

## SANIBEL COUNCIL TO ASK U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS IF CURRENT COMMANDER CAN STAY PAST USUAL TERM

At its Sept. 18 meeting, the Sanibel City Council voted to pass a resolution asking the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers to extend Colonel Paul Grosskruger's term as commander beyond its usual three years.

The City has been working with Grosskruger to find ways to emphasize the critical importance of estuaries and stop the release of freshwater from Lake Okeechobee that drains into area waters. If Grosskruger leaves his post and the City must start over with a new Commander, it could undermine the progress the City has made during the last year and a half.

Grosskruger has attended local public hearings, and as a result, the commander dismissed a recommended plan on how to manage Lake Okeechobee releases and worked with Sanibel City staff on a plan that is better for estuaries.

The City also is encouraging other municipalities in Grosskruger's current district that are affected by Lake Okeechobee releases to approve similar resolutions. Grosskruger is the Jacksonville District commander. His anticipated date to be rotated to a new district is July 2009.

All Sanibel council members expressed their hopes that Grosskruger would be allowed to remain in his current post.