

# Lake Erie Commission

## Role and Overview

The Lake Erie Commission (LEC) was established for the purpose of preserving Lake Erie's natural resources, protecting the quality of its waters and ecosystem, and promoting economic development. Members of the LEC include the directors of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, the Departments of Transportation, Health, Development Services, Agriculture, and Natural Resources, plus five additional members appointed by the Governor. The commission maintains a staff of 2.25 FTE. The Commission maintains an office in the ODNR Coastal Management building in Sandusky and a commission program specialist works out of the OEPA Bowling Green office. The Executive Director is located in Columbus. The Commission is re-focusing its mission and role in addressing the issues of Lake Erie. The Commission will play more of a coordinating role with local, state and federal partners on programs and policies related to Lake Erie and the Lake Erie watershed. Over the past several years' considerable attention and resources have been directed at Lake Erie especially the western basin. As part of the update to the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement between the United States and Canada, there is a need for the states to develop specific actions plans to address the nutrient management and algae issues impacting the lake. Ohio has developed the Western Basin of Lake Erie Collaborative to address this issue. The Commission will play a more prevalent role in coordinating state and federal programs and funding as proposed in the Collaborative. In addition, the Commission has completed the Lake Erie Protection and Restoration Strategy (LEPRS) which identifies twelve priority areas on which attention is desired. The Commission will coordinate with the appropriate state and federal agencies to establish action steps and benchmarks in order to evaluate progress toward achieving the goals of the priority areas.

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

## Agency Priorities

- Work with federal, state, and local partners in addressing the nutrient management and algal bloom issues in the western basin of Lake Erie through the Western Basin of Lake Erie Collaborative.
- Work with partners to develop a dredge material beneficial use program in anticipation of the 2020 ban on the open-lake disposal of dredge material in Lake Erie .
- Participate in regional and bi-national forums, the Great Lakes Commission and International Joint Commission Water Quality Board on regional and international issues pertaining to Lake Erie. Coordinate with the state agencies on the implementation of the LEPRS and begin program evaluation for annual benchmarking of the updated State of the Lake report scheduled for release in 2018.
- Develop and implement a marketing and public out-reach program for the Lake Erie Commission with a specific focus on increasing the Lake Erie license plate sales and developing opportunities for direct contributions to the Lake Erie Protection Fund .

## Funding Recommendation for 2018 and 2019

- All Funds: Funding for fiscal year 2018 is \$568.0 thousand (or a 20.3% increase from fiscal year 2017). Funding for fiscal year 2019 is \$571.0 thousand (or a 0.5% increase from fiscal year 2018).

