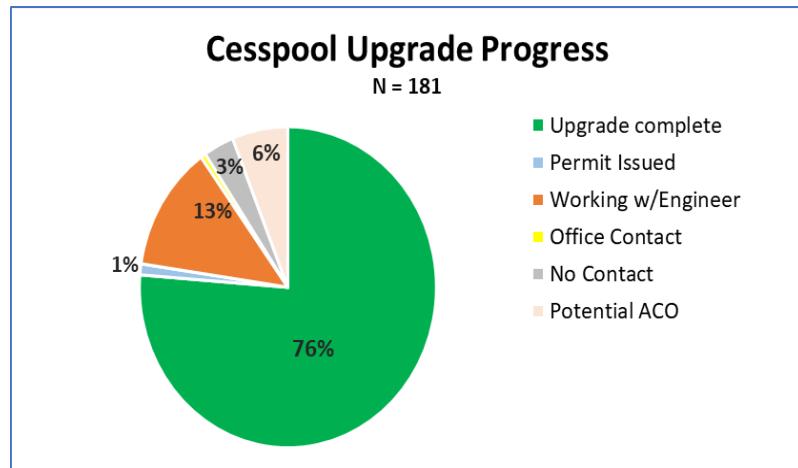


Memo to: Truro Board of Health  
From: Emily Beebe, Truro Health & Conservation Agent  
Date: July 15, 2025  
Re: **Water Resources Update**



### **Regarding cesspool upgrades to Title 5**

To date, 77% of properties with cesspools have either completed the upgrade process or have permits issued to do so. 13% are working with engineers and installers.



### **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. 7 properties still need to come before the Board to have the ACO variance approved for the cesspool upgrade process. Discussion on feasibility (costs/approach) of sewerizing the Beach Point area are anticipated for October 2025.

7/15/2025 As the possible sewer connection is pending, some Beach Point systems have failed to pass title 5 inspections, most commonly due to the local regulatory requirement that systems that were not installed according to the design plan (in most cases >20 years ago) are now defined as non-conforming and fail. A common trigger is the separation between the groundwater and the bottom of the leaching area (observed).

**Regarding stormwater management** At the 2025 Annual Town meeting, borrowing authorization was granted for the Pond Road stormwater improvement project, and supported at the ballot on May 13.

### **Regarding changes to Title 5, and TMDL NSAs**

In 2023, Title 5 was amended to include watershed permit regulations and 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. 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>

### **Regarding Wastewater Management Planning/ Water Resources discussion with Provincetown**

**7/15/2025** The next joint staff meeting will be held July 24 to continue the planning work on the Watershed management plan and the Water System master plan. The groundwater model previously used will be reviewed and updated to include recent pumping data, possible new well source scenarios, and data gathered from the Pamet River restoration planning. Potential new source water supply sites will also be evaluated by the staff team and our engineers.

Water storage tank-the work being done by Stantec to site a water storage tank includes development of a site selection matrix of the required criteria to screen the sites equitably, thereby providing the Towns with the best site recommendations. At this point Stantec is planning for a 600 k gallon tank, a pump station and a pressure reducing station.

Walsh-GHD engineering will continue their work to identify and develop permittable wastewater treatment options for the Walsh property and are working from the groundwater model developed by USGS/Apex (EPG)/McClane. Both wastewater and stormwater will be modeled to determine potential impacts based on actual pumping data scenarios, and various treatment levels.

CWMP -GHD continues their work on the needs assessment for completion of the CWMP (Comprehensive Wastewater Management plan), as well as the Pamet river/harbor sampling needed for the developing a targeted nitrogen threshold. GHD will work with DEP to determine if additional work will be needed to refine an approvable target.

### **PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) Update**

Water sampling in homes downgradient of the DPW facility and a few more homes near the transfer station was completed this winter. Additional sampling is occurring as property owners return to open for the season. 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.

As an immediate temporary measure at homes where pfas have been detected, bottled water has been supplied. Long term and more permanent measures include equipping these homes with carbon filtration systems to remove the pfas from the water as it comes into the house.

The Barnstable County Water Quality Lab now offers PFAS testing, and bottles are available for pickup from our office. Pfas analysis 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:**

**7/15/2025**

The pond water quality sampling program for Standish (Village) (Pilgrim)Pond is underway for the season and monitoring results can be found on the APCC website. Great Pond is also monitored by APCC.

Most of the other ponds in Truro are located in the National Seashore. Because there is no Town-owned shoreline to provide public access, the Town has no jurisdiction there, and those ponds are under federal jurisdiction.

\*\*Swimmers should use caution and look for evidence of an algal bloom before entering a pond. For more information: <https://apcc.org/our-work/science/community-science/cyanobacteria/>

A map of Truro's Ponds can be found at: <https://www.truro-ma.gov/225/Ponds>