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P o l i t i c a l a n d

Following leadership elections and committee announcements, Ohio General Assembly sees a rush of legislation introduced.

Generally, the first 10-15 bills introduced by each of the House and Senate are considered to be the priority bills of that Chamber for the coming General Assembly. Earlier this week, the Ohio Senate unveiled its priority bills. While the language is currently "placeholder" language (rather than the text of the proposal, the bill is introduced as a general statement of intent), one Senate priority bill, SB 2, is anticipated to create (and possibly fund) a statewide watershed program. Discussions of the bill suggest that lawmakers have an eye to protecting all the state's watersheds, but with a particular eye turned toward Lake Erie. SB 2's sponsors include Senator Bob Peterson (R, Sabina) and Senator Matt Dolan (R- Chagrin Falls). [WOSU talked](#) to several stakeholders on the proposal earlier this week. The Ohio House has not yet introduced its priority legislation.

Meanwhile, the Ohio House has named its committees for the upcoming year. Representative Nino Vitale (R - Urbana) has been named chairman of the House [Energy and Natural Resources Committee](#). Representative Sedrick Denson (D-Bond Hill) has been named Ranking Minority Member.

In Ohio's executive government, Governor Mike DeWine has been named Vice Chair of the [Conference of Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers](#), an association of Great Lakes Governors and their Canadian Counterparts. It works to protect the Great Lakes and grow the region's economy. The Conference chair will be Wisconsin's Governor, Tony Evers.

From the Governor's office and a state agency roundup:

Governor DeWine has also recently named Joy Mullinex as head of the Lake Erie

Commission. Mulinex served as Director of Government Relations for the Western Reserve Land Conservancy, where she developed and implemented the organization's federal and state public policy platform. Previously, she managed the bipartisan U.S. House and Senate Great Lakes Task Force in Washington, D.C., which DeWine co-chaired as a U.S. Senator. Mulinex also worked as Legislative Counsel for Senator DeWine from 1999 to 2001. She is a graduate of Miami University and the University of Oregon School of Law. Mulinex has served on the board of the Cleveland Water Alliance, Alliance for the Great Lakes, and U.S. EPA Great Lakes Advisory Board. According to a [press release](#) issued by the Governor, the Governor noted, "Protecting Lake Erie is a priority of my administration," Governor DeWine said. "Addressing the challenges it faces will take collaboration and hard work. I am confident that Joy Mulinex will serve as a strong voice for Lake Erie in this key role in my administration."

Last week, ODNR announced that the Third Edition of the [Lake Erie Coastal Atlas](#) is now available online and that a limited number of print copies will be available beginning in March (see link for locations). According to DNR, the Coastal Atlas is a "suite of mapping resources developed by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Office of Coastal Management. Maps and text illustrate and discuss many of Lake Erie's historical, cultural, physical and natural resources. The Ohio Coastal Atlas is a valuable educational tool for coastal and community decision makers, resource managers, professionals, nonprofits, educators, researchers, students, citizen scientists, residents, recreationalists and all stakeholders with a vested interest in Lake Erie and its natural resources."

ODNR's office of Geological Survey also released the updated 2018 Coastal Erosion Area Maps. The updated maps will replace the 2010 version. Online review of the mapping as well as locations where printed maps can be viewed is online on the [CEA map page](#). Finally, the ODNR and the Ohio EPA have announced a [joint project](#) to fund nearly \$10 million in community projects to keep dredged materials out of the Lake.

M o n i t o r i n g T

NOAAs Great Lakes Water Level Monitoring [website](#).

Ohio EPA's Algae Levels for Recreational Waters [website](#).

US Army Corps of Engineer's [website](#) and predictions.

M a k e Y o u r V o i

Membership dues are now just \$50 per year, per household. If you have given an aggregate of \$1000 or more over the past years, dues are just \$25 per year.

While we won the lawsuit, we continue to have ongoing operational needs. We continue to work to make sure that ODNR follows the guidelines of the settlement for future regulations and restrictions. We continue to be the leading voice for education to our members, municipalities, counties, and the state. We also continue to monitor and review legislation and other government action. Please continue

your supporting donations to and membership in the Ohio Lakefront Group!

You can mail in your contribution at the address below or join securely [Online Today!](#)

N e w s & V i e w

[Willoughby Seeks Shoreline Erosion Solutions \(SWS 2/13/19\)](#)

The city previously used concrete barriers to prevent erosion, which have since sunk into the beach.

[A Deeper Look at the Lake Erie Bill of Rights \(Ohio Country Journal 2/13/18\)](#)

Peggy Kirk Hall, Director of OSU's Agricultural Law program takes a closer look at the Lake Erie Bill of Rights lawsuit

[Large mounds of rock, sand appear on Chaussee beaches \(Sandusky Register 2/11/18\)](#)

(2/11)

If you've driven along the Cedar Point Chaussee recently, you might have noticed large mounds of apparent rock and sand along the eastern shoreline.

[2 Great Lakes levels could hit record, forecast finds \(Detroit News 2/11/19\)](#)

Great Lakes water levels will be higher than normal, and some may approach record levels, for the summer boating season, according to the latest forecast of Great Lakes water levels issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

(See also [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#))

[Environmental law center brings new lawsuit over algae cleanup \(Toledo Blade 2/8/19\)](#)

A Midwest-based environmental law center that believes western Lake Erie's chronic algae problem can best be handled through the mandate of a federal court order [has reshaped and refiled its request](#).

[Sheehy named to Great Lakes panel \(Toledo Blade 2/7/19\)](#)

State Rep. Mike Sheehy (D., Oregon), a member of the Great Lakes Legislative Caucus representing eight states and two Canadian provinces since 2015, has been appointed by the caucus to its executive committee.

[Army engineers release projected water levels](#)

[in Great Lakes \(WPBN 2/6/19\)](#)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has released the forecasted water levels for all the Great Lakes.

[Everything you Ever Wanted to Know About Lake Erie's Walleye Population \(GLN 2/11/19\)](#)

Forecasters are calling for the best catch in history

** Note: Including an article or opinion piece in the news and views does not indicate that the OLG has taken a position on the subject or agrees with the author. We like to provide this as helpful information on the news and views in different parts of the region.*