## The Executive Recommendation will fund the following objectives:

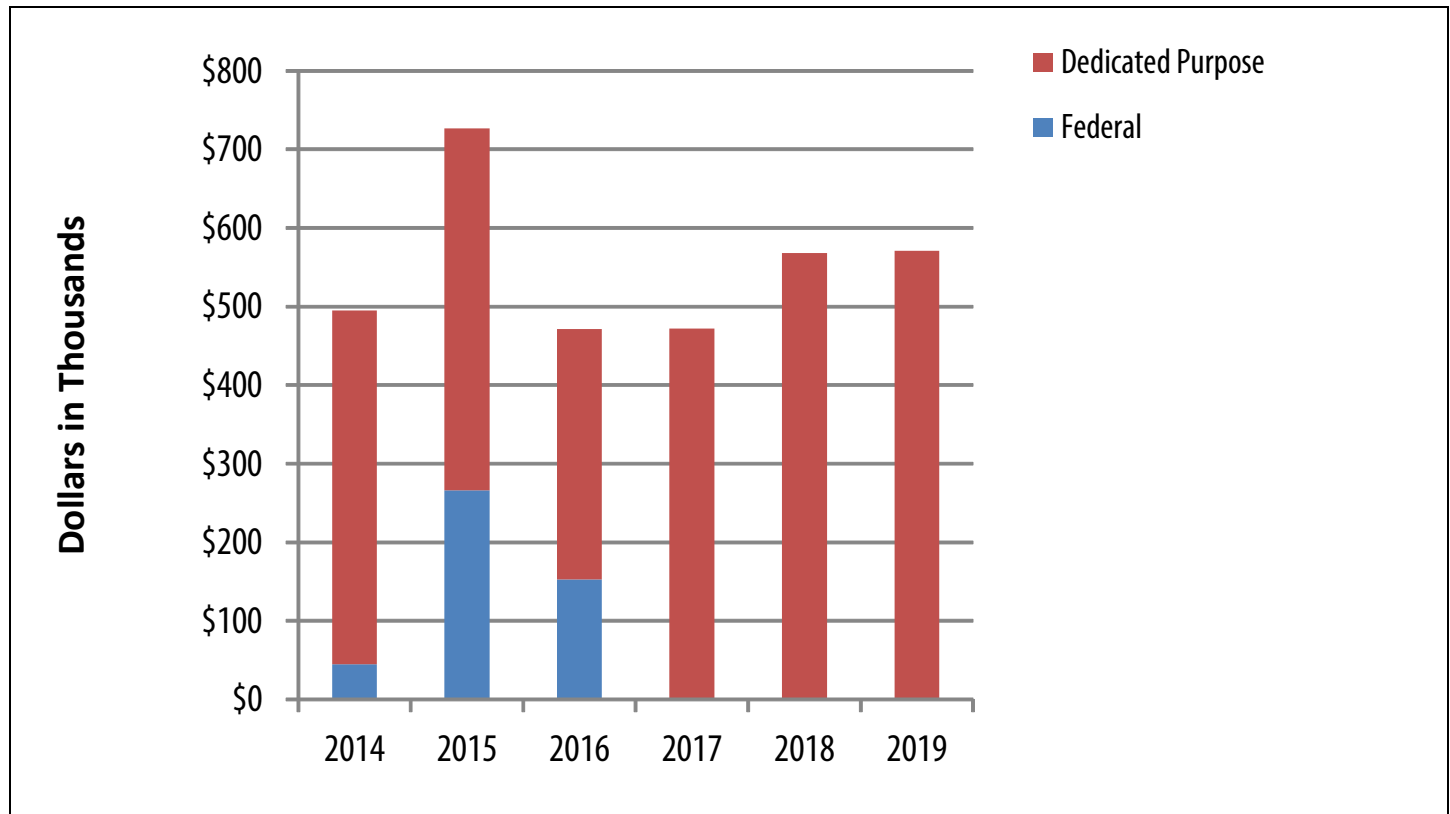
- Ensure the coordination and implementation of federal, state, and local policies, issues and programs pertaining to Lake Erie with a priority on areas identified through the Lake Erie Protection and Restoration Strategy.
- Review, and make recommendations concerning, the development and implementation of policies, programs, and issues that are consistent with the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and other international, federal, and state compacts and agreements.
- Serve as a clearinghouse and repository for information and data related to Lake Erie as determined by the Commission.
- Publish the Lake Erie Protection and Restoration Strategy and 2018 State of the Lake Report.
- Provide representation on the interests of Ohio in state, regional, national, and international forums pertaining to Lake Erie and the Lake Erie basin.

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**Lake Erie Commission**

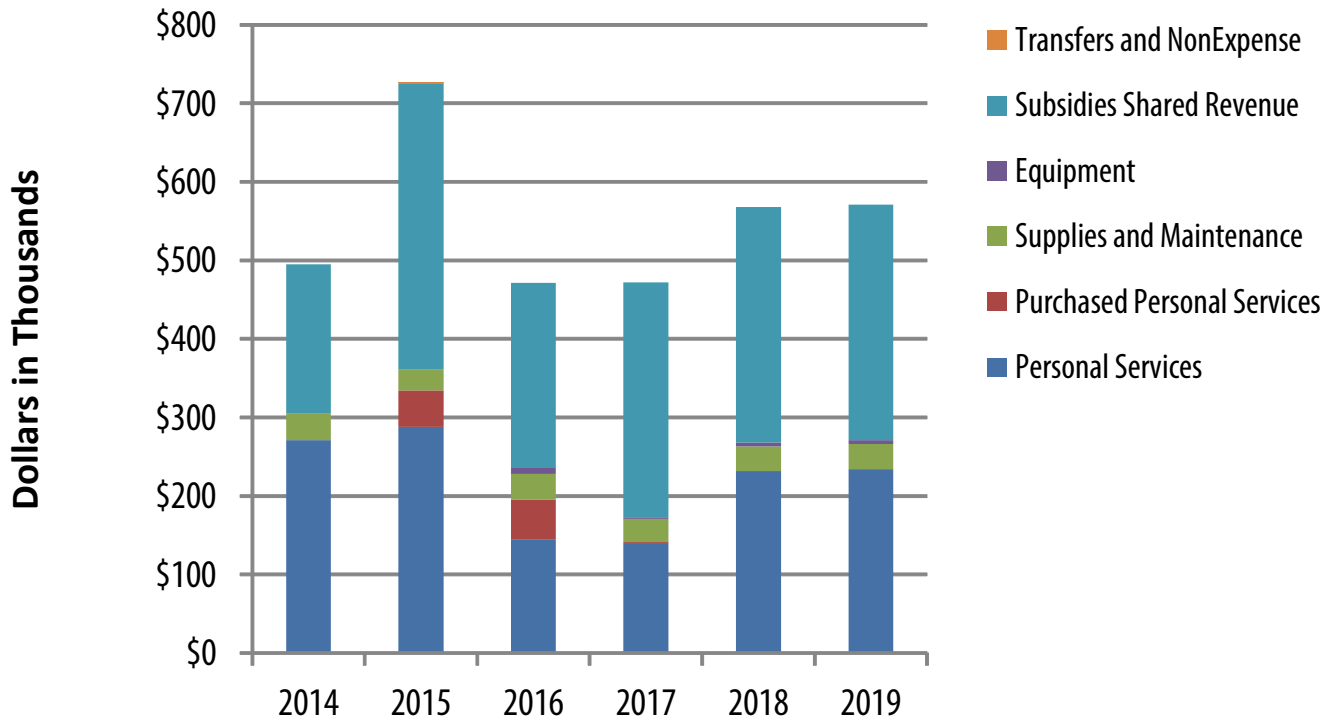
- Develop, implement and coordinate an education, public information and community relations program concerning the Commission's programs, policies, issues, and the resources of Lake Erie.
- Develop and implement a marketing program promoting the sale of the Lake Erie license plate and other public and private funds to carry out the programs of the Commission.

