



Meeting Name: Town Council Meeting
Meeting Date: February 18, 2025
Prepared By: Steven J. Hallock, Director of Public Works
Item Title: Pelican Lake Sterile Grass Eating Carp Introduction

DISCUSSION:

On December 6, 2024, Special Town Council meeting, Council directed Town Staff to investigate the introduction of Sterile Grass Eating Carp into Pelican Lake. The concept is that these fish will be able to biologically control algae by eating the Chara and Marine Naiad (aquatic vegetation) that caused the algae to overgrow in Pelican Lake last year. This biological control should work in tandem with the chemical control previously approved by the Town Council to prevent algae overgrowth and expensive mechanical removal in future years.

Our Environmental Consultant, Stocking Savvy/Prof. Sean Patton, noted this biological control in his “Pelican Lake Management Plan” (6/5/2020). The section relating to it is attached. Prof. Sean Patton still supports the idea, as does Town Staff, and we have secured tentative approval from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. We are recommending an initial stocking of sixty (60) young Sterile Grass Eating Carp, which will cost approximately \$1,000. This funding is available and can be absorbed within the Public Works Department approved budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

Town Council discussion and direction on the introduction of Sterile Grass Eating Carp into Pelican Lake.