

Lake Erie Commission

Role and Overview

The Lake Erie Commission (LEC) preserves Lake Erie's natural resources, protects the quality of its waters and ecosystems, and promotes economic development of the region by ensuring the coordination of state agencies and implementing the policies and programs pertaining to water quality, toxic substances, and coastal resource management. The commission also oversees the management of the Lake Erie Protection Fund. The commission is comprised of the directors of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the Departments of Natural Resources, Health, Transportation, Development, and Agriculture. The commission issues reports such as State of the Lake Report ~ Lake Erie Quality Index and the Lake Erie Protection & Restoration Plan that provide information and strategic action proposals to improve the quality of Lake Erie and its use. The four staff members advise the Governor and the commission on the development, implementation, and coordination of Lake Erie programs and policies, provide Ohio representation in regional, national, and international forums pertaining to the resources of the Great Lakes, assist in the implementation of the Coastal Zone Management Program and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, facilitate compliance with the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and the Great Lakes Toxic Substances Control Agreement, and manage the distribution of funds from the Lake Erie Protection Fund. Funding is distributed to federal, state, and local agencies, educational institutions, and non-profit organizations in the form of grants for research and implementation projects.

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 & Restoration Plan (LEPR) and update the Lake Erie Quality Index: State of the Lake Report.
- 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 and secure additional funding for Lake Erie protection.
- Continue Ohio representation on regional Great Lakes management forums.

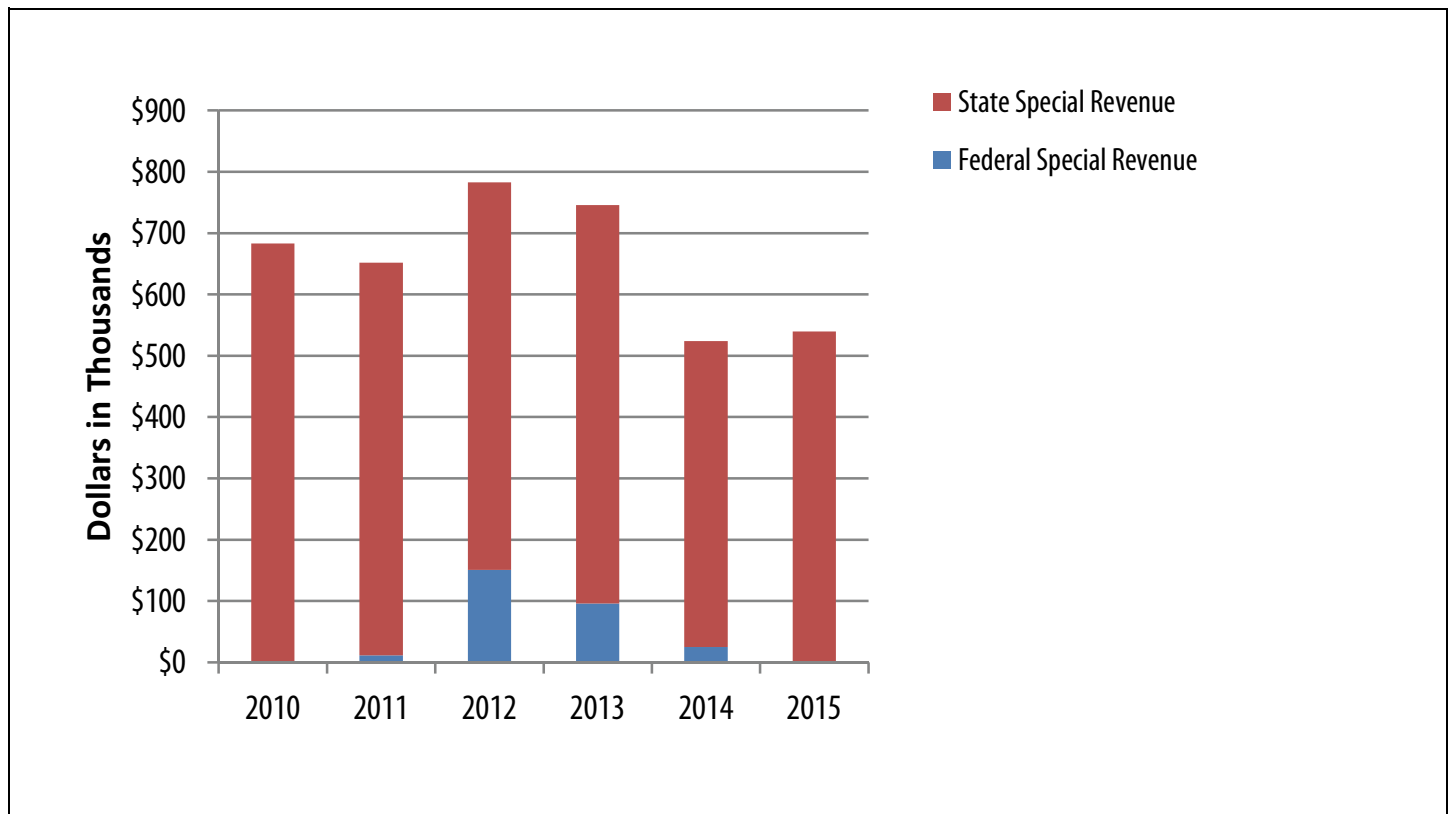
Funding Recommendation for 2014 and 2015

