

City puts together drafts of water quality and algae efforts

The City has put together a draft of its efforts to date regarding algae management and improving water quality. Council member said the lists are designed to improve communication and help keep the public informed about what's going on at all levels.

The City has also asked PURRE to draft a similar document detailing that organization's efforts and plans to ask the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation to develop one also.

The drafts are considering "working documents" that will be updated. The Council has already decided to add some information to the documents regarding how responsibilities are designated to a specific agency.

Among the issues on the water quality draft: Minimizing freshwater releases from Lake Okeechobee, the City's work with the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program and its work regarding the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Act. For algae management, actions include allowing the mechanical removal of algae from beaches, water testing for bacteria and establishing an Algae Task Force.