

Positive Steps Forward

- The past several years, the agriculture community has taken major steps to reduce phosphorous flow into Grand Lake St. Marys.
- At the same time, rough fish removal, alum treatments, and dredging have reduced phosphorous loads in the lake.
- Wetlands are being constructed to filter nutrients from the water before it enters the main body of the lake.
- Local officials have requested legislation that would allow the county commissioners of an impacted watershed to create a joint Lake Facilities Authority (LFA).



Rough Fish Removal at Grand Lake St. Marys



The Basics

- The Lake Facilities Authority (LFA) is the next step in remediation of the algae problems at Grand Lake St. Marys.
- This is a long-term solution that can provide funding for efforts in the lake and in the watershed to reduce phosphorus loading.
- Local elected officials will be responsible for decisions made by the LFA.
- The LFA can apply for grants, operate facilities, sell bonds, and place levies on the ballot.
- All LFA activities must be directly connected to algae mitigation in the lake.
- This will impact those who live in the communities around Grand Lake St. Marys, the watershed, and lake enthusiasts.

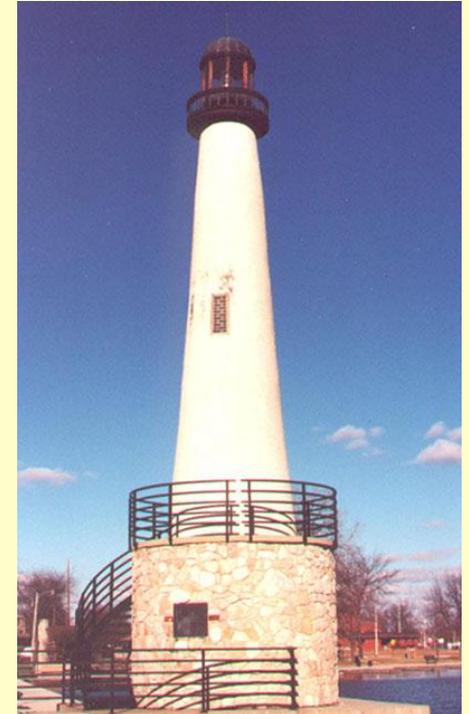
State Representative Jim Buchy

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Lake Facilities Authority

Courtesy of: State Representative
Jim Buchy



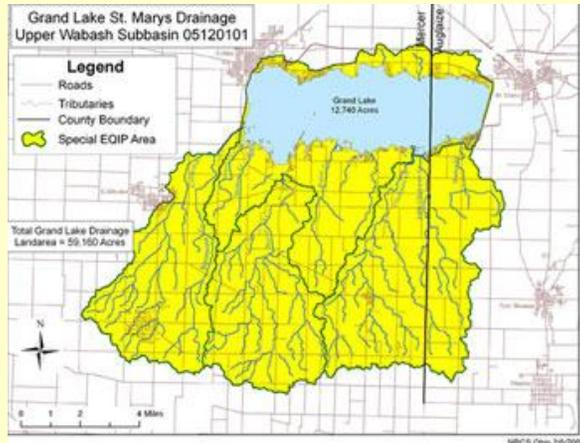
Providing a Long-Term Solution

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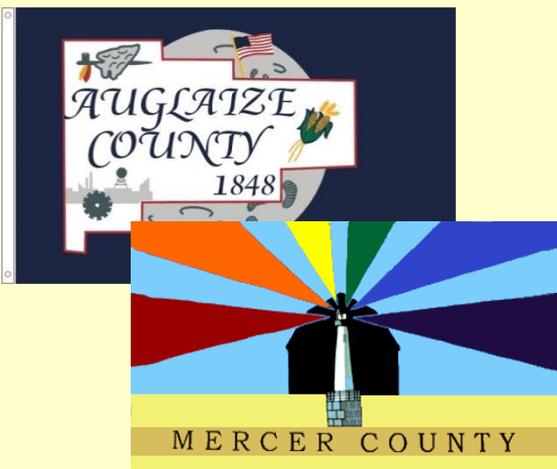
Purpose

- Residents and local officials have expressed an interest in having the ability to generate their own funding and make management decisions for algae mitigation at GLSM.
- Other government entities, such as the port authority, do not provide all of the abilities needed for the Lake Facilities Authority to function as needed.
- The LFA is not another government entity because it cannot enforce laws, edicts, or resolutions. It is an extension of the existing local government.



Structure

- **Lake Facilities Authority Board of Directors:** The combination of all county commissioners in impacted counties.
- **Engineer:** The engineer of each impacted county is responsible for mapping the lake watershed.
- **Fiscal Officer:** The auditor of the county with the largest portion of the watershed.
- **Legal Advisor:** The prosecuting attorney of the county with the largest portion of the watershed.
- **Lake Facilities Authority Advisory Council:** Each political subdivision in the impacted area will appoint a representative to the LFA Advisory Council.



Authority

- Apply for and accept grants and loans for the remediation of the lake.
- The Ohio Department of Natural Resources may transfer land to the LFA for the purpose of wetland banking, wildlife, or sporting activities.
- The LFA may sell anticipation bonds and revenue bonds.
- Own and operate facilities that are used for algae mitigation at GLSM.
- There is a distinct financial separation between the LFA and the state and other political subdivisions.

Voter Authorized Revenue Generation

- **Property Tax:** The board of directors may pass a resolution to place a property tax levy on the ballot in the impacted lake area, including municipalities and the watershed.
- **Excise/Lodging Tax:** The board of directors may pass a resolution to place an excise tax levy on the ballot in the impacted lake area, including municipalities and the watershed.
 - When added to other excise taxes, the aggregate may not exceed 5 percent.