## Budget Fund Group Information



(in Thousands)	Actual			Est.	% Change	Recommended			
Budget Fund Group	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 16-17	FY 2018	% Change	FY 2019	% Change
Federal	44	266	153	0	-100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Dedicated Purpose	450	461	318	472	48.2%	568	20.3%	571	0.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>727</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>0.1%</b>	<b>568</b>	<b>20.3%</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>0.5%</b>

## Expense Account Category Information



(in Thousands)	Actual			Est.	% Change	Recommended			
Expense Account Category	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 16-17	FY 2018	% Change	FY 2019	% Change
Personal Services	271	288	145	140	-3.4%	232	65.7%	234	0.9%
Purchased Personal Services	0	47	51	1	-98.0%	0	-100.0%	0	0.0%
Supplies and Maintenance	35	27	32	30	-7.0%	31	3.3%	32	3.2%
Equipment	0	0	8	1	-88.2%	5	400.0%	5	0.0%
Subsidies Shared Revenue	189	364	235	300	27.7%	300	0.0%	300	0.0%
Transfers and Non-Expense	0	1	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>727</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>0.1%</b>	<b>568</b>	<b>20.3%</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>0.5%</b>

## Lake Erie Commission

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

The Lake Erie Resource Protection program 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 2017	FY 2018	% Change	FY 2019	% Change
4C00	780601	Lake Erie Protection	300,000	568,000	89.3%	571,000	0.5%
5D80	780602	Lake Erie Resources	172,000	0	-100.0%	0	0.0%
<b>Total for Lake Erie Protection Commission</b>			<b>472,000</b>	<b>568,000</b>	<b>20.3%</b>	<b>571,000</b>	<b>0.5%</b>

## Lake Erie Commission

### LEC Fund and ALI Restructuring

LEC is merging the Lake Erie Resources Fund (Fund 5D80) into the Lake Erie Protection Fund (Fund 4C00). This consolidation will begin on July 1 of fiscal year 2018. All current appropriation line items previously in the Lake Erie Resources Fund (Fund 5D80) will be moved into the Lake Erie Protection Fund (Fund 4C00).

To illustrate changes in funding levels due to restructuring and consolidating, the estimated fiscal year 2017 spending table is converted from the previous line-item structure to the current line-item structure.

Fund	ALI	ALI Name	Estimated	Recommended			
			FY 2017	FY 2018	% Change	FY 2019	% Change
4C00	780601	Lake Erie Protection	\$472,000	\$568,000	20.3%	\$571,000	0.5%
5D80	780602	Lake Erie Resources	-	-	0.0%	-	0.0%

# State of Ohio

## Lake Erie Commission

### Line Item Summary by Budget Fund Group

Fund	ALI	ALI Name	Actual			Estimated	Recommended			
			FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	% Change	FY 2019	% Change
3EP0	780603	LEC Federal Grants	44,466	266,078	152,887	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
<b>Total Federal</b>			<b>44,466</b>	<b>266,078</b>	<b>152,887</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
4C00	780601	Lake Erie Protection	169,815	155,344	149,131	300,000	568,000	89.3%	571,000	0.5%
5D80	780602	Lake Erie Resources	280,646	305,349	169,317	172,000	0	-100.0%	0	0.0%
<b>Total Dedicated Purpose</b>			<b>450,461</b>	<b>460,693</b>	<b>318,448</b>	<b>472,000</b>	<b>568,000</b>	<b>20.3%</b>	<b>571,000</b>	<b>0.5%</b>
<b>Grand Total Lake Erie Commission</b>			<b>494,927</b>	<b>726,771</b>	<b>471,335</b>	<b>472,000</b>	<b>568,000</b>	<b>20.3%</b>	<b>571,000</b>	<b>0.5%</b>