



**Meeting Name:** Pelican Lake Workshop  
**Meeting Date:** June 27, 2024  
**Prepared By:** C. Copeland-Rodriguez, Town Clerk  
**Item Title:** Update on Algae

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**DISCUSSION:**

Chara is a species of algae found in freshwater bodies, where they grow submerged, attached to the muddy bottom. Recently, Pelican Lake had an Chara algae bloom in April. This is a large native macroalgae that turns brown when it reaches the surface and starts decaying from high heat, exposure and drought. Although unsightly, it is beneficial for the lake as it not only kills most of the nuisance algae but clarifies the water column and stabilizes bottom sediments which provide food for waterfowl and shade for fish. Chara also supports insects and other small aquatic animals such as bluegills and bass. It is important to note there is nothing hazardous or toxic about Chara and that it will naturally disappear on its own as the weather changes. Excessive growth of Chara is caused by a surplus of nutrients in the water from nearby lawns, golf courses, etc. Pelican Lake, however, acts as a retention pond to attenuate surface runoff during rainfall events.

So far, the month of June's rain activity has helped in removing some of the Chara buildup in Pelican Lake. Staff will continue to monitor the algae buildup and hand remove it on an as needed basis.