

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, which derives revenue from the Lake Erie License Plate Sales Program.

The Lake Erie Commission is made up of the directors of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the Ohio Department of Health, the Ohio Department of Transportation, the Ohio 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 and 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 and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative; 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 \$9.3 million has been distributed for over 300 projects during a 17-year period.

More information regarding the Lake Erie Commission is available at <http://lakeerie.ohio.gov>.

Agency Priorities

- Implement Strategic Objectives and Actions from the "Lake Erie Protection and Restoration Plan" (LEPR) updated in September 2008.
- Secure additional funding for Lake Erie protection
- Update the "State of the Lake Report ~ Lake Erie Quality Index."
- Manage the Commission's Balanced Growth Program to better integrate sustainable development practices into state development policies and funding decisions.
- Manage the Lake Erie Protection Fund's grant cycle processes.
- Coordinate and promote Ohio's use of Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funds.
- Promote the annual Ohio Coastweeks Program, Lake Erie Awards, and Photo Contest.
- Continue Ohio representation on regional Great Lakes management forums.

Funding Recommendation for FY2012 and FY2013

Funding Summary

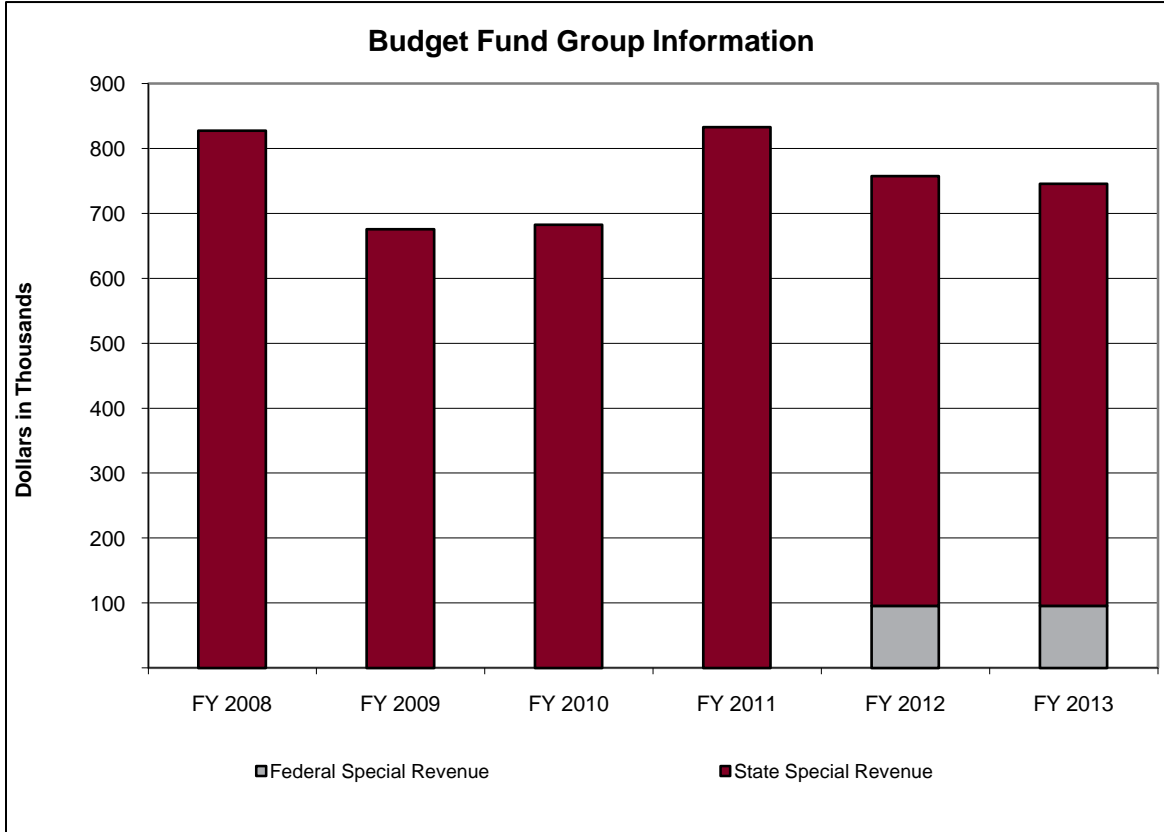
- All funds: Funding for fiscal year 2012 is \$757,533 (or a 9.1% decrease from fiscal year 2011). Funding for fiscal year 2013 is \$745,893 (or a 1.5% decrease from fiscal year 2012).

The Executive Recommendation will fund the following objectives:

- Support the administration of approximately 20 grant projects.
- Allow coordination of 65 strategic objectives and 321 specific actions pertaining to water quality, habitat, recreation and tourism, and resource management within the Lake Erie Basin.
- Support day-to-day operations of the commission and conduct initiatives and four quarterly Ohio Lake Erie Commission meetings.

