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LAKE ERIE WAVES

NEWSLETTER OF THE LAKE ERIE FOUNDATION



From the President

I am pleased to report that 2022 was a productive year for Lake Erie Foundation (LEF). We are excited to announce Chris Winslow, Ph.D., Director of the Ohio Sea Grant College Program was elected to our Board of Directors. Chris coordinates Ohio Sea Grant's Great Lakes research with agencies and universities as well as assists in research, curriculum development, and student recruitment at the Ohio State University's Stone Laboratory. We are honored to have him join us in our mission!

Lake Erie Foundation participated in several events throughout 2022 including the Cleveland Boat Show, Catawba Island Boat Show at Catawba Island Club held in late April, the July 2022 "All Washed Up" event in Vermilion along with many speaking engagements throughout the region. We will continue spreading our mission, while we educate and broaden our membership; LEF has made a noticeable impact in preserving and protecting Lake Erie through education and awareness!

LEF hosted its first annual fundraising event which sold out weeks in advance. Thank you to the business sponsors who helped make the event a success. Attendees enjoyed signature cocktails, appetizers, a silent auction, and a "wine pull" where they could donate for a chance to take home a special bottle. LEF Board member, Dr. Chris Winslow, gave an overview of the critical issues facing Lake Erie and we thank him for this informative and well-received presentation.



We are also working with the Sandusky Maritime Museum to create a permanent as well as a traveling display focused on microplastics. The long-term impact of microplastics on the drinking water from Lake Erie for over 11 million people is a targeted mission to bring more understanding and awareness to this global challenge. Thank you to the Mylander Foundation, Wightman-Wieber Charitable Foundation, Ottawa County Community Foundation, and the Cyrus Eaton Foundation who funded this project.

LEF continues to support H2Ohio and we respect the resources that Governor DeWine and his team have continued to devote to improving Ohio's freshwater resources. At the 2022 "State of the State" speech, Governor DeWine identified H2Ohio as one of his administration's key accomplishments for 2021. LEF also thanks the Ohio's Legislators for their continued key initiatives and for their oversight and funding for the ongoing need to preserve our fresh water. We encourage long-term perspective and financial support to continue the momentum toward

LEF respects the decision of the Ohio Supreme Court after their evaluation of the law surrounding the proposed LeedCo Icebreaker wind power project as to whether the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) followed the law in granting a permit to allow this pilot project to move forward. We, however, have concerns regarding the consequences of this decision. From our perspective, this ruling does not ensure the project will commence in the near future. It is clear, there are still many key issues that must be considered before final approval for construction! For example, LeedCo has not resolved the 33 deficiencies set forth by the OPSB as part of their conditional 2020 approval. Most significantly the Icebreaker project has never supported nor pursued a full Environmental Impact Statement. Many believe an Environmental Impact Study should be required for a project of this scale and in particular the impact it will have on Lake Erie and the surrounding environment for generations to come. Moreover, the proposed project has not demonstrated it has secured the necessary financing to proceed. The initial cost estimate for this six-turbine pilot project is \$176 million and will likely spiral upward from inflationary pressures. These costs will potentially trickle down and negatively impact consumers moving forward.

It is important to note that LEF is not opposed to wind power as a component of a stable and balanced power grid. We are however opposed to the industrialization of Lake Erie and its' almost certain negative impact on tourism, the fishery, boating, and the destruction of wildlife. With so many unanswered questions, LEF strongly feels that more analysis must be undertaken before allowing LeedCo to move forward with the construction of these turbines.

In closing, my sincerest thanks to all Lake Erie Foundation members, donors, businesses, foundations, and volunteers for your contributions to our critical mission. Because of your support, we continue to make a noticeable difference in preserving and protecting Lake Erie. Through knowledge, communication, and mutual respect the mission of keeping our beautiful natural resource secure for generations to come is possible.

Thank you for your help and support...all the best in the new year!



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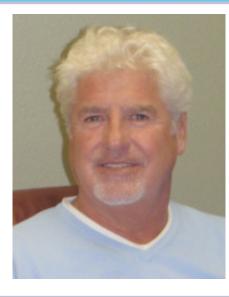
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Become a member of Lake Erie Foundation (LEF) and help us restore and protect Lake Erie for generations to come. Your tax-deductible contribution will help LEF work to ensure that Lake Erie's waters are safe for drinking fishing and swimming. Your support makes our efforts for advocating, educating, supporting innovative technology development, and legal defense a possibility. For more information regarding membership, visit LEF's website at www.LakeErieFoundation.org or call 419-301-3743.

In Memorium: Tom Hanway, June 4, 1951 - January 14, 2023

This issue of Lake Erie Waves is dedicated to the memory of Tom Hanway. Tom had a great love for Lake Erie and was a solid defender of efforts to protect it. He and his wife Keleen volunteered many hours supporting our causes, and in 2017 generously established a trust to provide consistent funding to position us to continue our work.

We thank Tom for his service to LEF and offer our sincere condolences to Keleen, their children, grandchildren, and all others who knew him.



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Lake Erie Foundation Board and Staff share these gifts in memory and honor of family members, loved ones, and special people. These donations affirm the love and lasting memories created by Lake Erie to these special people.

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