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## COUNTY OF ERIE

**CHRIS COLLINS**

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

January 4, 2011

The Honorable  
Erie County Legislature  
92 Franklin Street – Fourth Floor  
Buffalo, New York 14202

**RE: Lake Erie Beaches – Beach Sanitary Survey Project**

Honorable Members:

The New York State Department of Health (NYDOH) has received a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the Sanitary Surveys of 13 Lake Erie Beaches.

The NYDOH has awarded a sub-grant to the ECDOH for sanitary surveys of five public beaches on Lake Erie for which it has regulatory oversight in the amount of \$64,000 over the period October 1, 2010 to March 1, 2014. The purpose of this resolution is to authorize acceptance of this sub-grant award.

Should your honorable body require further information, I encourage you to contact the Health Department. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Collins", is written over the printed name.

CHRIS COLLINS  
Erie County Executive

## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature  
**From:** Department of Health  
**Re:** Lake Erie Beaches - Beach Sanitary Survey Project  
**Date:** January 4, 2011

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### **SUMMARY**

To authorize acceptance of a sub-grant award from the New York State Department of Health (NYDOH) in the amount of \$64,000 for the period 10/1/10 – 3/1/14.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

Fully funded by the New York State Health Department.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

The Erie County Health Department (ECDOH) will conduct a beach sanitary survey at Bennett Beach, and expand the previous work at other 4 public beaches, including extensive water quality sampling, to systematically identifying additional point sources of bacterial contamination, differentiate the human component of bacterial contamination, start abatement of point sources, to reduce the bacterial contamination impacting the water quality at the beaches.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

From 2007 - 2009, the ECDOH received grants for beach sanitary surveys including extensive water quality sampling at, Lake Erie, Evans Town, Wendt and Hamburg Beaches, and associated streams. The work validated the pre-emptive closing procedure by verifying high bacterial contamination at the bathing beaches after rain events, linked the transport of bacterial contamination to the lake by the streams, and identified the outfalls of storm sewers as the primary sources of bacterial contamination to the streams and along the shoreline of Lake Erie.

### **CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**

The Department will be unable to conduct extensive water quality sampling at county bathing beaches which will adversely effect the management and oversight of beach operation that require water quality data for these beaches.

### **STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL**

The Health Department will follow appropriate steps to implement the provisions of the sub-grant award.

**A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

RE: Lake Erie Beaches - Beach Sanitary  
Survey Project

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Health (NYDOH) received a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) for the Sanitary Surveys<sup>13</sup> Lake Erie Beaches Sanitary Surveys; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Health (NYDOH) awarded a sub-grant to the Erie County Health Department (ECDOH) for sanitary surveys of 5 public beaches on Lake Erie for which it has regulatory oversight in the amount of \$64,000 over the period October 1, 2010 to March 1, 2014; and

WHEREAS, based on the regulatory oversight of the operation of public beaches the ECDOH has the responsibility to protect the health of bathers by assuring that public beaches are open only when conditions meet the standards of the New York State Public Health Code; and

WHEREAS, from 2007 – 2009, the ECDOH received grants from the USEPA and NYSDOH for beach sanitary surveys including extensive water quality sampling at, Lake Erie Beach, Evans Town Beach, Wendt Beach, and associated streams. The work under these grants allowed validation of the pre-emptive closing procedure by verifying high bacterial contamination at the bathing beaches after rain events, linked the transport of bacterial contamination to the lake by the streams, and identified the flush-out from outfalls of storm sewers as the primary sources of increased bacterial contamination concentrations to the streams and along the shoreline of Lake Erie; and

WHEREAS, based on a Request-for-Proposals solicited by the NYSDH, the ECDOH submitted a work plan to conduct an additional beach sanitary survey at Bennett Beach with associated streams, and update and expand the previous work at Evans Town Beach, Lake Erie Beach, Wendt Beach, Hamburg Town Beach, with associated streams, including extensive water quality sampling, that would be a systematic approach to identifying additional point sources of bacterial contamination, differentiate between human and non-human sources of bacterial contamination, through enforcement to abate the point sources, to reduce the bacterial contamination impacting the water quality at the beaches.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the County Executive to accept a grant award from the New York State Health Department for the period of October 1, 2010 to March 1, 2014, to be budgeted as follows:

Lake Erie Beaches - Beach Sanitary Survey Project Grant  
10/01/10 – 3/1/14

REVENUES

409000	State Aid	<u>\$ 64,000</u>
	TOTAL REVENUES	<u>\$ 64,000</u>

EXPENSES

505000	Office Supplies	68
516020	Prof. Services Contract & Fees	31,680
912730	ID Health Lab Services	<u>32,252</u>
	TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$ 64,000</u>

and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the County Executive's Office, the Office of the Comptroller, the Division of Budget and Management, the Department of Law and to Dr. Anthony J. Billittier, IV, Commissioner, in the Department of Health, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Rath Building.