

12. CITY MANAGER

- a. Informational Items
 - ii. Staff report regarding protection of the Snowy Plover

**NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
MEMORANDUM**

DATE: April 26, 2011
TO: City Manager Judie Zimomra
FROM: Natural Resources Director Robert K. Loflin Ph.D.
RE: Snowy Plover Protection on Sanibel

The snowy plover is state listed as a threatened species with only 200 known breeding pairs along the Gulf coast of Florida. Sanibel currently has 6 active nests on our beaches at the start of the breeding season. The Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF) has funded a seasonal intern to protect and study snowy plovers and other beach nesting birds every year since 2003. These biologists locate and protect nests with stakes, flagging and signage and monitor them for success rates, foraging habitat and potential problems. This year has been unique in that some photographers have gotten so aggressive in getting that perfect shot of the photogenic young that they are interfering with their behavior and that of their parents. The Sanibel police have assisted in helping to control these photographers but the problem does persist. Over the years, the biggest threat to nests has been dogs illegally released from their leashes which chase the adults off the nests and in some instances result in the crushing of eggs or death of young.

Educational efforts to control dog interference with nesting have included on the beach response to complaints by the Sanibel Police, SCCF direct communication with dog owners in nesting areas and distribution of educational pamphlets regarding plovers and Sanibel leash law regulations which also restricts leash length to no more than 8'. The Sanibel police stand ready to respond to dog complaints at their non-emergency phone number but few are called in for whatever reason.

The best way to protect snowy plovers and other nesting shorebirds on our beaches is to avoid nesting areas, which are clearly marked, and to also stay out of vegetated dune areas. All dogs must be kept on a leash at all times. Even on a leash, a dog can flush adult birds off a nest from as far away as 300'. Anyone observing beachgoers or dogs disturbing nesting birds should call the Sanibel Police at #472-3111.

**Letter dated March 15, 2011 from Chairman Frank Mann, Lee County Board of Commissioners regarding Resolution 11-031 Fertilizer
 Status of Fertilizer Legislation for House Bill 457 and Senate Bill 607
 Guest Editorial in the News Press March 11, 2011
 Article in the News Press dated March 28, 2011**

Vice Mayor Denham spoke to sending letters and packets of information to legislators regarding fertilizer and compromising language had been requested. He further stated that the only language would be associated with the sale of the project. He explained that ordinances in the Panhandle include not purchasing fertilizer in the rainy season. He also noted that the preemption language would be removed and the fact the newly elected Representative Matt Caldwell had been very helpful.

Ms. Zimomra recognized the City Clerk and staff for working to get material to legislators.

COMMITTEES, BOARDS, COMMISSION

City Council Liaison to Planning Commission

April 12, 2011	Councilman Congress	Report of 04/05/11 CC Meeting (cancelled)
April 26, 2011	Mayor Ruane	
May 10, 2011	Vice Mayor Denham	Report of 05/03/11 CC Meeting
May 24, 2011	Councilman Harrity	
June 14, 2011	Councilman Jennings	Report of 06/07/11 CC Meeting
June 28, 2011	Councilman Congress	
July 12, 2011	Mayor Ruane	
July 26, 2011	Vice Mayor Denham	Report of 07/19/11 CC Meeting
August 09, 2011	Councilman Harrity	Report of 08/02/11 CC Meeting
August 23, 2011	Councilman Jennings	
September 13, 2011	Councilman Congress	Report of 09/10/11 CC Meetings
September 27, 2011	Mayor Ruane	Report of 09/20/11 CC Meeting
October 11, 2011	Vice Mayor Denham	Report of 10/04/11 CC Meeting
October 25, 2011	Councilman Harrity	
November 08, 2011	Councilman Jennings	Report 11/01/11 CC Meeting
November 22, 2011	Councilman Congress	
December 13, 2011	Mayor Ruane	Report 12/06/11 CC Meeting
December 27, 2011	Vice Mayor Denham	

RESOLUTION 11-018 PERTAINING TO THE SANIBEL BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE GENERAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT PLAN BOARD OF TRUSTEES; APPOINTING ONE RESIDENT MEMBER TO THE BOARD; PROVIDING THAT SUCH MEMBER IS TO SERVE THE REMAINING TERM OF DOUG CONGRESS COMMENCING APRIL 05, 2011 AND EXPIRING ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2012; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Ms. Zimomra read the title of Resolution 11-018.

Discussion ensued regarding considering applicants that were full-time residents, outstanding applicants,