

JULY 27, 2018

An [Emergency Meeting](#) of the Board of Lee County Commissioners was held on this date with the following Commissioners present:

Cecil Pendergrass, Chairman  
 Brian Hamman  
 Franklin B. Mann

Commissioner Kiker and Commissioner Manning were both absent

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

## **COUNTYMANAGER**

### **A. Approve a State of Local Emergency for Algae Cleanup Pilot Project**

**Item Summary:** Allows the County to begin a test project to remove blue-green algae from severely affected waterways by purchasing piggyback clean up services under existing state contracts. Further authorizes the use of County funds to begin this effort in unincorporated Lee County until the state approves a grant under its newly created Harmful Algal Bloom Management Grant program. Lee County will coordinate cleanup efforts with affected municipalities using state grant funding. NOTE: Florida Department of Environmental Protection has not yet approved a disposal method for the recovered materials.

**Board Discussion:** Commissioner Pendergrass started off the meeting thanking everyone for coming to the emergency meeting and also recognizing that the Mayor of Cape Coral, Joe Coviello was present. He then turned over the meeting to County Manager Roger Desjarlais. Mr. Desjarlais gave opening remarks about the algae bloom issue. He stated that the Governor has issued an Executive Order along with grant monies to seven counties, a total of \$3,000,000. The discussion today will focus on collection and disposal. Mr. Desjarlais explained that this is a test program and that this type of thing is largely untested. He pointed out that there has not been a method tested yet that has been placed into use or approved by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The program will begin in areas where the algae are the most concentrated. He stated that they will be putting up a web site for people to be able to track the progress similar to the debris removal after the hurricane. He also relayed that Cape Coral is the most affected by the algae bloom. Because of this Staff has a coordinated effort with the City of Cape Coral. Mr. Desjarlais then turned over the meeting to Director Natural Resources Roland Ottolini who presented an aerial picture presentation of the local algae conditions. Mr. Ottolini thanked the Sheriff's office as they were very generous in providing recon for the presentation. He stated that this is a symptom of a larger issue and that we need to address the nutrient run off into the waterways. He stated that this is a collection of specific conditions that occur; very warm water, high nutrient concentration and a lot of sunlight. Also, there are areas where the water is stagnant and those are prime conditions for algae growth. The aerial photos show that some canals are much worse than others. There is no clear cut answer as to why that is. It was discussed about the wind and that it may be play a part in it.

Assistant County Manager Glen Salyer stated they were here today to ask:

1. Declare a State of Local Emergency (SOLE) that will run concurrently with the Governors Declaration.
2. Approve piggybacking on State Contracts (which enables the Board to forego the normal procurement process).
3. Obtain authorization to apply for the [Harmful Algal Bloom Management Grant Funds](#) that the DEP has just created and will administer.
4. [Approve county funding](#) in a not to exceed amount \$150,000 should we need to get the process started before the Grant Funds are approved.
5. Authorize the Chair to extend the Local State of Emergency if needed until the next Board meeting.

Mr. Salyer stated that the biggest challenge has been getting an approved disposal plan for the algae. He went on to explain the different methods that have been discussed for disposal of the algae and the liquids that come along with it. Staff has been in constant contact with DEP as well as vendors. They have gone through a number of disposal methods:

1. Incinerating in the waste energy facility

2. Injecting it into our waste water treatment plants
3. Landfilling it
4. Land applying it to an isolated piece of county owned property and spread a thin layer so the algae and liquids can dry out and let the sun breakdown the microorganisms

To date none of these methods have been approved by the DEP. There is a meeting set up for later today. There has been a commitment made from the top for a quick approval just as fast as they can, so we can get into the field as quickly as possible.

Commissioner Mann expressed his surprise that the DEP has not encountered anything like this before. He stated that we are going to be creating great expectations and we are not even certain that this will take care of it. This is not a quick simple cure. This is a short term fix on a long term issue. He said that we are not even certain that this is going to have a major overall impact on the recurring conditions. He expressed his feelings of being happy that this is being called a test program. Commissioner Mann asked staff how they are going to decide who gets their canal done first. Assistant County Manager Glen Salyer stated that they are going to focus on the heaviest concentrations of people with respiratory issues and the densest populations surrounding the algae. Director Natural Resources Roland Ottolini stated that it is much more effective to focus on neighborhoods rather than house to house in order to be as efficient as possible. Commissioner Hamman thanked the Chairman and Staff for calling the meeting and for staying on top of the issue. He asked Staff what area we will begin specifically testing on first. Assistant County Manager Glen Salyer stated that there is a meeting immediately following this with the primary contractor that is being considered to get out in the field and do some additional verification of the assessments that Mr. Ottolini and his staff have already done. They are thinking it will be somewhere in the Waterway Estates area. Commissioner Mann asked if there was any way workers could go out this afternoon and start working. Assistant County Manager Glen Salyer stated that the work would most likely start the beginning of the next week. Commissioner Pendergrass thanked Staff for everything they are doing and thanked the Governor for his action on the issues. He also stated that hopefully what they are doing today will help even though it may not be a total fix but it will help get started.

**Public Comment:** The Chairman called for public comment and there were [three \(3\) speakers](#):

Dennis Vickers, Resident of Lehigh  
Mark Baker, Representing Water Master US  
Joe Coviello, Mayor of Cape Coral

**Vote:** Commissioner Hamman moved approval of the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Pendergrass, called and carried with Commissioner Kiker and Commissioner Manning absent. [RESOLUTION No. 18-07-01](#); [RESOLUTION No. 18-08-13](#); [RESOLUTION No. 18-08-35](#); [RESOLUTION No. 18-09-22](#); [RESOLUTION No. 18-09-45](#); [RESOLUTION No. 18-10-07](#); [RESOLUTION No. 18-10-17](#); [RESOLUTION No. 18-10-19](#); [RESOLUTION No. 18-11-17](#); [RESOLUTION No. 18-11-23](#); [RESOLUTION No. 18-12-08](#); [RESOLUTION No. 18-12-12](#); [RESOLUTION No. 19-01-01](#); [RESOLUTION No. 19-01-03](#); [RESOLUTION No. 19-01-10](#); [RESOLUTION No. 19-02-10](#);

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:08 a.m.

ATTEST:  
LINDA DOGGETT, CLERK

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Deputy Clerk

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Chairman, Lee County Commission