

**News Release – For Immediate Release**

City of Sanibel

For more information, contact

City Manager’s Office at 472-3700

November 8, 2007

**LEE COUNTY HAS RESCHEDULED AN IMPORTANT PUBLIC HEARING FOR ITS PROPOSED FERTILIZER ORDINANCE TO DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>, LEE COUNTY COMMISSION CHAMBERS.**

We must send a message to Lee County Commissioners that an enforceable Fertilizer Ordinance should be adopted for water quality in our region. Scientific studies have shown a clear link between higher nutrient levels and the algae that has affected our ecology and economy during the past two years.

Fertilizer is a source of increased nutrients in local waters. We believe that a Fertilizer Resolution adopted by the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council, based on sound scientific input, is the model Lee County should adopt.

The proposed Lee County Fertilizer Control Ordinance is weak in the following three areas:

- 1) Does not establish rules for fertilizer use by residents
- 2) Does not recommend an adequate buffer between fertilizer placement and bodies of water
- 3) Does not require the use of slow release nitrogen (a major nutrient source for algae)

It is important that we contact Lee County Commissioners and Lee County staff member Karen Bickford, who is drafting the Ordinance, prior to the December 4<sup>th</sup> public hearing. The Fertilizer Industry is lobbying to weaken the proposed Lee County Ordinance. It is critical that we counter the Industry’s message with our own.

Between now and December 4<sup>th</sup>, each of us who cares about our water quality should contact the five Lee County Commissioners. Here is their contact information.

Commissioner	District	Email	Phone	Fax
Bob Janes	1	<a href="mailto:dist1@leegov.com">dist1@leegov.com</a>	533-2224	485-2155
Brian Bigelow	2	<a href="mailto:dist2@leegov.com">dist2@leegov.com</a>	533-2227	485-2099
Ray Judah	3	<a href="mailto:dist3@leegov.com">dist3@leegov.com</a>	533-2223	485-2021
Tammy Hall	4	<a href="mailto:dist4@leegov.com">dist4@leegov.com</a>	533-2226	485-2054
Frank Mann	5	<a href="mailto:dist5@leegov.com">dist5@leegov.com</a>	533-2225	485-2092
Staff Member				
Karen Bickford		<a href="mailto:Kbickford@leegov.com">Kbickford@leegov.com</a>		

**THE PUBLIC HEARING IS CURRENTLY SCHEDULED FOR 5:00 PM DECEMBER 4<sup>th</sup>, IN THE LEE COUNTY COMMISSION CHAMBERS, 2120 MAIN STREET, FORT MYERS.**

A high turnout at the Public Hearing on December 4th would also send a strong message.

The City of Sanibel has adopted a Fertilizer Control Ordinance that includes the stronger measures listed above. A Fertilizer Control Ordinance for all of Lee County is necessary if we are going to protect our local waters.