

Lake Erie Executive Order Local Government Resolution request to President Biden

To meet the 40% Lake Erie Phosphorus/Harmful Algae reduction, accountable measurable reduction is needed by 2025 through federal agency government management with stake holders. There has been little, if any, Lake Erie phosphorus reduced even though billions have been spent – most to commercial fertilizer and manure best management practices.

Lake Erie Executive Order Resolution passed by City of Toledo, Lucas County, City of Sandusky, and the City of Oregon, with others coming soon.

Background: Lake Erie harmful algae has been on the increase since the late 1990's. In 2005 the federal government funded the Western Lake Erie Basin Partnership to address water quality problems in Western Lake Erie that included millions of dollars in funding to reduce agricultural phosphorus runoff to Lake Erie. The partnership phosphorus reduction program did not track phosphorus reduction amounts and today is no longer funded. In 2010 Ohio began to address the problem with Ohio Governor Ted Strickland (Democrat) creating the Ohio Lake Erie Phosphorus Task Force One in 2008 with a report in 2010. The harmful algae problem was serious enough to be addressed in the Binational Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA) in Annex 4 targeting a 40% reduction by 2025. Then in 2013 Ohio Governor John Kasich (Republican) had Ohio Phosphorus Task Force Two produced the second report. The Ohio legislation required the *Ohio Nutrient Mass Balance Report* in 2016 and the second in 2020.

History: The federal government' management of the recovery of Lake Erie in the 1970's and 1980's in cooperation with states, local governments and stakeholders achieved a substantial reduction in Lake Erie harmful algae reduction through annual accountable phosphorus reduction meetings that were coordinated and managed by the federal government offices in Grosse Ile, Michigan. The next harmful algae phosphorus/nitrogen reduction success is the recovery underway which pivoted on the Chesapeake Bay via an Executive Order in 2009 that resulted in the federal government establishing a managing a 'committee' of government and stakeholders that reports on phosphorus/nitrogen reductions. Evidence of success in the Chesapeake is the return of the oysters and crabs' fisheries.

Lake Erie Executive Order Process:

1. Lake Erie Executive Order committee weekly calls that will discuss contacts, questions, etc. with local government contacts in the Lake Erie watershed.
2. Getting Local Government Resolutions passed in the Lake Erie watershed requesting President Biden to sign Lake Erie Executive Order passed in March 2021.
3. Determination of delivery to president through an elected official(s) early April

Lake Erie Executive Order Messaging

- GOAL of Lake Erie Executive Order – to create federal/government/stakeholder management that annually meets and reports phosphorus reductions by location and source and progress to 40% phosphorus reduction
- OPPORTUNITIES requesting and then from Lake Erie Executive Order – to acknowledge that local government water utilities and their users are paying tens of millions to monitor, treat and acquire capital equipment to address harmful algae and cyanotoxins from the algae, and to acknowledge that local utility wastewater plants are collectively spending billions of dollars to reduce phosphorus discharges and sewage overflows almost all paid by the users. Concurrently, federal and state tax dollars are paying billions for Best Management Practices to reduce agricultural phosphorus runoff with no reporting of phosphorus reductions.
- TRACK RECORD for phosphorus reduction – federal and state agencies programs are not showing phosphorus reduction progress after over ten years of funding (Will attach reference list)

Talking Points:

- Local government water plants have to monitor, treat, test, and in many cases have capital costs to keep the harmful algal toxin microcystin from getting into drinking water - the users have increased water bills because of these costs
- Local government wastewater plants have and are spending billions to reduce sewage overflows and phosphorus outputs with costs paid by users with wastewater/sewage increased bills
- Local governments - water plant jurisdictions - (they were the last time) are generally not the sources of the increased phosphorus and have little to no 'voice' in getting phosphorus reductions to reduce harmful algae
- Federal management of phosphorus reductions which includes input from state, agriculture, research, local governments and stakeholders with annual meetings to show status of phosphorus/harmful algae reductions is what worked decades ago for Lake Erie and is what is working in Chesapeake who had a 2009 Executive Order that was the turning point for getting nitrogen and phosphorus reductions

Interested parties can get Resolution updates by emailing sandylakeerie@aol.com. Also, there are weekly calls – Wednesdays at 9 am and Thursday at 4 pm if you want to join the committee.