

## AREA WATER QUALITY STRATEGY PROPOSAL

**A recommendation that the Sanibel City Council broaden its focus and implement action plans that better educate the public and control, regulate and monitor nutrient loading from all sources that pollute our waterways. We should carry out this activity in collaboration with our partners.**

**Mick Denham  
James Evans  
July 4, 2013**

# AREA WATER QUALITY STRATEGY PROPOSAL

## [The community speaks](#)



### - [Sanibel Natural Resource Department](#)

It should be recognized that water quality issues within the Caloosahatchee basin directly impact Sanibel's water quality, natural environment and local economy

### - [SWFRPC Resolution](#) Comment from a series of local government approved resolutions

Southwest Florida is a region where the water quality of the bays, estuaries, rivers, lakes, wetlands, bayous and the Gulf of Mexico is critical to the region's environmental, economic and recreational prosperity and to the health, safety and welfare of its citizens

### - [The Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau 2013–2016 Strategic Plan](#) One of their strategic imperatives statements is to *"protect Lee County's natural assets"*

By pursuing the imperatives set out in this plan, Lee County is paving a new pathway for growth, aimed at achieving one overarching goal: Increasing visitor spending from \$2.7 billion in 2012 to \$3 billion by 2016. This 11% increase in visitor spending will translate into significant economic impact for our County:

- \$300 million of incremental revenue flowing into the Lee County economy
- 4,000 new jobs
- \$120 million in additional resident household income
- \$13 million more to fund local government and civic services
- \$26 million in incremental revenues to the State

### - [Lee County Natural Resource Department](#) Comment from their mission statement

Lee County has experienced a general decline in the quality of its surface water over the last several decades due to development, agriculture and other human activities. Natural phenomena such as hurricanes further exacerbate this decline in water quality by increasing stormwater pollution loading to local water bodies. This results in harmful algal blooms, negative impacts to human and wildlife health and our economy and has limited the use of our water resources

# AREA WATER QUALITY STRATEGY PROPOSAL

## **Objective 1**

Reduce the nutrient loading to the impaired **Sanibel River and our coastal waters** through continued implementation of our urban and golf course fertilizer programs and implementation of the Sanibel Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan

**Action - implement Sanibel Comprehensive Nutrient Plan**

## **Objective 2**

Achieve the FDEP Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) target for the **Caloosahatchee River Basin**, According to FDEP staff, the BMAP is going to be a 15 year effort broken down into three 5-year phases to get to the 23% reduction in TN  
James Evans 6/14/2013

**Action - partner with Lee County Natural Resource Department and others within the Caloosahatchee basin to secure funding and political support to implement the TMDL for the tributaries and tidal portions of the river**

## **Objective 3**

Support the Caloosahatchee Visioning Process, a consensus-driven process that will involve numerous local stakeholders working together with the South Florida Water Management District and other local, state, and federal partners to develop a realistic plan and setting specific goals for restoring the Caloosahatchee River and estuary

**Action - Work with Lee County and other stakeholders to develop an equitable and realistic plan for the Caloosahatchee Visioning Process and provide legislative support to implement the plan.**

# **Objective 1**

Reduce -nutrient loading to the impaired Sanibel River and our coastal waters

## **Actions Implemented (highlights)**

<b>1) Local Fertilizer Ordinance</b>	<b>Local Ordinance in place; continue current efforts</b>
<b>2) Golf Course Nutrient Management</b>	<b>Annual check list in place with excellent participation from golf course management</b>
<b>3) Stormwater Management</b>	<b>Land development code</b>
<b>4) Many other Natural Resource Department Initiatives</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>

## **Actions that need to be implemented**

<b>1) Implement an island-wide comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan to identify and address all nutrient runoff sources on Sanibel</b>	<b>Currently in phase 1 of this program; completion planned in 2 years</b>
<b>2) Lobby for solution for Captiva Septic Systems</b>	
<b>3) Develop bibliography of science related to excess nutrients in water bodies</b>	<b>Work with staff and local partners to assemble an annotated bibliography to support fertilizer efforts</b>

**Legislative Role – Lobby, facilitate, educate, implement, and communicate**

## **Objective 2**

To achieve the FDEP Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) target for the **Caloosahatchee River Basin**,

### **Actions Implemented**

1) Fertilizer Control	SWFRPC Resolution #07-01	Local and State ordinances implemented legislative actions continue
2) Package Treatment Plants	SWFRPC Resolution #07-05	Most plants eliminated in Lee County and New plants no longer sanctioned
3) Storm Water Control (new developments and redevelopment)	SWFRPC Resolution #08-11	All SWFRPC DRI check lists contain the the resolution language

### **Actions needed - Implement Lee County BMAP**

1) Promote need to reduce N <sub>2</sub> releases from waste water treatment into Caloosahatchee	SWFRPC Resolution #07-02	
2) Promote Septic System Management program in unincorporated Lee County	SWFRPC Resolution #xxxxx	

**Legislative Role – Partner with Lee County to get funding and garner legislative support for implementation Of the tidal Caloosahatchee and tributaries BMAPS**

### **Objective 3**

Participate in and develop legislation to implement the Caloosahatchee Visioning Process.

#### **Actions needed - Work with staff and local partners to implement CVP in a timely manner**

A process to define the ecological goals for the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary which would include flows, water quality and storage

Participate in and develop legislation to implement the Caloosahatchee Visioning Process.

**Legislative Role – Provide legislative support to staff engagement with SFWMD ensuring that critical projects are adopted and implemented as part of CVP**

## Initial Action Request

- Obtain approval from Council for this proposal and to continue with planning process
- Council consider this proposal as part of the City Annual Goals and Objectives
- Meet with Lee County Natural Resource Department to begin partnership discussion
- Arrange a meeting with Lee County Commissioners for policy discussion
- Continue with the Area Captain Program to provide citizen support for legislative action
- Plan an article or two to enhance citizen communication