

11.

**CITY MANAGER**

- a. Informational Items
- ii. Follow-up from ECHO regarding composting of Red Drift Algae

## Pamela Smith

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**From:** Judie A. Zimomra  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 02, 2008 2:09 PM  
**To:** Pamela Smith  
**Cc:** sancouncil; 'mickdenham'; 'Kevin Ruane'; Jim L. Jennings; 'carlajohnston@earthlink.net'; Rob Loflin; Gates Castle  
**Subject:** FW: City of Sanibel Red Drift Algae & the feasibility of accepting

Please include the City Manager's report for the next City Council meeting the follow-up from ECHO regarding composting of Red Draft Algae that was raised by a resident during the last City Council meeting – Judie Zimomra

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**From:** Danny Blank [mailto:dblank@echonet.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 02, 2008 11:09 AM  
**To:** Scott Krawczuk  
**Cc:** Gates Castle  
**Subject:** Re: City of Sanibel Red Drift Algae

Dear Scott,

Sorry to take longer than the week I said it would to get back to you. I've talked to my supervisor about the algae. We are presently still undecided about how to handle the last two large container loads from Fort Myers Beach as it came with so much sand and shell which we were not anticipating, at least the shell.

The current thinking is to continue to try and work with the algae already received before taking on more.

Please keep us in mind in the future, especially if you think the material from Sanibel would have significantly less sand and shell. I mentioned the concern over increasing soil pH with the high calcium carbonate content with shell. And the high level of sand is prohibitive for thermal compost because it creates a lot of extra weight and space.

Presently we are not going to take on more. Again keep us in mind, especially if you think you can provide a cleaner material.

Thanks,

Danny Blank  
ECHO Farm Manager

On Fri, Aug 15, 2008 at 2:46 PM, Scott Krawczuk <[scott.krawczuk@mysanibel.com](mailto:scott.krawczuk@mysanibel.com)> wrote:  
Mr. Blank:

Thanks for taking the time to speak with me on the telephone earlier. Per our conversation, the City of Sanibel is searching for a more ecologically friendly way of disposing of this red drift algae from the beaches when/if an outbreak reoccurs. We are asking ECHO if the organization would be willing to accept this material from the City when necessary, and if willing, enter into a contract with the City to accept this material.

The City has a draft minimum requirement of algae accumulations averaging 1' in depth by 30' wide and 1000' in

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length before it can be mechanically removed. Obviously, exact weights and volumes are hard to determine at this point, but we are looking at an approximate minimum volume of 1,000 cubic yards with unknown maximum volumes. You would have to relay to us how much algae you can handle or are willing to accept? This can all be part of the contract including any fees that may need to be included.

You mentioned to me that a high shell content in the algae is undesirable. The City still has to test various mechanical methods of removal if algae reappears. One of the requirements of selecting a method is how much sand and shell is picked up with the method. Obviously, the City would also like to minimize the quantities of shell and sand removed from the beaches. Right now it is not possible to give you exact quantities of shell in the algae.

Thank you for your consideration and feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Scott Krawczuk  
City of Sanibel - Public Works  
800 Dunlop Road  
Sanibel, FL 33957  
ph. 239-472-6397  
c. 239-770-2554

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Danny Blank  
Farm Manager

ECHO's Agriculture Conference in 2008 will be December 9-11 with an optional workshop the 12th.  
Note that this is a change from past conferences which were in November.