

**Lee County Board Of County Commissioners
Agenda Item Summary**

Blue Sheet No. 20050442

1. ACTION REQUESTED/PURPOSE:

Present the findings of the Red Tide and Red Algae studies by Dr. Larry Brand and Dr. Brian Lapointe.

2. WHAT ACTION ACCOMPLISHES:

Provides the results of the preliminary analysis commissioned by Lee County, City of Bonita Springs, Town of Fort Myers Beach and City of Sanibel to identify the source(s) of recent red tide and red algae blooms.

3. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATION:

4. Departmental Category: 08

10:00

5. Meeting Date:

04-12-2005

6. Agenda:

- Consent
- Administrative
- Appeals
- Public 10:00 a.m.
- Walk-On

7. Requirement/Purpose: (specify)

- Statute
- Ordinance
- Admin. Code
- Other

8. Request Initiated:

Commissioner Ray Judah
 Department Public Works
 Division Natural Resources
 By: Roland E. Ottolini, P.E.

9. Background:

In response to several recent outbreaks of red tide and red algae and its resulting negative impacts on tourism, the Lee County Tourist Development Council joined with the City of Bonita Springs, Town of Fort Myers Beach and City of Sanibel to commission two studies to identify possible causes of the outbreaks. Red tide has been responsible for numerous manatee deaths, massive fish kills, and respiratory problems in humans. Red algae although not toxic has resulted in piles of vegetative debris along our shorelines requiring expensive clean-up operations. Although both have been documented as natural occurrences, the frequency and severity appears to be increasing. There is speculation that excessive nutrients delivered as stormwater runoff from the watershed, releases from Lake Okeechobee and sewer effluent are catalysts or contributors to the frequency and duration of occurrence. If the causes can be clearly identified, then remedial actions can be developed and implemented to control future outbreaks and minimize their impacts.

10. Review for Scheduling:

Department Director	Purchasing or Contracts	Human Resources	Other	County Attorney	Analyst	Risk	Budget Services	Grants	Mgr.	County Manager/P.W. Director
<i>J. J. ... 3/30/05</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	<i>[Signature]</i>			<i>3/31/05</i>	<i>3/31/05</i>	<i>3/31/05</i>	<i>J. J. ... 3/30/05</i>

11. Commission Action:

- Approved
- Deferred
- Denied
- Other

Rec. by CoAtty *[Signature]*
 Date: *3/30/05*
 Time: *10:10*
 Forwarded To: *[Signature]*
3/31/05

RECEIVED BY COUNTY ADMIN.
3/31/05 - [Signature]
 9:15 a.m.
 COUNTY ADMIN FORWARDED TO: *[Signature]*
3/31/05
4:30 PM