



# COASTAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COUNCIL

Jim Kastelic  
Chairperson

Maggie Thurber  
Vice Chairperson

## ***Mission Statement***

*To advise the Director of ODNR on the Ohio Coastal Management Program and to promote, protect, enhance, and encourage the wise use of Lake Erie's coastal resources and its watershed.*



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## COASTAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COUNCIL

Thursday, February 8, 2007

10:00 am

The Great Lakes Historical  
Inland Seas Maritime Museum

480 Main Street  
Vermilion, Ohio 44089

### NOTES

#### I. Call to Order – Salutation

- Welcome / Introductions

Present

Althaus, Rodney; Heath, Robert; Kastelic, Jim; Keenan, John; Meismer, David; Hayberger, Joe; Barchok, Jim; Urbanski, Vince; Denbow, Tom;

OCM-Watkins, John; Everhard, Liz

Absent

Born, John; Goudreau, George; Thurber, Maggie; Dodrill, Eric; Barr, Don; Hayes, Pat; O'Connor, Jim; Spotts, David

- Facility Acknowledgements and Thanks
- Agenda Review
- Approval of Previous Council Meeting minutes (November 16, 2006)

**MOTION: To approve the November 2007 Coastal Resources Advisory Council meeting minutes. Motion made by Joe Hayberger and seconded by Jim Barchok. Unanimously approved.**

#### II. Executive Report/Sub-Committee Reports

Chairman Kastelic commented that the council along with the administration is under a transition. The council has 3 vacancies and Governor Strickland has been in office for about a month. The new director of ODNR, Sean Logan also just started in the last few weeks. If sub-committees haven't had a chance to meet it's understandable.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Tom Denbow,**

Tom started dialogue with his committee and he believes that have made progress with coming up with a list of priorities for 2007. One theme that keeps popping up deals with education public officials. He hopes they can work with the Lake Erie Protection Fund and explore opportunities. He will try and get a meeting together for next time. Bob Heath's committee can also assist.

Executive Committee did not meet. Chairman Kastelic also asked council members to suggest topics for upcoming meetings.

### **III. OCM Update, John Watkins, OCM**

#### **New Administration**

Sean Logan, Director (*Press release attached*)  
Anthony Trevena, Deputy Director of Administration  
Jen Lynch, Chief of Legislative Services

#### **Coastal Management Assistance Grants**

Twelve grant applications were received in November 2006 requesting a total of \$515,450. The Grant Review Team has met and submitted its recommendations for funding to the Chief of the Office of Coastal Management. Eight grant applications have been recommended to receive either full or partial funding totaling \$250,000. Once approved by ODNR and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the selected projects will be announced in May 2007 and the Cycle 11 projects will begin on July 1, 2007. There are twelve open grant projects from Cycles 9 and 10.

#### **Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP)**

ODNR /REALM closed on a property on North Bass Island in December, 2006 using CELCP earmarked dollars. This project adds an additional 3.9 acres to the ODNR North Bass holdings. Additional purchases from this earmark (originally allocated in 2004) are on hold pending Congressional action to reprogram the funds. Along with other projects completed in the late fall/early winter, this brings the CELCP dollars spent in Ohio to \$11,226,109. These dollars have been used to leverage an additional \$26,618,181, for a total of \$37,856,540 spent to date to purchase and protect over 2,400 acres of critical coastal wetlands and other lands in Ohio's Lake Erie watershed.

The availability of funding for the competitive CELCP projects nominated in 2007 and most recently for 2008 is uncertain and will not be known until the remaining appropriations for the federal FY 2007 budget have been determined.

#### **Ohio Coastal Management Program Document Update**

OCM submitted the Routine Program Change to NOAA in December. NOAA has requested some additional information in the analysis of changes, which OCM is currently working on. Additionally, OCM has released a general statement in response to the comments received during August's public comment period.

### **NOAA 309 Assessments**

OCM received a letter from NOAA in November approving Ohio's Section 309 Assessment and Strategies. This approval allows Ohio to annually receive approximately \$180,000 for projects that are intended to make changes or improvements to the Ohio Coastal Management Program.

