

Lee Commissioners Ask for Stronger Fertilizer Ordinance

Lee County Commissioners declined to approve a proposed Fertilizer Ordinance December 4 and directed County staff to make the Ordinance stronger.

The City of Sanibel had encouraged the Commissioners to strengthen the Ordinance and follow the example of the Fertilizer Resolution adopted by the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council. Fertilizers are a source of nitrogen and phosphorus that increase algae growth when added to local waters.

Commissioners asked that the Ordinance add in requirements for fertilizer usage by residents, which the original proposal lacked, as well as adding setback rules between the placement of fertilizer and bodies of water. Commissioners also asked that the Ordinance address the issue of fertilizer use during the summer months.

The new version of the Lee County Ordinance could be back before Commissioners in February.

A strong Fertilizer Ordinance is necessary for all of Lee County in order to protect area waters.