director Jack Marchbanks, Ohio Department of Transportation

- Recognized the retirement of Director Marchbank and the onboarding of Pamela Vest Boratyn.

Mindy Bankey, Designee for Director Mertz, Ohio Department of Natural Resources

- Announced retirement of Chief of the Office of Coastal Management, Scudder Mackey.
- Working on H2Ohio Grants for 12 projects.
- Portage Lakes Visitor Center groundbreaking.
- State fair promotion highlighted H2Ohio work.

Tim Fulks, Designee for Director Brian Baldrige, Ohio Department of Agriculture

- There are 20+ counties in the state are suffering a natural disaster due to drought conditions. Communicating with public for aid resources. Williams county issues with livestock and manure.

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

- Congratulations to the photo winners.

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

- Beach monitoring season recently ended. The monitoring data was submitted to U.S. EPA and a final beach report will be drafted soon.

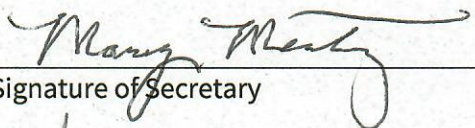
Public Comment

- Sandy Bihn, written email.
 - The Port Clinton Lighthouse and Maritime Festival was on August 17. Visitors from various states and countries attended. Ohio Lake Erie Lighthouses present a collective economic opportunity, and Ohio could support lighthouse restoration with the revenue from the Lake Erie plates. Believes livestock manure issues need to be addressed regarding the continuing growth of unpermitted cattle operations with open piles and hill so uncovered manure.


Adjourn Business Meeting

A motion to adjourn was made by Danielle Giannantonio, and seconded by Crystal Davis. The motion passed.

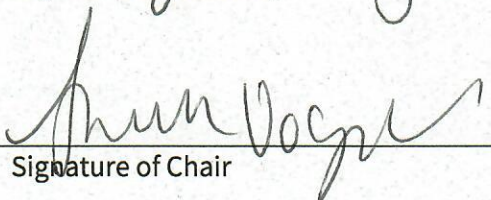
Meeting was adjourned at 11:48 pm



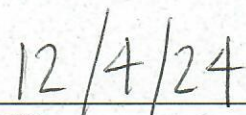
Signature of Secretary



Date



Signature of Chair



Date