### **OCM Strategic Planning**

Work on the strategic plan continues and a draft is expected to be complete by February 27.

### **NOAA Coastal Fellow/ Lake Erie Shore Erosion Management Plan (LESEMP)**

Work on the LESEMP has focused in researching other state programs to determine how they have addressed erosion within each state. The summaries of other State programs have all been drafted, edited by the project workgroup, and are ready to be sent out to the States for review for accuracy and any additional information. Some follow-up will be made by OCM staff for those States with specific projects or policies of interest. A final version of the summaries will be available in early spring.

The next step is to conduct a Needs Assessment with stakeholders to determine local and regional needs for managing erosion. Through a partnership with Ohio's Coastal Training Program and staff at Old Woman Creek, the project workgroup has begun determining the target audience and methods necessary for a successful assessment. Possible methods include focus groups sessions conducted at several locations along the Lake as well as a mail/Internet questionnaire.

### **Ohio Coastal Atlas**

The Ohio Department of Administrative Services awarded the contract to print the Second Edition of the Ohio Coastal Atlas to Herald Printing of New Washington, Ohio. Completed artwork files for the atlas are at Herald Printing, which is currently printing 3,000 copies. Delivery of the completed atlas is tentatively scheduled for late February.

A digital version of the atlas is currently under production. The digital atlas will feature a re-formatted, easy-to-use, easy-to-print, PDF version of the Second Edition on CD/DVD, and will include additional maps and information not found in the print version. The CD/DVD will be produced in greater quantities and is intended to reach a broader public audience. It is scheduled to be ready in June/July 2007.

### **Watershed Coordinator Grants**

The Ohio Watershed Coordinator Program held an orientation for all new watershed coordinator grant recipients on October 31 in Delaware, Ohio. There were seven new watershed coordinator grants awarded in the Lake Erie watershed. The new coordinators officially begin on January 01, 2007. This brings the total number of Lake Erie Watershed Coordinators currently being funded to 12. This includes the Maumee River, Duck and Otter Creek, Portage River, Sandusky River, Old Woman Creek, Black River, Rocky River, Euclid Creek, West Creek, Grand River, Chagrin River and Ashtabula River. The 2006 annual report of the Program is now available and features many of the highlights and successes of local watershed organizations.

The Ohio Watershed Academy is now open for registration and class begins with an orientation meeting on February 20, 2007. <http://ohiowatersheds.osu.edu/owa/aboutowa.html>

Jan Voelker has recently retired from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources as manager of the Ohio Watershed Coordinator Program. The position has not been filled. In the meantime, Matt Adkins has been assigned as the lead contact/manager for the Lake Erie Watershed Coordinator Grants. Greg Nageotte will manage the Ohio River Watershed Coordinator Grants and supervise the program.

*(Additional information attached)*

### **Education & Outreach**

The Office of Coastal Management completed its goal and gave more than a dozen educational presentations from August through December. The audiences ranged from homeowners associations to yacht clubs to the general public. OCM hopes to continue the educational presentations in 2007. Most recently OCM hosted a booth at the Cleveland Boat and Waterfront Lifestyles Expo from January 12 through January 20. The display include samples of beach material from approximately 20 locations across Ohio's 312-mile coast with the most westerly sample taken from north of the jetty at Cullen Park in Toledo and the most eastern samples taken from west (outer harbor) and east (inner harbor) of the Conneaut's West Breakwater. Samples were collected in 20 quart rectangular containers and spread out over the display area floor roughly in the shape of Ohio's coast. An information notebook containing aerial photos, ground photos, information sheets, etc. about each site was also created. Both children and adults were intrigued by the display and literally digging Ohio's coast.

### **Legislation**

The 127<sup>th</sup> General Assembly began in January. At this time, there is no pending legislation to report.

Tom Denbow added that there was a push to pass HB 574, but Senator Grendell has brought up issues and the bill will be reexamined in the new General Assembly.