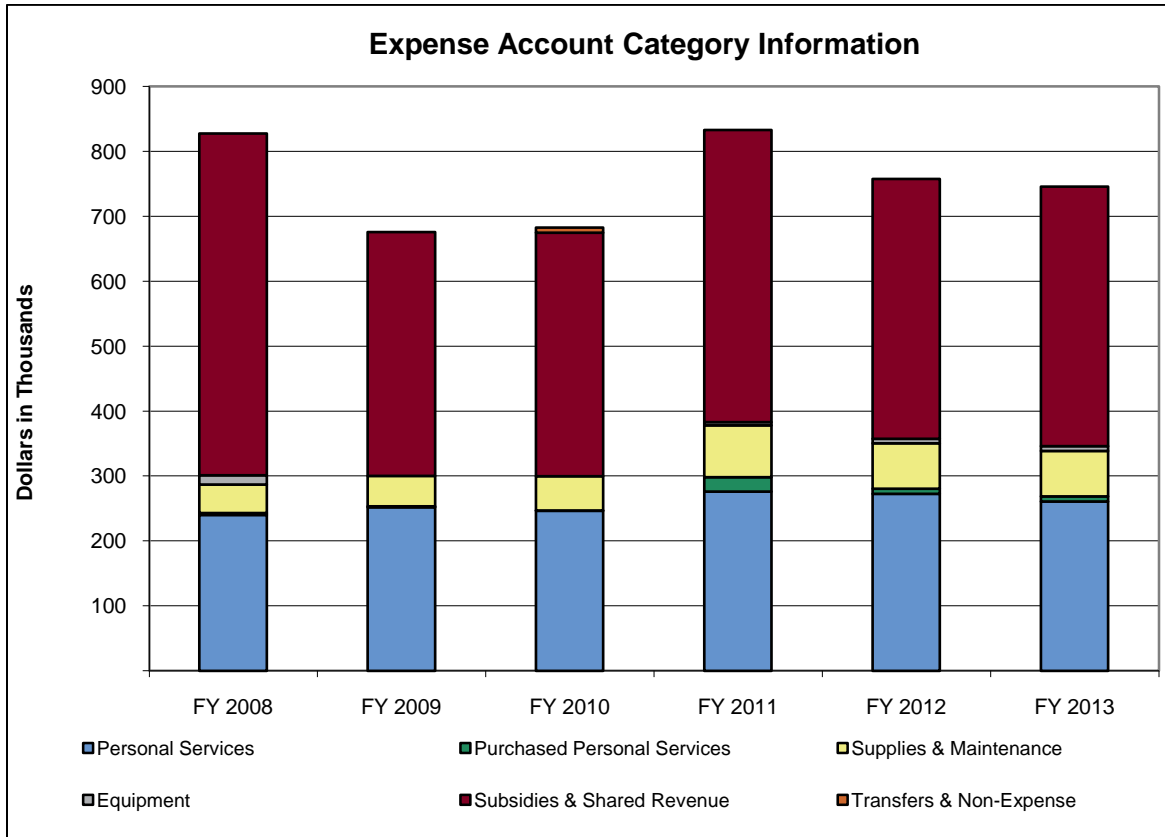
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- Allow the program to market established revenue sources such as the Lake Erie License Plate Sales Program.
- Provide for efficient use of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative federal funds (\$17 million) to achieve Ohio's Lake Erie Protection and Restoration Plan objectives.
- Assist local government to achieve balanced growth through encouraging development of plans, endorsing the plans, and assisting in the adoption of best local land use practices. In 2009, the program was expanded statewide by working with the Ohio Water Resources Council. Currently there are 12 watershed plans underway covering 1,100 square miles. Within the Lake Erie Watershed there are 117 local governments that have participated.



(in Thousands)	Actual			Est.	% Change	Recommended			
Budget Fund Group	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY10-11	FY 2012	% Change	FY 2013	% Change
Federal Special Revenue	0	0	0	0	-	96	-	96	0.0%
State Special Revenue	827	676	683	833	22.0%	662	-20.6%	650	-1.8%
Totals	827	676	683	833	22.0%	758	-9.1%	746	-1.5%

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(in Thousands)	Actual			Est.	% Change	Recommended			
Expense Account Category	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY10-11	FY 2012	% Change	FY 2013	% Change
Personal Services	240	252	247	276	11.9%	273	-1.3%	261	-4.3%
Purchased Personal Services	3	1	0	22	6,522.4%	8	-64.4%	8	0.0%
Supplies & Maintenance	44	47	53	80	50.9%	70	-12.0%	70	0.0%
Equipment	14	0	0	5	-	7	40.0%	7	0.0%
Subsidies & Shared Revenue	526	375	375	450	19.9%	400	-11.1%	400	0.0%
Transfers & Non-Expense	0	0	8	0	-100.0%	0	-	0	-
Totals	827	676	683	833	22.0%	758	-9.1%	746	-1.5%

Program Series 1: Lake Erie Protection Commission (140A0)

This program series, through the Lake Erie Resource Protection Program (140B1), works to preserve Lake Erie's natural resources, protect the ecological quality of its watershed, and promote economic development in the Great Lakes region through policy direction and awarding of moneys for environmental projects concerning Lake Erie and its watershed. 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 operation of the commission.

			Estimated	Recommended			
Fund	ALI	ALI Name	FY 2011	FY 2012	% Change	FY 2013	% Change
3EP0	780603	Lake Erie Federal Grants	0	95,750	-	95,750	0.0%
4C00	780601	Lake Erie Protection	450,000	400,000	-11.1%	400,000	0.0%
5D80	780602	Lake Erie Resources	383,000	261,783	-31.6%	250,143	-4.4%
Total for Lake Erie Protection Commission			833,000	757,533	-9.1%	745,893	-1.5%

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Line Item Summary By Budget Fund Group

			Actual			Estimated	Recommended			
Fund	ALI	ALI Name	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	% Change	FY 2013	% Change
3EP0	780603	Lake Erie Federal Grants	0	0	0	0	95,750	-	95,750	0.0%
Total for Federal Special Revenue			0	0	0	0	95,750	-	95,750	0.0%
4C00	780601	Lake Erie Protection	526,304	375,444	383,214	450,000	400,000	-11.1%	400,000	0.0%
5D80	780602	Lake Erie Resources	301,087	300,187	299,629	383,000	261,783	-31.6%	250,143	-4.4%
Total for State Special Revenue			827,392	675,631	682,843	833,000	661,783	-20.6%	650,143	-1.8%
TOTAL Lake Erie Commission			827,392	675,631	682,843	833,000	757,533	-9.1%	745,893	-1.5%