



Firelands Coastal Tributaries Watershed Program

2900 Columbus Ave. Sandusky, Ohio 44870

419-626-5211

www.firelandstributaries.org

Mr. Matt Menashes
Executive Director
National Estuarine Research Reserve Association
444 N Capitol St. NW Ste 322
Washington DC 20001

September 9, 2009

Dear Matt,

The Firelands Coastal Tributaries (FCT) Watershed Program is pleased to support the National Estuarine Research Reserve Association in their proposal to the NOAA Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration National and Regional Partnership Grants to provide funding for restoration projects within reserve boundaries and their watersheds. The FCT program is a diverse partnership of governmental agencies, private and non-profit groups, and local residents working together to protect, enhance, and restore our local watersheds of the Firelands area. Our partnership with the Old Woman Creek NERR has and will continue to be a key to the improvement and protection of our coastal watersheds. We appreciate the opportunity to partner with our local NERR and the NERRA to sustain our natural resource and to increase watershed stewardship by our local residents.

Currently, the FCT program has a conditionally endorsed Watershed Action Plan (WAP) for the Old Woman Creek watershed, awaiting full endorsement this fall. The WAP serves as a management strategy for the watershed as well as a model for use of the watershed approach for other coastal watersheds in the Lake Erie basin. Strategies for restoration within the watershed and the Reserve boundary include removal of invasive species, wetland reestablishment, stabilization of eroding stream banks, and reforestation of the riparian corridor. The implementation of the Old Woman Creek WAP through the local and regional partnerships established by the FCT will improve waters draining to the Lake Erie basin, which is not only the largest freshwater fishery in the world but also provides drinking water, transportation, recreation, and tourism for many coastal communities.

Sincerely,

Breann Hohman, Coordinator
Firelands Coastal Tributaries Watershed Program