

# Western Lake Erie Basin Partnership Charter

The Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB) Partnership is a tri-state partnership dedicated to enhancing multi-purpose projects that improve land and water resource management in the basin and promote a healthy productive watershed.

The signatories agree to develop a consensus-based Partnership to pursue the following principles:

- The Partnership is committed to collaboration and consensus building - sharing resources and knowledge to link land use to water quality, support ongoing efforts and identify new opportunities to enhance and improve the watershed.
- The Partnership will apply watershed-based solutions to local problems and apply local solutions to watershed problems - inclusively empowering and building the capacity of local watershed groups and supporting ongoing efforts.
- The Partnership is results oriented - it will define the baseline status of the basin, identify and prioritize science based solutions, responsibly support the implementation of innovative and cooperative projects, monitor and evaluate its actions and support an adaptive management approach.
- The Partnership will speak with one voice, promote transparency, encourage participation, be responsive, create awareness, educate and inform.
- The Partnership will provide the structure necessary to coordinate public and private resources across political boundaries to accelerate achievement of environmental goals and support for local conservation initiatives.

The following, by signing this Agreement, agree to support the principles of the Partnership by contributing their time, resources, knowledge, technical skills and efforts to the best of their ability, and consistent with their statutory authorities and subject to the availability of funds. Their commitment will include attending meetings, and actively participating in document and project development. This Agreement is a public statement of intent designed to foster good faith and cooperation among the parties.

It is understood and agreed by the undersigned that this Agreement shall not legally bind anyone or any organization to this or any other agreement. This agreement does not limit or in any way restrict the statutory or contractual obligations of the signatories in carrying out their private and/or public responsibilities.

Agreed to on March 29, 2006

Partner Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

LTC Timothy B. Touchette  
Commander, Buffalo District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Partner Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Terry J. Cosby  
Ohio State Conservationist  
National Resources Conservation Service

Partner Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Mary Knapp  
Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Partner Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

James R. Morris  
Director, U.S. Geological Survey Ohio Water  
Science Center

Partner Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Water Division, U.S. Environmental Protection  
Agency, Region V

Partner Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Scott Zody  
Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
Representing the Governor, State of Ohio

Partner Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Tammy Lawson  
Indiana Assistant Director, Conservation and Regulatory Affairs  
Indiana State Department of Agriculture  
Governor's Representative for State of Indiana

Partner Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Stephen Shine  
Michigan Department of Agriculture  
Governor's Representative State of Michigan

Partner Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

David Hanselmann  
Chief, Division of Soil and Water Conservation  
Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Partner Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Lori Gates  
Coordinator, Maumee River Basin Partnership of  
Local Governments

Partner Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Gary Weck  
Chairman, Board of Supervisors, Van Wert Soil & Water Conservation District  
Representing the National Association of Conservation Districts

Partner Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Thomas Middleton  
President, Michigan Association of Conservation  
Districts State Council Executive Board  
Representing the Michigan State Technical  
Committee

Partner Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Larry Clemens  
Representing the Indiana State Technical Committee

Partner Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Larry M. Antosch  
Director Environmental Research,  
Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, Inc.  
Representing the Ohio State Technical Committee