

At the Tuesday, Aug. 21, meeting of the Lee Board of County Commissioners, the Board:

- Extended the State of Local Emergency for Algae Blooms Resolution (third extension)
- Extended the State of Local Emergency of Harmful Algal Blooms and Drift Macroalgae Resolution (second extension)
- Approved Tourist Development Tax expenditures for algal bloom management, to include those action items recommended by the Tourist Development Council on Aug. 9:
 - Funding necessary to cover emergency beach cleanup expenses through the end of fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30. Note: The county has a grant agreement in place with DEP for reimbursement of \$1.3 million to assist with red tide cleanup. The state funds are being supplemented by Tourist Development Tax reserves.
 - Authorizing up to \$1 million for a marketing campaign to launch after current conditions improve. This will come from existing TDT funds as well.
 - Approve purchase of two Surf Rake (\$60,000 each) machines for beach and shoreline cleanup. (Note: Because of the State of Local Emergency, the county was able to purchase the machines immediately following the TDC vote – today’s agenda item was for formal Board approval. The machines began working Lee County beaches Friday, Aug. 17.) This will come from existing TDT funds as well.
- Received a blue-green pilot program update from staff, including:
 - The county has allocated all the dollars from a grant agreement that’s in place with DEP for reimbursement of \$700,000 to assist with blue-green algae removal and processing.
 - The recovery part of the pilot program is completed. The processing of the algae-water mix – called a slurry – continues to occur.
 - The county and DEP staff are in the process of reviewing the progress from the pilot program.