

## SUNSHINE LAKE/SUNRISE WATERWAY

### History

Sunshine Lake/Sunrise waterway has had an algae problem for a number of years. In 2011, Charlotte County hired a consultant to determine the type of algae within the waterway system and give recommendations on how to get rid of the algae. A nutrient source was not identified with this study but it was determined that the algae mat was large and should be removed. In late 2012, a contractor was hired to remove the algae. There have been many issues with this project. During the project it was determined that the contractor was removing substantially more algae than was estimated during the design phase. This made the project cost and timeframe increase substantially. In April 2014, over 20 blue heron nests were found along the project area and the algae removal had to be placed on hold through August 2014. This cost the County an additional \$5,270 per day to keep the contractor onsite.

### Recently

Charlotte County hired a consultant in late 2013 to do a management plan on the waterway system. The management plan includes a nutrient source evaluation study and plans for additional projects and/or programs to keep the algae from returning. The County has a cooperative agreement with SWFWMD to fund half of the nutrient source evaluation study. The management plan is in the data collection phase. Stormwater, seepage, and groundwater samples are being collected and the consultant is preparing a preliminary report with the information from the data collected to date. The report will include the results of the testing with a summary of what the results mean and any recommendations of additional testing.

### Request

The county has the required permits and plans for a downstream weir to raise the water level within the system and recharge wells to increase the water flow. The estimated costs of these projects are \$650,000. The consultant will determine what additional projects and/or programs that will be beneficial and these will require funding.