OHIO COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
POLICY 2 – SHORE EROSION CONTROL

IT IS THE POLICY OF THE STATE OF OHIO TO PROMOTE SOUND DECISIONS REGARDING CONTROL OF SHORE EROSION BY:

A. ISSUING PERMITS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF SHORELINE EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURES (O.R.C. 1521.22);

B. PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE PUBLIC ON SHORELINE EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURES (O.R.C. 1521.29); AND

C. DEVELOPING A PLAN FOR THE CONTROL OF SHORE EROSION AND MAKING THE PLAN AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC (O.R.C. 1521.29).

Authorities and Administration

A. Any person planning to construct a beach, groin or other structure that will arrest or control erosion, wave action or inundation along or near the Ohio shore of Lake Erie must first submit plans and specifications to ODNR for review in accordance with O.R.C. 1521.22. Plans and specifications for erosion control structures along or near the shore will be reviewed in accordance with coastal engineering standards specific to the proposed structure. A permit to construct the structure will be issued by ODNR if the proposed structure will comply with applicable laws and rules; is consistent with the policies of the Ohio Coastal Management Program, and is of sound coastal engineering design. Administrative rules for the administration, implementation and enforcement of this authority will be developed and adopted as needed by ODNR.

A submerged lands lease is required if the proposed shoreline erosion control structure will extend into the waters or onto the lands underlying the waters of Lake Erie (O.R.C. 1506.11 and O.A.C. 1501-6-1 through 1501-6-06). In addition, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 10/404 permit and Ohio EPA Section 401 Water Quality Certification normally are required. Because these authorizations are also required for construction in Lake Erie, factors in addition to sound coastal engineering design are considered during comprehensive and coordinated review by ODNR and Ohio EPA. These factors include, but are not limited to, impact on water quality, fish and wildlife, fish and wildlife habitat, and public uses such as navigation, water commerce and recreation. See Policy 12 Wetlands and Appendix K for a detailed description of the relevant criteria and coordinated review process with respect to Section 10/404 Permits and Section 401 Water Quality Certifications. See Policy 16 Public Trust Lands and Appendix L for details regarding protection of the public trust.

B. ODNR encourages property owners to spend ample time and effort in the initial planning phase of a shoreline erosion control project. Consideration should be given to all potential means to control shore erosion, including nonstructural and structural measures and a combination of both. Design of a shoreline erosion control project must be based on the site-specific conditions, the desired level of erosion protection, and the effects of the project on the regional

shore area. Consideration also should be given to the design and construction of coordinated erosion control projects among adjacent property owners. Properly designed and coordinated shoreline erosion control projects have the potential to be more effective, less disruptive to natural processes and less costly than individual projects.

C. The Chief of the Division of Water of ODNR, in cooperation with the Division of Geological Survey, is authorized by O.R.C. 1521.29 to prepare a shore erosion prevention plan and to develop a program to provide technical assistance to the public. The Division of Geological Survey publishes and updates reports on Lake Erie shore erosion and flooding. These reports contain technical data on physical setting, coastal processes and shore recession, and general recommendations on shore protection. The Chief of the Division of Water and the Division of Geological Survey shall work collectively to prepare a shore erosion prevention plan and develop a program to provide technical assistance to the public.