

### **Role and Overview**

The Lake Erie Commission (LEC) preserves Lake Erie's natural resources, protects the quality of its waters and ecosystem, and promotes economic development of the region by ensuring the coordination of and working to implement policies and programs of state government pertaining to water quality, toxic substances, and coastal resource management. The commission also oversees the management of the Lake Erie Protection Fund.

The Lake Erie Commission is made up of the directors of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Natural Resources, the Ohio Department of Health, the Ohio Department of Transportation, the Department of Development, and the Ohio Department of Agriculture. The commission issues reports such as *State of the Lake Report ~ Lake Erie Quality Index* and *Lake Erie Protection & Restoration Plan* that provide information and strategic action proposals for state government to improve the quality of Lake Erie and its use.

The Lake Erie Commission staff of four employees advises the Governor and the commission on the development, implementation, and coordination of Lake Erie programs and policies; provides representation of the interests of Ohio in regional, national, and international forums pertaining to the resources of the Great Lakes; assists in the implementation of the Coastal Zone Management Program; facilitates compliance with the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and the Great Lakes Toxic Substances Control Agreement; and manages the distribution of moneys from the Lake Erie Protection Fund. Funding is distributed to federal, state, and local agencies; educational institutions; and non-profit organizations in Ohio in the form of grants for research and implementation projects. Over \$8.0 million has been distributed for about 235 projects over a 12-year period. The Lake Erie Commission has an annual operating budget of approximately \$837,000. Additional information regarding the Lake Erie Commission is available at <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/oleo/index.html>.



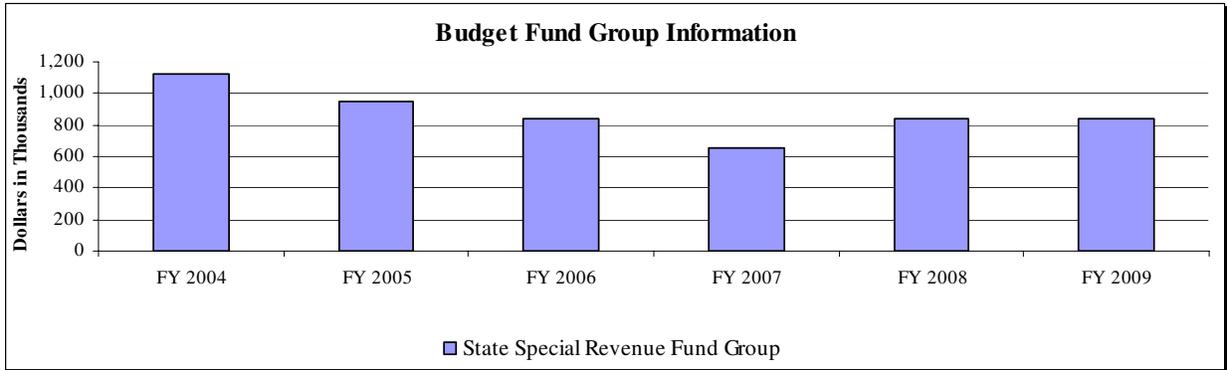
### **Turnaround Ohio Initiatives**

- Provide incentives for Smart Growth by strengthening implementation of the Balanced Growth Planning Framework recommendations that call for state incentives to invest in those areas specifically designated by local jurisdictions for development or conservation in their locally adopted and state endorsed Balanced Growth Plans.
- Provide Ohio communities with Balanced Growth tools (supported by training) that they can use to discourage unchecked sprawl and encourage redevelopment of urban areas.
- Integrate sustainable development practices into state development policies and development funding decisions through the Balanced Growth Strategy.

### **Agency Priorities**

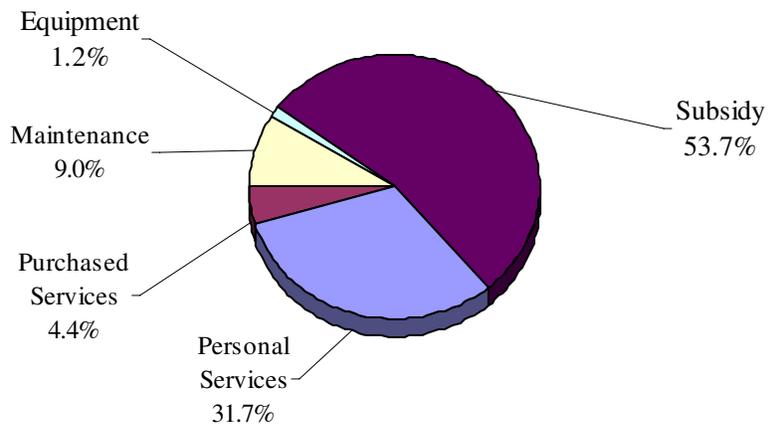
- Prepare the State of the Lake/Lake Erie Quality Index Report to identify problems and track progress to guide Lake Erie Protection and Restoration.
- Update and implement the Lake Erie Protection and Restoration Plan along with Ohio's Lake Erie Action List as a clear statement of Ohio's actions to improve Lake Erie and implement the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration.
- Implement the public education program to increase the awareness of Lake Erie through public outreach activities such as Ohio's Coastweeks, "Life on Lake Erie" Photo Contest, and other activities.
- Award research and implementation grants through the Lake Erie Protection Fund.

