

COPIED TO:  
COUNCIL MEMBERS  
TOWN ATTORNEY  
TOWN MANAGER  
TOWN CLERK

## Florida SW Gulf Coast Coalition of Mayors

Town of Fort Myers Beach

Mission Statement: A Comprehensive Think Tank  
Focused on SW Gulf Coast Environmental Issues.

SEP 20 2018

Goal: To Achieve a High Sustainable Environmental Quality of Life.

September 15, 2018

Received By \_\_\_\_\_

FACTS: 953 Sea Turtles Stranded - 402 Died because of Red Tide  
80 plus Manatees Died from Red Tide Exposure  
3 Critically ill Whales Died - Clearwater - Long Boat Key

**FACT: Since 1950 Red Tide has Intensified 15 fold due to Pollution & Climate Change**

**Long Term effects of Red Tide on Humans is not known.**

**Nutrient Run Off from Current Landscaping Practices are Exacerbating Red Tide**

**FYI Google- "Dead Zone Louisiana Gulf"**

*~ Never forget that the above could be our Florida future ~*

**Public education is a Number One Goal for both residents and future residents.**

**High Priority Goal: Halt the Addiction to the "Perfect Lawn"**

**"Half of all drinking water is used to water lawns"**

**Support Buffer Zones-Mangroves / Salt Marshes / Wet Lands- they  
remove Harmful Nutrients**

**Florida and "Lawn" are Incompatible and Unsustainable.**

**Plant Native Vegetation which does not require Fertilizers**

**"80% of Fertilizer is Leached into Canals and Other Waterways"**

**Garrett Stuart/ Algae Scientist**

**Phosphorus & Nitrogen Sustain Red Tide**

**No County should use Roundup to spray weeds in the water. Halt this Immediately!**

**Nutrient Pollution is an Immense Problem in Florida Because of it's Sandy Soil**

**Business Losses are Mounting. Educate the Public of the choice they have...**

**Red Tide's Death Grip or Heavily Fertilized Perfect Green Lawns !!!**

**Venice is Leading the Way with a "NO Fertilizer Resolution"**

**Proposed by Vice Mayor Bob Daniels - See enclosed information**

**FYI - Red Tide Destroys Shrimp, Sponges, Sea Urchins, Crabs, and shellfish**

**Water quality monitoring must be reinstated and on a frequent basis.**

**Reinstate the "Algae Task Force" and expand the environmental / water management agencies**

**Should a "Building Moratorium" be on the table - Until NEW Red Tide Landscape  
Requirements are Developed?**

**"Leaking septic tanks serve as fuel to keep the blooms going - like pouring gasoline on a  
fire" Florida Department of Health**

**FYI Amendment # 1- Do not forget it overwhelmingly passed in 2014 but was ignored by the**

**Florida Legislature- they failed to use this money to conserve land!**

**Hot line DEP Report a Bloom: [www.reportalgalbloom.com](http://www.reportalgalbloom.com)**

**Or Call 855-305-3903**

**Fish Kill Hot Line: 800-636-0511 / Injuries-Wildlife Alert: 888-404-3922**

**Contact Thea N Nelson - [tnnelson@aol.com](mailto:tnnelson@aol.com) - Keep our Think tank going....**

From: **Thea Nelson** tnnelson@aol.com  
Subject:  
Date: September 5, 2018 at 4:09 PM  
To:

Venice: Vice Mayor Daniels calls for stopping all usage of nitrogen and phosphorous fertilizer applications & the monitoring of outflow pipes for pollution

September 11, 2018 Council Meeting Agenda item

Place: New Business Presenter: Vice Mayor Bob Daniels

Subject: Action to Deter the Impact of Red Tide in the Gulf

Background: The City of Venice is under siege with a Red Tide contamination of the entire 3 Miles of Gulf beach. This bacterium has been around since the 1700s and millions have been spent on the problem with no solutions. During City Councils special meeting on the Red Tide, Mote Marine scientists reported that they do not have solutions but they do know what some forces are that keep this algae alive. Food for the growth that keeps this Red Tide alive comes from certain fertilizers and bacteria. With that information coming from the scientific community, I propose that the City of Venice leaders immediately develop a plan to monitor all surface water systems such as outfalls, creeks, and septic systems that drain into the Gulf. Mote Marine scientists told us that fertilizers with nitrogen and phosphorous provide food for Red Tide. Septic systems leach bacteria into the Gulf which also provide food. Recently a citizen claimed that Venice's storm sewer outfalls are polluting the Gulf which may add to the food source

The City must take more aggressive action on monitoring the surface water going into the Gulf. Having a monitoring system to analyze water draining into the Gulf and removing all septic systems will take concerted efforts on the City's part. Our City is being devastated with fish, birds and larger sea life being killed by the Red Tide. Already over 100 ton of dead fish has been removed from beaches and taken to the landfill. Restaurants, boutiques, hotels, fishermen, swimmers and all other aspects of tourism have been negatively effected. The economic impact to Florida is in the billions. Our city leaders need to institute bold action to alleviate this environmental catastrophe. City leaders can take the information that has been provided to them and utilize it to have some impact on this situation. City leaders may not have the all inclusive cure but can utilize the information about what feeds this algae and control its food source. With no food the Red Tide can be starved and hopefully be decreased or eliminated in the 3 miles of the gulf that borders Venice beaches. City leaders must team up immediately. and monitor surface water entering the Gulf to shut down the bloom food source.

Motion: I am proposing that anyone using nitrogen and phosphorous fertilizer applications stop. Also all surface water that flows into the Gulf from sources within the City of Venice must be monitored. This will assure that these sources (ten beach front island outfalls) are not adding contaminants that pollute the Gulf and provide food sources for the Red Tide. This should start October 1, 2018 after the current band expires. Together the City Attorney and City Manager must lead this effort. Monthly agenda reports need to be given to council.