**WHO:** Indiana Department of Natural Resources Lake Michigan Coastal Program

**WHAT:** Public Input Meeting on Coastal Grant Program priorities for the 2020 funding cycle

**WHEN:**Public Meeting to be held April 17, 2019, 7:00 p.m.

               Public input period will be open until May 15, 2019

**WHERE:** Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission

  6100 Southport Road

  Portage, IN 46368

**WHY:** The Lake Michigan Coastal Grants Program is an annual competitive grants program that awards funds to units of local government, regional and state agencies, educational institutions, and non-profit organizations.  With an allocation of approximately $600,000 per year, the Coastal Grants Program has funded more than $14 million in projects since 2001 in six categories of projects: Public Access or Habitat Improvements, Land Acquisition, Planning and Coordination, Education and Outreach, Applied Research, and Emerging Issues.  The IDNR LMCP was created to provide technical and financial assistance, to coordinate efforts between local, state, and federal governments, and to support projects that protect and restore natural, cultural, and historical resources in Indiana’s Lake Michigan Coastal Area.  The LMCP is funded through the U.S. Department of Commerce’s National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of Coastal Management

**HOW:** Input on funding priorities may be submitted in person at the April 17 meeting, via email to Sarah Nimetz, LMCP Grants Specialist, snimetz@dnr.IN.gov, or using the link on the program’s website: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/lakemich> .

**Media Contact:**

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