

1.)Ashtabula dredged material storage

The beneficial use of dredged material project at Ashtabula is being conducted under the Corps of Engineers Continuing Authority Program Section 204 authority and is cost shared 65% federal and 35% non-federal. When the decade-long project is completed, it will create approximately 16.5 acres of pristine wetland habitat.

The beneficial use of dredged material project at Ashtabula is being conducted under the Corps of Engineers Continuing Authority Program Section 204 authority and is cost shared 65% federal and 35% non-federal. When the decade-long project is completed, it will create approximately 16.5 acres of pristine wetland habitat.

2.)Floating wind turbines

A NY state agency will spend \$1 million this year on a study of the feasibility of building wind turbines in the Great Lakes, including whether they can be placed on floating platforms instead of being anchored to the lake beds.

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority was ordered to complete a study for release in early 2022 on whether wind power on the lakes should be part of New York's green energy portfolio should be.

We are considering both Lake Erie and Lake Ontario as parts of the feasibility study," Gregory Lampman, NYSERDA's program manager for environmental research, said during a public webinar Friday.

3.) Lake Erie Turbines

Action is being taken by several organizations — including the Boating Associations of Ohio, Lake Erie Foundation, Michigan Boating Industries Association, American Bird Conservancy, Black Swamp Bird Observancy, Lake Erie Marine Trades Association — intended to prevent cession of Lake Erie to developers that have stated they expect to eventually see up to 1,600 wind turbines blighting the lake.

“The Ohio Power Siting Board’s recent permit approval was shocking,” says Michelle Burke, LEMTA president. “The claim in the paid consultant’s assessment that there would be minimal negative ecological impact on Lake Erie simply doesn’t hold water. Aside from wishful-thinking economic claims, no in-depth environmental study has been done on the impact on fish populations generated by the 500-foot turbines and the miles of underwater cables.”

4.) Micro plastics pollution

Scientists discovered plastic microfibers in the Great Lakes are sticking to green algae that grows along the bottomlands in a way that could help keep the pollution out of the environment

Excessive cladophora (green algae) growth around the Great Lakes has for many years been connected to the presence of invasive zebra and quagga mussels filtering the water, increasing the depth sunlight reaches within the water column. When the algae mats die off it creates a lack of oxygen in the water and causes subsequent outbreaks of botulism — often killing fish, birds and mammals that feed on tainted carrion along the beach.

In fact, organisms feeding on the cladophora leads Peller to believe microplastics will also make their way up the food chain, as botulism infection does.

5.) Ohio Waterway Safety Council

Normally meet in Columbus. Five members appointed by Governor. ODNR Chief is the Secretary of the council. Held quarterly virtual meeting March 10, 2021> GCGA Trustee Brock attended.

Items of interest:

- a.) There will be a traditional Cleveland Boat Show The week of Jan 6th, 2022.
- b.) Ohio has 34 projects going including boat ramps and boat houses. Mostly inland lakes and rivers.
- c.) ODNR will be adding many new officers in the Spring of 2021.
- d.) Boater registration...Ohio is #6 nationally
 - a. 25K power Boats
 - b. 2.5K sail boats
 - c. 250K kayaks/canoes
 - d. 42K personal watercraft
 - e. Power and sail registrations slightly down
 - f. Kayaks and canoes up a good bit
 - g. Personal watercraft about even

- e.) Mentor Harbor Yacht Club awarded Certified Platinum Ohio Clean Marina.
- f.) Lake water level down more than predicted due to evaporation and less precipitation
- g.) Have interest in how to retain interest in all the new boaters.....probably mean kayaks/canoes.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Brock

GCBA Trustee

Political Action Committee