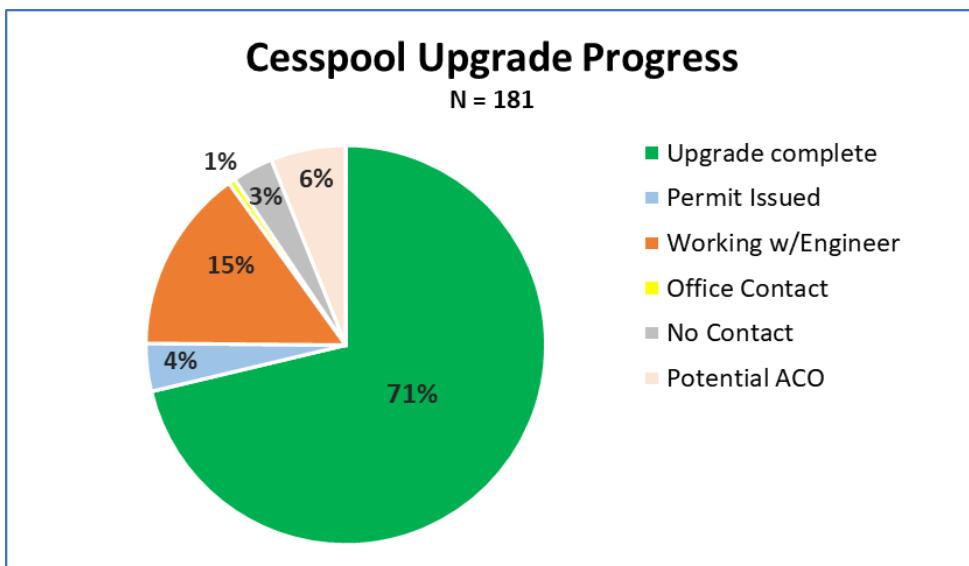


Memo to: Truro Board of Health
From: Emily Beebe, Truro Health & Conservation Agent
Date: March 18, 2025
Re: **Water Resources Update**



Regarding cesspool upgrades to Title 5

To date, 75% of properties with cesspools have either completed the upgrade process or have permits issued to do so. 15% are working with engineers. Many of these have completed plans and are in the process of hiring an installer. Letters have been sent to these homeowners, so they are aware of the deadline for plans and installation permits. Three of the 11 properties eligible for an ACO have been formally approved by the board. The remaining 4% of properties that have made no progress will be issued notices of violation filed with the Housing court.



Bucket	Count	Deadline
1	7	Installation by 9/1/2024 or 9 months from date of permit issuance
2	8	Completion of ACO by 12/31/2024
2a	3	Approved ACO
3	27	Plan complete by 5/1/2024, install within 9 months
4	7	12/31/2023



Regarding Administrative Consent Orders (ACOs). An ACO is the legal agreement between the Board of Health and a property owner regarding the timing of upgrades or connection to sewer facilities. There remain 8 properties that will be coming before the Board to have the ACO variance approved.

The timeframe for discussion on feasibility (costs/approach) of sewerizing the Beach Point area will be discussed by the Board of Health, but the schedule has been pushed out along with the anticipated release of the draft CWMP. (discussion below)

Regarding stormwater management- Discussions including stormwater management will resume once the CWMP draft has been completed.

Regarding changes to Title 5, and TMDL NSAs – In 2023, Title 5 was amended to include watershed permit regulations and include newly defined criteria for estuarine watersheds that are Nitrogen Sensitive Areas or, NSA's. The amendment only addresses watersheds on Cape Cod with an EPA-approved Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) assessed for nitrogen. These new NSAs must come into compliance, by submitting watershed plans.

The Wellfleet Harbor Embayment System has an approved TMDL, and the Wellfleet Board of Health is moving forward this week with new revisions to their local regulations that support compliance with the Wellfleet Harbor Watershed plan. The plan includes establishment of a sewer district that will accommodate the wastewater from a large area surrounding the Harbor/Pier area. All properties not within the proposed sewer district will need to upgrade their on-site system to enhanced wastewater treatment systems that are approved to remove Nitrogen levels to not more than 11 mg/l in the effluent within the next 20 years. The following excerpt of text from the recently amended Wellfleet Board of Health regulations establishes their rationale:

This Regulation is enacted in accordance with the Town's Watershed Management Plan to allow for a gradual approach to the elimination of septic systems that do not use adequate nitrogen reducing technology by providing a reasonable schedule for property owners to either connect to a public sewer if and when such a connection becomes available, or replace their existing systems with a system that uses Best Available Nitrogen Reducing Technology, as defined in 310 CMR 15.000, et seq. ("Title 5") upon the happening of certain triggering events.

The Wellfleet Harbor watershed public notice, and the Wellfleet Harbor Watershed Milestone Schedule are both available on the Health Department web page under the Wastewater Management tab. You can find a report of the final Wellfleet Harbor Embayment System Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) For Total Nitrogen at: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/final-total-nitrogen-tmdl-for-wellfleet-harbor/download>

Based on 3 years of MEP water sampling the water quality in both East Harbor and the Pamet Harbor both water bodies were classified as “moderate to poor” yet are without a TMDL for nitrogen. Recently, results of CCNS water quality modeling in East Harbor were presented to Town staff, and the results indicate that despite robust algal blooms, the nitrate levels in East Harbor do not appear elevated; rather, the excessive growth appears to be a symptom of the water temperature. Revisiting the MEP water testing for East Harbor is unlikely.

The Town has authorized GHD to expand their project scope to include some preliminary evaluation of water quality of the Pamet. The expanded scope will allow surface water sampling at all 7 stations of the 2010 604b sampling program, to inform the CWMP. This sampling work will commence in May, and end in early September. Evaluation of the results will be incorporated into the CWMP report, which has pushed the deliverable schedule out to November 2025.

It is likely that we will move into a targeted watershed approach for the Pamet River once the CWMP is completed.

Regarding Wastewater Management Planning/ Water Resources discussion with Provincetown:

Both Select Boards and the Provincetown Water and Sewer Board met jointly on February 24th and received an update about water allocations under Provincetown's Growth Management Bylaw, and preliminary results from modeling work by Apex engineering at the request of the water department. The Joint staff meetings will continue every 2 weeks, as each town works to develop infrastructure

improvements. Truro is working with Stantec Engineering to develop site alternatives and engineering specifications for a Water Storage Tank, needed in North Truro to improve pressures across the system, and to help manage the water system's peak demands.

We are also working with Scott Horsley to develop the scope for the wastewater treatment options for the Walsh property.

PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) Update: Water sampling for PFAS testing for homes downgradient of the DPW facility and a few more homes near the transfer station were completed the week of 1/13. Several homes downgradient of the DPW facility had detectable levels of pfas and one home exceeded the standard. One home downgradient of the transfer station had detectable levels of pfas.

The Town has supplied each home with bottled water as an immediate temporary measure and is equipping these homes with carbon filtration systems on a permanent basis.

Additional homes were identified by the DEP for future sampling. We anticipate additional sampling in late April.

The Barnstable County Water Quality Lab is now offering PFAS testing. At this time, bottles are only available from the lab itself, but we are working to see if we can have kits available for pickup from our office. Cost is \$265. For more information visit the lab's webpage:

<https://www.capecod.gov/2025/02/27/new-pfas-monitoring/>

Truro Pond WQ testing-HABS and Cyanobacteria:

The pond water quality program has ended for the season.

A map of Truro's Ponds can be found at:

<https://www.truro-ma.gov/conservation-department/pages/ponds>