

Regular Workshop – September 26, 2016
Agenda Item 11

Agenda Item: Discussion Regarding Red Tide Clean Up Policy

Presenter: Town Manager

Summary: At the December 7, 2015 Regular Meeting the Town Commission directed staff to review the process of red tide clean-up as it applies to commercial areas within the Town. Town staff have placed this item on the September 26, 2016 Regular Workshop Meeting for Commission consideration.

Attachments: 9-20-16 Memo, Manager to Commission;
Photos - Red Tide Fish Kill Clean Up Activities.

Recommended

Action: Pending discussion, provide direction to Manager.

M E M O R A N D U M

Date: September 20, 2016

TO: Town Commission
FROM: Dave Bullock, Town Manager
SUBJECT: Red Tide Clean Up

The Town Commission requested staff to prepare a discussion about the effect of extending our red tide clean up to include commercial marinas and boat basins. The Commission wants to be able to have a discussion of what may be involved in such a clean up. Since there has only been one red tide event that required clean up in the last 10 years we have attempted to look at this past year's experience to guide us.

The five day dead fish removal that occurred from November 20 – December 1 cost the Town \$32,711.29. The removal was from canals stretching from Bayfront Park, South to include Country Club Shores. Dead fish were removed from residential canals only. This was a moderate fish kill that did not equal those of 2005 and 2006 when massive amounts of dead fish were found Town wide. The Gulf of Mexico shoreline was generally unaffected by this most recent algae bloom therefore no dead fish were removed from our beaches.

Removal of dead floating fish was accomplished by AshBritt Environmental Inc. using laborers on a boat with hand nets, grapple truck, and giant waste bags. See attached photos. In previous years the quantity of dead fish was so massive that mechanical methods were needed to clean up the quantities.

As in previous red tide clean-up events, commercial marinas and boat basins such as the Moorings, Spanish Main, Windward Bay, Longboat Arms, Sands Point, Twin Shores, Gulfshores and others were not cleaned. If we were to add commercial marinas and private boat basins, I estimate an additional cost of \$25,000 for a moderate occurrence such as happened in 2015. If we had a severe fish kill that impacted beaches and canals, we should expect substantially more expense.

Cost forecasting is difficult because each red tide event is different. In our experience wind direction, tides, time of year, concentration of red tide organisms and other factors greatly determine the level of effort necessary to perform a reasonable clean-up campaign.

The configuration of commercial marinas and boat basins is an important factor in removal costs. Canals are normally straight and have a small entrance. Also, most if not all boats located within canals are on boat lifts and are out of the way during clean-up efforts. Marinas and boat basins on the other hand are relatively wide, contain a lot of pilings and have many vessels closely moored. Also, many

vessels are in the water and not on lifts. These factors make it extremely difficult and time consuming to clear dead fish effectively.

We currently budget \$50,000 a year for dead fish removal. If we were to have a severe red tide fish kill that amount would be far short of what would be required to clean up the fish in the canals. If we were to add the commercial marinas and private boat basins, the cost of clean-up would be substantially higher. This figure will increase even more if fish clean-up is needed on the beaches.

Funds for the cleanup come from General Revenue Fund which is primarily ad valorem taxes. Since all property owners (residential and commercial) pay ad valorem taxes the current practice raises some questions:

- is it a reasonable policy to exclude marinas and boat basins?
- How would we accommodate the fiscal implications of including these facilities?

As can be seen from the summary of historical costs for red tide clean up the costs can be substantial.

Fiscal Year	Money Spent on Red Tide Clean-up
2000-2001	\$327,000
2004-2005	\$310,000
2005-2006	\$172,000
2006-2007	\$100,000
2015-2016	\$32,711

This discussion item has been placed on the September 26, 2016 Regular Workshop Meeting for Commission consideration.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need additional information on this subject.





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***Town of Longboat Key
Red Tide Clean-up
September 8, 2001***



Town of Longboat Key

Red Tide Clean-up

September 9, 2001





***Town of Longboat Key
Red Tide Clean-up
September 10, 2001***



***Town of Longboat Key
Red Tide Clean-up
September 11, 2001***





End of Agenda Item