



JIM PETRO
AUDITOR OF STATE

STATE OF OHIO

**ERIE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
ERIE COUNTY**

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STATE OF OHIO
OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR
JIM PETRO, AUDITOR OF STATE

One Government Center
Room 1420
Toledo, Ohio 43604-2246
Telephone 419-245-2811
800-443-9276
Facsimile 419-245-2484
www.auditor.state.oh.us

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS

Erie Regional Planning Commission
Erie County
2900 Columbus Avenue
Sandusky, Ohio 44870

To the Board of Commissioners:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Erie Regional Planning Commission, Erie County, Ohio, (the Commission) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2000 and 1999. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Commission's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As discussed in Note 1, the Commission prepares its financial statements on the basis of accounting prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the fund cash balances and reserves for encumbrances of the Commission as of December 31, 2000 and 1999, and its cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended on the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated May 14, 2001 on our consideration of the Commission's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audits.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Board of Commissioners, and other officials authorized to receive this report under § 117.26, Ohio Revised Code, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Jim Petro
Auditor of State

May 14, 2001

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**ERIE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
ERIE COUNTY**

**STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN CASH BALANCES - GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2000 AND 1999**

	General Fund	
	2000	1999
Cash Receipts:		
Fees Charged to Subdivisions	\$23,461	\$32,967
Other Receipts	2,903	2,815
	<u>26,364</u>	<u>35,782</u>
Cash Disbursements:		
Supplies		344
Contracts - Repair		253
Contracts - Services	32,756	36,520
Travel	721	824
Other	619	3,392
	<u>34,096</u>	<u>41,333</u>
Total Disbursements Over Receipts	(7,732)	(5,551)
Cash Balances, January 1	<u>20,299</u>	<u>25,850</u>
Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$12,567</u>	<u>\$20,299</u>
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31		<u>\$2,667</u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

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**ERIE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
ERIE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2000 AND 1999**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

The Erie Regional Planning Commission, Erie County, (the Commission) is a body corporate and politic established to exercise the rights and privileges conveyed to it by the constitution and laws of the State of Ohio. The Commission consists of representatives from participating political subdivisions, the county commissioners, and appointed citizens. The Commission formulates and reviews plans affecting long and short term social, economic, and governmental development within the region. The participating subdivisions are:

Berlin Township	Margaretta Township	Oxford Township
Village of Berlin Heights	Village of Bay View	Perkins Township
Florence Township	Village of Castalia	City of Sandusky
Groton Township	Milan Township	Vermilion Township
Huron Township	Village of Milan	City of Vermilion
Village of Kelleys Island		

The Commission's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the Commission is financially accountable.

B. Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follow the basis of accounting prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State, which is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting. Receipts are recognized when received in cash rather than when earned, and disbursements are recognized when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State.

C. Cash and Investments

As required by Ohio Revised Code, the Commission's cash is held and invested by the Erie County Treasurer, who is the custodian for Commission monies. The Commission's assets are held in the County's cash and investment pool, and are valued at the County Treasurer's reported carrying amount.

D. Fund Accounting

The Commission uses fund accounting to segregate cash and investments that are restricted as to use. The Commission has only one fund and classifies it as follows:

General Fund - The General Fund is the general operating fund. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

**ERIE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
ERIE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2000 AND 1999
(Continued)**

E. Budgetary Process

The Commission budgets each fund annually.

1. Appropriations

The Board annually approves appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the function level of control. Unencumbered appropriations lapse at year end.

2. Estimated Resources

Estimated resources include estimates of cash to be received (budgeted receipts) plus unencumbered cash as of January 1.

3. Encumbrances

The Commission reserves (encumbers) appropriations when commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are carried over, and need not be reappropriated.

A summary of 2000 and 1999 budgetary activity appears in Note 2.

F. Property, Plant and Equipment

Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment are recorded as capital outlay disbursements when paid. These items are not reflected as assets on the accompanying financial statements.

G. Unpaid Vacation and Sick Leave

Employees are entitled to cash payments from Erie County for unused vacation and sick leave in certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment. Unpaid vacation and sick leave are not reflected as liabilities under the basis of accounting used by the Commission.

2. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2000 and 1999 follows:

2000 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$42,500	\$26,363	(\$16,137)

2000 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$52,303	\$34,097	\$18,206

**ERIE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
ERIE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2000 AND 1999
(Continued)**

1999 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$31,831	\$35,782	\$3,951

1999 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$57,680	\$44,000	\$13,680

3. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

The Commission's employees belong to the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) of Ohio. PERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. This plan provides retirement benefits, including postretirement healthcare, and survivor and disability benefits to participants as prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code.

Contribution rates are also prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code. For 2000 and 1999, PERS members contributed 8.5% of their gross salaries. Erie County has contributed, on behalf of the Commission, an amount equal to 13.55% and 10.84% of participants' gross salaries for 1999 and 2000, respectively. The County has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2000.

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Room 1420
Toledo, Ohio 43604-2246
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Facsimile 419-245-2484
www.auditor.state.oh.us

**REPORT OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS ON COMPLIANCE AND ON
INTERNAL CONTROL REQUIRED BY *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS***

Erie Regional Planning Commission
Erie County
2900 Columbus Avenue
Sandusky, Ohio 44870

To the Board of Commissioners:

We have audited the financial statements of the Erie Regional Planning Commission, Erie County, Ohio, (the Commission) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2000 and 1999, and have issued our report thereon dated May 14, 2001. We conducted our audits in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Commission's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audits and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audits, we considered the Commission's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, we noted other matters involving the internal control over financial reporting that do not require inclusion in this report, that we have reported to management of the Commission in a separate letter dated May 14, 2001.

This report is intended for the information and use of management and the Board of Commissioners, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Jim Petro
Auditor of State

May 14, 2001



STATE OF OHIO
OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR

JIM PETRO, AUDITOR OF STATE

88 East Broad Street
P.O. Box 1140
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1140
Telephone 614-466-4514
800-282-0370
Facsimile 614-466-4490

ERIE COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

ERIE COUNTY

CLERK'S CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the report which is required to be filed in the Office of the Auditor of State pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in Columbus, Ohio.

Susan Babbitt

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

**CERTIFIED
JUNE 7, 2001**