

GCBA May 2021 Political action Summary

1.) Project Icebreaker wind turbines

Boating groups around the Great Lakes are cheering New York State Sen. George Borrello (R-57) for his introduction of a bill to amend the state's environmental conservation law. Introduced in 2019/2020 session.

If passed, S6314 would create a moratorium on the building or placement of permanent or semipermanent wind turbines on bodies of fresh water in New York or any fresh water within the jurisdiction and control of the state.

Organizations in Ohio continue to oppose the windmill project including: Michigan Boating Industries Association, Boating Association of Ohio, the Lake Erie Foundation, the Black Bird Conservancy, the Lake Erie Marine Trades Association, and shoreline residents, among others.

2.) H2Ohio Lake Erie Algae

The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) announced recently the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has awarded ODA's Division of Soil and Water Conservation a five-year, \$8 million grant to assist in Ohio's work to improve water quality in Lake Erie.

Administered by the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), the grant funding will support Governor Mike DeWine's H2Ohio initiative by assisting farmers in developing nutrient management plans and conservation

practices in Crawford, Erie, Huron, Marion, Ottawa, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, Shelby and Wyandot counties.

Farmers in these counties can begin enrolling through their local soil & water district office in late summer.

The grant is part of USDA's \$330 million investment in 85 locally driven, public-private partnerships to address climate change, improve the nation's water quality, combat drought, enhance soil health, support wildlife habitat, and protect agricultural viability.

3.) Project Cheers

Cleveland Metroparks unveiled their plan on local TV news to create an accessible park, bike trail, etc., and build a new island with dredgings from the Cuyahoga River. The project is part of the Cleveland Harbor Eastern Embayment Resilience Study. Renderings of the proposed plan include a complete transformation of 80 acres of land, which stretches between E. 55th St. and Gordon Park.

4.) Shoreline Erosion Control Projects

Special Improvement District (SID) helps property owners finance erosion control projects. Participating communities are Euclid, Willowick, Eastlake, Village of Lakeline, Village of Timberlake, Willoughby, Mentor, Mentor-on-the-Lake, Fairport Harbor, Painesville, Perry Township, North Perry Village, and Madison Township.

The district's board will act as a public body and hold online meetings at 10 a.m. on the first Tuesday of every month. Details, including links, will be shared on the website of participating communities.

Euclid is an example where property owners grant public access in exchange for government funded erosion control projects and the installation of hiking and biking paths.

5.) GCBA Association Representation

The GCBA has been busy this Spring attending seminars and meetings relative to our member boating interests. These are:

- Ohio Waterway Safety Council
- US Army Corp Shallow Draft Recreational Harbors Meeting
- Lake Erie Foundation Annual Meeting
- American Boating Congress

We are carrying the flag for all members. If your club has an issue you would like brought to the attention of our government or other boating advocate organization, please let us know.

6.) We Need Your Help!

The GCBA has been asked to help update the Army Corps shallow draft recreational harbor "Harbor Fact Sheet" for several harbors. These sheets are used by the Corp and US Government to prioritize spending for maintenance and improvements in these federal harbors. Significant funding exists and is growing. We want it to benefit our Ohio boaters. The following are the Harbors we are tasked to update:

- Huron Harbor

- Sandusky Harbor
- Cooley Canal Harbor
- West Harbor
- Rocky River Harbor
- Toussiant River Harbor

If you have an interest or knowledge of these harbors and would like to get involved in this effort to get federal funding, please contact the GCBA. Our email is: Cleveland.gcba@gmail.com

Respectfully submitted,

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GCBA Political Action Committee

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