OHIO COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
POLICY 5 – SHORE EROSION AND FLOOD HAZARD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE

IT IS THE POLICY OF THE STATE OF OHIO TO ASSIST LAKE ERIE COASTAL COMMUNITIES EXPERIENCING FLOODING AND SHORE EROSION PROBLEMS TO MINIMIZE FUTURE DAMAGES BY:

A. ADMINISTERING FUNDS FOR PROTECTION OF LAKE ERIE SHORES AND WATERS (O.R.C. 1521.23); AND

B. PROVIDING TECHNICAL INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE FOR ADDRESSING EROSION AND FLOOD HAZARD CONCERNS (O.R.C. 1521.29 AND 1521.13).

Authorities and Administration

A. ODNR administers the state permit and lease fund that consists of monies derived from the granting of permits and leases under O.R.C. 1505.07 for the removal of sand, gravel, stone, gas, oil and other substances from and from under the bed of Lake Erie and from applications for construction permits submitted under O.R.C. 1521.22 (O.R.C. 1521.23). The department administers the fund for, among other purposes, protection of Lake Erie shores and waters, the investigation and prevention of erosion. Funds may be used to partially fund erosion protection projects. ODNR may enter into agreements with counties, municipal corporations, townships, park boards and conservancy districts or any other state departments or divisions for the purpose of protecting publicly owned littoral property by constructing and maintaining projects to prevent, correct and arrest erosion along the shore of Lake Erie and in any rivers that are connected with the lake, and any other watercourses that flow into the lake (O.R.C. 1521.24).

The state also may provide financial assistance for the construction of conservation works of improvement for flood and erosion projects. The Director of ODNR, upon recommendation by the Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission, is authorized to enter into agreements with boards of county commissioners to cost-share in improvements constructed by the county for a soil and water conservation district. The state share shall be paid from funds appropriated for such purposes and shall not exceed 50 percent of the nonfederal cost of the project (O.R.C. 1515.16).

ODNR coordinates the state role in the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service P.L. 83-566 Watershed Program (16 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), which provides assistance to local communities, agencies and landowners in the planning and development of adequate flood control, storage and farm land drainage projects. The state may provide technical assistance to aid local agencies in meeting nonfederal obligations (O.R.C. 1521.03).

B. Technical information and assistance is available from several sources. ODNR's Division of Water provides public information on flooding and flood mitigation; coordinates determinations of community eligibility for NFIP; and directs communities and homeowners to other available sources of assistance. ODNR administers a technical assistance program on shore erosion

protection for local governments and property owners (O.R.C. 1521.29). The Office of Coastal Management provides technical information on the design of shore erosion control structures. The Division of Geological Survey provides site-specific information on geologic setting, geologic processes, shore recession rates and shore protection measures.

The Ohio Emergency Management Agency (OEMA) is responsible for disaster preparedness, operations and recovery. The agency provides local governments with assistance in designing emergency management plans and training programs and coordinating response to disasters with the FEMA and other state agencies. OEMA is also the lead on mitigation grants and planning for support of mitigation project funding.

The Ohio Sea Grant Program arranges workshops on site conditions and available options for real estate professionals, appraisers, coastal property owners and local government officials. Fact sheets have been developed on Lake Erie erosion topics. Additional technical assistance is available on coastal erosion causes, erosion abatement alternatives and homeowner options. Site visits are coordinated with groups of property owners.