- All Funds: Funding for fiscal year 2014 is \$523.9 thousand (or a 29.8% decrease from fiscal year 2013). Funding for fiscal year 2015 is \$539.6 thousand (or a 3.0% increase from fiscal year 2014).

The Executive Recommendation will fund the following objectives:

- Support the administration of approximately twenty grant projects annually.
- 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 agency and conduct four quarterly Ohio Lake Erie Commission meetings and initiatives.
- Allow the program to market established revenue sources such as the Lake Erie license plate program.
- Provide for efficient use of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative federal funds by synthesizing results and environmental outcomes from over \$60 million (federal and state) funds to achieve Ohio's Lake Erie Restoration and Protection objectives.
- Help local governments achieve balanced growth by encouraging the development and endorsement of plans and assisting in the adoption of best local land use practices.

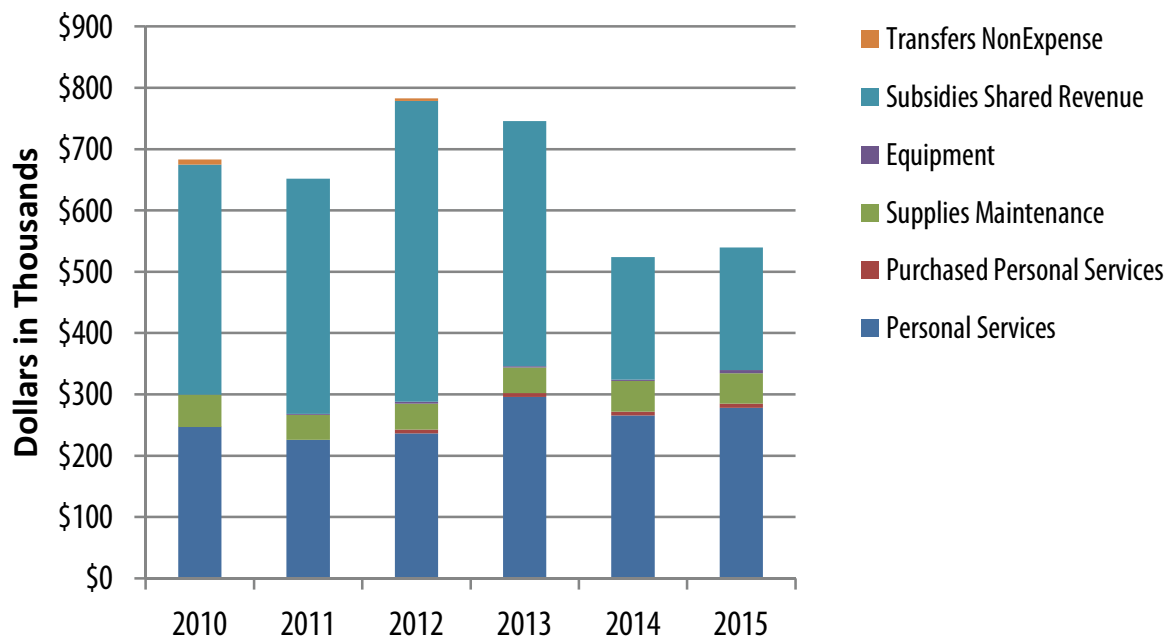
Budget Fund Group Information



- Total funding decreases as LEC anticipates a reduction in state special revenue from license plate sales and the Great Lake Protection Fund in fiscal years 2014 and 2015.

(in Thousands)	Actual			Est.	% Change	Recommended			
Budget Fund Group	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 12-13	FY 2014	% Change	FY 2015	%Change
Federal Special Revenue	0	11	151	96	-36.5%	25	-73.9%	0	-100.0%
State Special Revenue	683	641	632	650	2.9%	499	-23.3%	540	8.2%
Total	683	652	783	746	-4.7%	524	-29.8%	540	3.0%

Expense Account Category Information



- Subsidies and shared revenue decreases as LEC anticipates a reduction in revenue from license plate sales and the Great Lake Protection Fund in fiscal years 2014 and 2015.