**Summary of Budget History and Recommendations**



(In thousands) BUDGET FUND GROUP	ACTUAL			ESTIMATE	%	RECOMMENDED			
	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	CHANGE FY 06-07	FY 2008	CHANGE %	FY 2009	CHANGE %
State Special Revenue Fund Group	1,120	951	843	659	(21.8)	837	27.1	838	.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,120</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>843</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>(21.8)</b>	<b>837</b>	<b>27.1</b>	<b>838</b>	<b>.1</b>

**FY 2008-09 Biennial Appropriation  
by Expense Category**



State of Ohio  
**Lake Erie Commission**

(In thousands) OBJECT OF EXPENSE	ACTUAL			ESTIMATE	%	RECOMMENDED			
	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 06-07	FY 2008	%	FY 2009	%
Personal Services	217	232	199	206	3.6	260	26.4	271	4.2
Purchased Services	51	2	5	25	405.7	37	48.0	37	.0
Maintenance	152	126	56	118	111.8	80	(32.1)	70	(12.5)
Equipment	6	1	8	10	22.4	10	.0	10	.0
Subsidy	686	521	575	240	(58.3)	450	87.5	450	.0
Transfer & Other	7	69	0	60	.0	0	(100.0)	0	.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,120</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>843</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>(21.8)</b>	<b>837</b>	<b>27.1</b>	<b>838</b>	<b>.1</b>

**PROGRAM SERIES 01: Lake Erie Protection Commission**

This program series works to preserve Lake Erie's natural resources, protect the ecological quality of its watershed, and promote economic development in the Great Lake region through policy direction and awarding of moneys for environmental projects concerning Lake Erie and its watershed.

**Program 01.01: Lake Erie Resources and Protection**

The *Lake Erie Protection and Restoration Plan* establishes the program's priorities concerning policy and activities. The Lake Erie Protection Fund awards moneys for environmental projects to help support Lake Erie and its watershed. The Lake Erie Resources Fund provides moneys for the resources and operation of the Lake Erie Protection Fund.

**The Executive Recommendation will:**

- Support the administration of approximately 24 grant projects;
- Support the day-to-day operations of the agency;
- Allow coordination of policies and projects pertaining water quality, habitat, recreation and tourism, and resource management within the Lake Erie Basin;
- Support the conduction of four quarterly Ohio Lake Erie Commission meetings and initiatives; and
- Allow the program to market established revenue sources such as the Lake Erie license plate program.

FUND				RECOMMENDED	
GROUP	FUND	ALI	ALI NAME	FY 2008	FY 2009
SSR	4C0	780-601	Lake Erie Protection	450,000	450,000
SSR	5D8	780-602	Lake Erie Resources	387,000	388,000
<b>TOTAL FOR PROGRAM</b>				<b>837,000</b>	<b>838,000</b>

## LINE ITEM SUMMARY - Lake Erie Commission

FUND	ALI	ALI TITLE	FY 2004 ACTUAL	FY 2005 ACTUAL	FY 2006 ACTUAL	FY 2007 ESTIMATE	FY 2008 RECOMMENDED	% CHANGE	FY 2009 RECOMMENDED	% CHANGE
4C0	780-601	Lake Erie Protection	692,968	600,704	576,263	300,000	450,000	50.0	450,000	.0
5D8	780-602	Lake Erie Resources	426,692	349,893	266,362	358,549	387,000	7.9	388,000	.3
<b>TOTAL State Special Revenue Fund Group</b>			<b>1,119,660</b>	<b>950,597</b>	<b>842,625</b>	<b>658,549</b>	<b>837,000</b>	<b>27.1</b>	<b>838,000</b>	<b>.1</b>
<b>TOTAL Lake Erie Commission</b>			<b>1,119,660</b>	<b>950,597</b>	<b>842,625</b>	<b>658,549</b>	<b>837,000</b>	<b>27.1</b>	<b>838,000</b>	<b>.1</b>