### **Wind Energy**

#### **Executive Order** *(attached)*

On January 17, Governor Strickland announced an Executive Order (see attached) that establishes an energy policy advisor and focuses on the needs to improve energy resources and energy efficiency in State Government. The Governor has established that energy development, including wind energy, will be a heavy focus of the Strickland administration. Attached is an article from the January 18, Columbus Dispatch.

#### **Cleveland Plain Dealer Article- January 24, 2007** *(attached)*

On January 24, 2007 the Cleveland Plain Dealer published an article (see attached) that stated ODNR is opposed to Wind Turbines. As a response, Mindy Bankey from ODNR provided comments to the members of the Ohio Wind Working Group (OWWG) which are outlined below to clarify the Department's position.

*“ODNR is not opposed to wind energy. My involvement in the OWWG stakeholder group and the Environmental Action Team signify that we support wind development in the state of Ohio! As many of you know, the Department has shared comments noting the need for further avian research along the lake due to this being a significant flyway/bird staging area, but we have never come out with a position of opposition. Rather, the ODNR looks forward to working with all of you to find success in this area while minimizing environmental impacts -- particularly in the migratory bird / natural resources arena.” Mindy Bankey, ODNR*

### **Northwest Ohio Coastal Wind Initiative (NWO-CWI)**

*(Also known as the Toledo Port Authority Project)*

ODNR will be participating in the NWO-CWI. The kick off meeting is tentatively scheduled in mid-February. The Objectives of the NOW-CWI are three fold. 1) To identify and evaluate potential sites suitable for a pilot megawatt-scale wind turbine project in the near shore areas of Lake Erie in northwest Ohio. Multiple site screening factors relevant to the environmental, technical and economic viability of the project will be considered, with an emphasis on potential wildlife impacts. 2) To collect pre-construction assessment data for two specific sites, one in the eastern half of the study region ( Erie and Lorain counties) and one in the western half of the region ( Lucas and Ottawa counties). Third, an educational outreach effort will be coordinated with BGSU. Public outreach meetings will be conducted in each of the following counties: Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky, Erie, and Lorain. These meetings will be designed to encourage local participation in a public discussion of opportunities and risks associated with wind development in the coastal counties of northwest Ohio.

### **Performance Measures**

Staff spoke with and provided input to the Coastal States Organization on how to improve NOAA's current performance measurement system. OCM suggested a simplified process that more accurately reflects the challenges and successes of the Ohio Coastal Management Program.

### **Balanced Growth**

The four pilot projects underway (three funded through OWDA grants and one with CMAG dollars) are proceeding, with the technical committees for each developing initial Priority Development Areas and Priority Conservation Areas to present to their Watershed Planning Partnerships. A meeting of the pilot project managers, Lake Erie Commission and OCM staff is planned for February 9 to share progress reports. Kirby Date of the Countryside Program at CSU has been facilitating a series of workshops in January 2007 on using Best Local Land Use practices for local officials in coastal communities. Additional workshops are planned for March, 2007. Ms. Date will also be available for a limited amount of direct technical assistance for interested local communities who wish to implement some of the recommended practices.

## **IV. Old Business**

- Review Priorities from 2006 Planning Session
  - Riparian protection  
Chairman Kastelic commented that this will be a very important/major issue along the coastal region and we should consider bringing a speaker to educate the council. Tom Denbow added that it's a two part discussion: incorporated and unincorporated. Jim Barchok added comments about the development of abandoned buildings and reutilization.
  - Coastal Balanced Growth  
We will have presentation today.
  - Changing land use patterns  
Chairman Kastelic stated that in Northeast Ohio city managers and mayors that are starting to use regional governments for sharing services and revenue. Jim Barchok added that there is a strong push to move forward with a countywide port authority. As of now there are four small port authorities. Financing would be through the economic development office. Bob Heath has been doing work with the Cleveland Foundation. They too have been looking into uniting with other entities to attract funding opportunities. NE Ohio is important because of the quantity of water. The

most abundant energy source is Ohio is coal and NE Ohio's water resources are crucial in its development. The Cleveland Foundations is looking to assist in development.