(in Thousands)	Actual			Est.	% Change	Recommended			
Expense Account Category	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 12-13	FY 2014	% Change	FY 2015	%Change
Personal Services	247	226	236	296	25.2%	265	-10.2%	278	4.8%
Purchased Personal Services	0	0	6	7	6.1%	7	0.0%	7	0.0%
Supplies & Maintenance	53	41	42	42	-1.8%	50	20.1%	50	0.0%
Equipment	0	1	3	2	-33.0%	2	0.0%	5	150.0%
Subsidies & Shared Revenue	375	384	491	400	-18.5%	200	-50.0%	200	0.0%
Transfers & Non-Expense	8	0	4	0	-100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	683	652	783	746	-4.7%	524	-29.8%	540	3.0%

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

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 funds for environmental projects concerning Lake Erie and its watershed.

Fund	ALI	ALI Name	Estimated	Recommended			
			FY 2013	FY 2014	% Change	FY 2015	% Change
3EPO	780603	Lake Erie Federal Grants	95,750	25,000	-73.9%	0	-100.0%
4C00	780601	Lake Erie Protection	400,000	200,000	-50.0%	200,000	0.0%
5D80	780602	Lake Erie Resources	250,143	298,942	19.5%	339,637	13.6%
Total for Lake Erie Protection Commission			745,893	523,942	-29.8%	539,637	3.0%

State of Ohio

Lake Erie Commission

			Actual			Estimated	Recommended			
Fund	ALI	ALI Name	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	% Change	FY 2015	% Change
3EP0	780603	Lake Erie Federal Grants	0	11,173	150,701	95,750	25,000	-73.9%	0	-100.0%
Total Federal Special Revenue			0	11,173	150,701	95,750	25,000	-73.9%	0	-100.0%
4C00	780601	Lake Erie Protection	383,214	378,240	378,034	400,000	200,000	-50.0%	200,000	0.0%
5D80	780602	Lake Erie Resources	299,629	262,549	253,953	250,143	298,942	19.5%	339,637	13.6%
Total State Special Revenue			682,843	640,789	631,987	650,143	498,942	-23.3%	539,637	8.2%
Grand Total Lake Erie Commission			682,843	651,962	782,688	745,893	523,942	-29.8%	539,637	3.0%