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WINTER 2024

LAKE ERIE WAVES

NEWSLETTER OF THE LAKE ERIE FOUNDATION

From the President

I am pleased to report that 2023 was a productive year for Lake Erie Foundation (LEF) as we continued spreading our mission, broadening our membership, and accelerating our efforts to make a noticeable impact in preserving and protecting Lake Erie!. By having visibility at various boat shows and other events, legislative advocacy, and speaking and educational engagements, we advanced our work on the key initiatives outlined below.

Addressing harmful algae blooms with H2Ohio has been an impressive initiative of Governor DeWine and his administration and we applaud their leadership of this pursuit. We also thank the Ohio Legislature and the scientific and academic community for their creative initiatives, oversight, and funding toward improving Ohio's fresh water. In the last four years, these entities have dedicated significant resources to this and other waterway improvement efforts. However, it has been suggested by leading scientists that H2Ohio is currently showing fragmented outcomes and therefore we could be one rainy spring away from again witnessing dangerous algae blooms. With the certainty of changing state leadership over time, LEF is concerned H2Ohio could lose some or all of its financial and programmatic support without tangible improvements occurring. LEF's long-term perspectives encourage a more aggressive approach that reassures ongoing and sustained financial support to ensure the momentum towards success.

In particular LEF is leading an initiative that would incorporate filters, drainage ditches, and wetlands on fields that contribute to the most impactful phosphorus run-off. We are advocating for \$3 million in Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funding for a pilot study of approximately 100 of these high phosphorus fields to show immediate improvement in managing them.

The Ohio Department of Agriculture and The Ohio State University Agriculture Extension are currently resistant to start this project due to capacity limitations. LEF believes the program is achievable with the assistance of an outside company to manage it. Our perspective focuses on collaboration and a sustained sense of optimism that with ongoing funding, progress can be made as diverse parties are brought together to develop alternative solutions and projects to overcome the challenges.

LEF recently began educating the public on microplastic contamination in Lake Erie. While there is a significant amount of information regarding plastics in drinking water, some of which can be confusing as it applies more to plastic contamination in the oceans, LEF is attempting to separate and ultimately focus on the issues pertaining most to Lake Erie. Along with public education, potential new efforts include supporting clean-up projects, and working with regional grocery chains to reduce plastic bags and plastic water bottles. We encourage you to help by "Reducing, Reusing, and Recycling".

In early December, we received news favorable to our position regarding the proposed Icebreaker wind turbine project. Media including Cleveland.com reported the project had been put on hold amid rising costs and other challenges that had delayed progress and dimmed its chances of success. The project developers, Lake Erie Development Corporation (LEEDCo), had several years ago seemed destined to achieve their goal of placing six wind turbines in Lake Erie about eight miles off Cleveland. Their current position, as reported in the article, is that they have made the difficult decision to temporarily halt the project.

We continue to monitor all potential wind farms in the Great Lakes. LEF is willing to share our perspectives and knowledge with others to prevent the Great Lakes from becoming the Silicon Valley of wind turbines.

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 wildlife populations.

In closing, my sincerest thanks to all LEF members, donors 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!

Jim Stouffer



236 Walnut Ave
Lakeside, Ohio
43440

Join LEF Today

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.

Welcome to New Volunteers!

The 2024 Progressive Boat Show introduced our newest volunteers, Mike & Leah Hydzik to Lake Erie Foundation! Mike & Leah are pictured here with LEF Board member Ken Alvey who's showing them the ropes.

The Hydzik's are passionate about Lake Erie and spend much of their free time enjoying the lake.

Volunteers are the backbone of our events!

If you would like to volunteer, please reach out to mmlavelle@lakeeriefoundation.org.



2023 Tributes

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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419-301-3743
www.lakeeriefoundation.org

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