


MEMORANDUM

CITY OF CAPE CORAL
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

TO: Mayor Coviello and Council Members
FROM: John Szerlag, City Manager 
DATE: April 4, 2018
SUBJECT: Mooring in Bimini Basin

Due to the upcoming Cardboard Boat Regatta sponsored by the Rotary Club of Cape Coral that was slated to be held on April 21, 2018 in the Bimini Basin, I instructed Staff to take water quality samples. Although the Basin is not a designated swimming area, we utilized the same criteria that the Florida Department of Health uses to determine beach openings/closings. The results came in this morning and Bimini Basin is not suitable for swimming (see attached).

I spoke with Mr. Elmer Tabor today in his capacity as a Rotarian and advised that the Cardboard Boat Regatta should be either canceled or moved to another location. Mr. Tabor informed that the event will be canceled and the Club will have a booth at bike night to showcase their boats.

Moving forward, I believe there's a correlation between the high fecal bacteria counts in the Basin and the number of boats that continue to moor in the Basin. As such, I have tasked Staff to answer the following question: "What will it take to aggressively reduce the fecal bacteria counts in the Bimini Basin?" The scope of the solution will also incorporate adjacent waters to the Basin so as to identify and eliminate all possible sources of these high counts.

As you know, we are currently working on an ordinance regulating mooring. A potential option available to us is to have an ordinance that does not allow overnight mooring.

As always, should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

JS:pd
Attachment

C: Mr. Elmer Tabor
Dolores Menendez, City Attorney
Steven Griffin, Assistant City Attorney
Craig Varn, Esq. - Manson Bolves Donaldson Varn
David Newlan, Chief of Police
Vincent Cautero, Community Development Director
Paul Clinghan, Public Works Director
Connie Barron, Public Affairs Manager
Maya Robert, Environmental Resources Manager

Water Quality Results from an independent and certified laboratory Bimini Basin, Cape Coral, FL

Results below show:

- an average of 5 samples,
- taken at different locations in the Bimini Basin and along the beach
- measured at two different dates within a week period

Date of water sampling	Friday, 3/30/18	Monday, 4/2/18
Enterococci (number of colonies per 100 mL of water)	1,987	301
Comparison to the Water Quality Index used by the Healthy Beach Program Florida Department of Health criteria	Poor	Poor

Florida Department of Health - Healthy Beaches Program categories used :

Found here: <http://www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/beach-water-quality/index.html>