- Wind Turbines/Wind Energy  
Council visited this issue in August 2006. It's emerging fast and it will be on our radar in the upcoming months.
- Non-point source pollution
- Education program recommendations
- Enforcement
- Watershed vs. political boundaries
- Dredging and Disposal  
There is big issue in Cleveland, it appears the Burke Lakefront site will soon be filled to capacity. A new site will be proposed for new materials. Also a big issue for Maumee Bay and possibly Sandusky Bay.
- Public Access  
Jim Barchok commented on state process of acquiring property that it is rather cumbersome and by the time the state gets position to make an offer they property is already been purchased by a developer. He suggest looking at the issue, what legislation can be introduced to provide funding so the state won't miss out.  
John Watkins mentioned that there is model in California that is similar to what Jim is talking about. Currently, the Balanced Growth initiative and the CELEP program are tools Ohio can use. Bob Heath commented that Ohio is known for its lack of public access. John Watkins said it's an issue to take with caution; however the state identified several key properties several years ago and have been quite successful. For example Lonz Winery on Middle Bass. Vince Urbanski said it is also up to state parks as land managers to be involved, not necessary the OCMP.
- OCM Funding

Other Issues:

John Keenan also suggested that we look at other energy issues such as fossil fuels and nuclear power.

The council suggested that we also consider ballast water.

John Watkins added that the more educated the council is the better than can address issues as they come up and advise the Director. Also reminded the council that the council can suggest changes to the 41 OCMP management policies.

Tom Denbow suggested that Chairman Kastelic draft a letter on behalf of the council to communicate to Director Logan introduce the council and communicate the councils priorities. The Chairman will write the letter and distribute.

## **V. New Business**

- 312 Evaluation  
The week of May 14 will be the evaluation. NOAA will be here for the entire week reviewing the program. There will be a public meeting on May 16 and will be organizing a chance to meet with CRAC members the evening of May 15.
- Local Issues

Joe Hayberger-Battery Park where the old wave action pool was located was purchased by natural park services. In order for any development to occur the developer must find another property that is comparable to size and use.

Rodney Althaus-Waterworks Park in Port Clinton: City Council voted for facility to be located on the river that includes, hotel, conference center etc. It's in the early stages of development.

David Meismer-Happy to see a watershed coordinator grant go to Portage River and hopes that the curriculum includes treatment for the mega farms.

John Keenan- River dredging has stopped for the winter. Amphitheater going in at Geneva on the Lake.

Robert Heath-Distributed Twinline Magazine article "Hot Commodity: Cleaner Water Increases Lake Erie Property Values" a study by Dr. Elena Irwin.

Jim Kastelic- Towpath Trail-40/50 million to continue project downtown. There is an article in PD today claims the land should be offered to developers (Wal-Mart, etc.) for tax abatements.

- Vacant seats- 3 vacant seats. OCM is waiting for direction from the administration.
- Plaque Presentations
  - i. Edith Chase 1996-2002
  - ii. Jim Barchok 2002-2004

## **VI. Public Comment**

Guests wishing to make comments will be asked to state their full name, community of residence and group or organization affiliation, if any, before beginning their comments. Guests are asked to limit their comments to five minutes unless otherwise scheduled.

Edith Chase

Mentioned that she remembered hearing in Sept from the Office of Energy Efficiency they were not considering placing turbines in the lake, but now it's all over the radio that Cleveland is on the forefront of bringing wind power to the region.

**VII. Lunch Break** 12:00-12:30 p.m.

**VIII. Presentations**  
**Lake Erie Shore Erosion Management Plan (LESEMP)** 12:30- 1:00 p.m.

April Dunlap, OCM  
Amanda Wenczel, OCM  
(ATTACHED)

**Balanced Growth Initiative** 1:00- 1:30 p.m.

Ed Hammett, Executive Director  
Ohio Lake Erie Commission  
(ATTACHED)

## **IX. Adjournment**