



Truro's Integrated Water Resources Management Plan Newsletter



Town Water Resources Oversight Committee Moves Forward to Protect Truro Water Quality

The Town has approved Phase II of the Integrated Water Resources Management Plan (IWRMP) to identify specific steps that landowners and the Town can take to protect local groundwater. Groundwater is the sole source of drinking water in the town. The Town's Water Resources Oversight Committee (WROC) is guiding the IWRMP process. Phase I evaluated water quality in the Town and identified potential problem areas. Phase II will define potential threats to ground water quality and solutions to protect against these threats.

Summary of Progress to Date

Over the last two years WROC has guided Weston & Sampson Engineers in an evaluation of existing water use and quality in the Town. Water supplies in the town are derived from wells, most of which serve individual homes. Wastewater is treated through septic systems that return water back to the aquifer. Septic systems will slowly increase nitrogen levels in the groundwater especially if they are not pumped regularly. Drinking water standards include regulatory limits for nitrogen to protect against risk to human health. The Phase I report concludes that water samples from local wells show nitrogen levels are within safe levels. But some neighborhoods show concentrations that have risen above the typical amount found across Truro.

The Phase I report (*IWRMP, Phase I*) can be reviewed at the Town Hall during normal business hours. The Phase II work is intended to identify specific ways to keep the town's water supply safe, in particular keeping nitrogen levels as far below the regulatory limits as possible.

Who is Creating the Plan?

The Water Resources Oversight Committee (WROC), Assistant Town Administrator/Planner, and our Health Agent are managing the process.

WROC Members

Kevin Kuechler, Chair	Shannon Corea
Mark Peters	Amanda Reed
Peter Romanelli	Bill Worthington
Tracey Rose	

Staff

Patricia Pajaron, Health/Conservation Agent
Charleen Greenhalgh, Assistant Town
Administrator/Planner
Weston & Sampson, Consulting Engineers

What Will Happen in Phase II

In the next few months, WROC and Weston & Sampson will complete Phase II of the IWRMP. Phase II has three basic objectives:

1. Better define the sources of nitrogen in certain areas of the Town.
2. Identify a range of nitrogen control options that may be applied to each of the sources.
3. Help residents understand the things they can do to protect ground water quality on their own.

Additionally, Weston & Sampson and WROC will include storm water runoff in its analysis. They will develop written guidance and best management practices for Town residents, commercial establishments and government agencies (the Town and State Department of Transportation). Additionally, WROC may propose additional regulations that would apply to the entire town or to specific neighborhoods.



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A Brief Description of Water Supplies in the Town of Truro

Cape Cod is made up of sandy material that captures rainfall and snowmelt in a zone (or lens) that remains separate from seawater. Two lenses, the Pamet and Chequessett, lie under the town and are the main source of the many individual wells that supply commercial establishments and residences. Rainfall and snowmelt are adequate to recharge the lens.

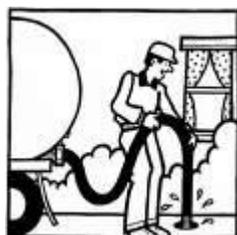
About this Newsletter

This newsletter is designed to “get the word out” by providing ongoing information and gathering feedback. It will be distributed to various boards and committees and organizations. Copies are available at Town Hall, the Library, and Truro’s web site: www.truro-ma.gov

As a Homeowner, What Can You Do Now?

 ***Have your septic system pumped and checked, especially if you haven’t done so in the past 3 years.*** Pumping can significantly reduce the amount of nitrogen that otherwise would seep into your drinking water or that of your neighbor.

 ***Use nitrogen-based fertilizer judiciously: Follow directions, apply when the ground is warm (above 50°F) and avoid application before major rain events.*** Even better: focus on plants that do not require fertilizers at all.



Questions regarding the IWMRP process should be directed to:

Charleen Greenhalgh 508-349-7004 x-27
planner@truro-ma.gov

Pat Pajaron 508-349-7004 x-32
healthagent@truro-ma.gov

Or write us at: Kevin Kuechler, Chair
WROC
P.O. Box 2030
Truro, MA 02666

Call for Volunteers

The WROC will be conducting follow-up water sampling of East Harbor and the Pamet Harbor this summer. The sampling will be similar to but limited in scope when compared to the sampling that was conducted six years ago. If you are interesting in helping please contact Kevin Kuechler at kkuechler@comcast.net

Around Town

Engineers from Weston Sampson will be seen around town installing wells needed to conduct the water sampling.