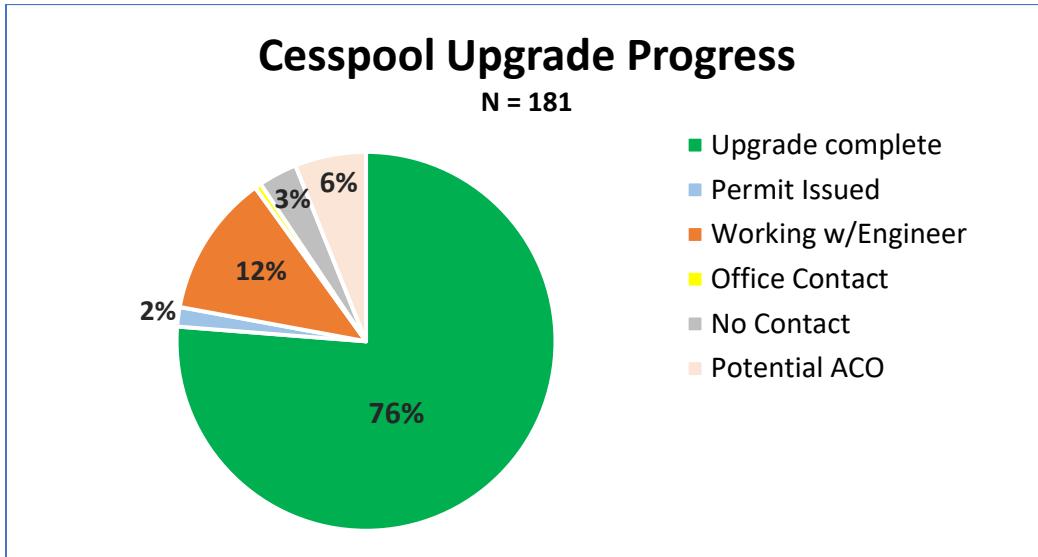


Memo to: Truro Board of Health
From: Emily Beebe, Truro Health & Conservation Agent
Date: August 19, 2025
Re: Water Resources Update



Regarding cesspool upgrades to Title 5

To date, 78% of properties with cesspools have either completed the upgrade process or have permits issued to do so. 12% 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.

During this time when 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. Stormwater management is a significant feature of the Towns Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan. Stormwater management within the watersheds of the Pamet River is a project that the Town has started to define. A commitment to annually make improvements to our stormwater infrastructure and will be reflected in the Capital improvement planning process for FY2027..

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 Water Resources planning discussions with Provincetown

8/15/2025 The Watershed management planning discussions have shifted to selection of possible future well sites in order to develop new sources to provide redundancy in the system. Additional groundwater modeling will be used to evaluate potential withdrawal capacity and impacts to wetland resources or existing water supply wells in proximity to any new sites.

Water storage tank- Stantec is completing their engineering report that summarizes the benefits and liabilities for a water storage tank at each of the 3 potential sites. Site selection will be a part of the public conversation when the tank report is released. Stantec has been working with APEX, water system engineers for Provincetown, to ensure that the tank specifications address/meet the requirements of the Provincetown Water system into which the tank will presumably be integrated. The style of the tank has not been selected, but design is moving forward with a 600 k gallon tank, a pump station and a pressure reducing station.

Walsh-The Town is working with Scott Horsley and GHD engineering to develop the permittable options for wastewater treatment that will be required for the development planned for the Walsh property. In December, the Town requested connection to the Provincetown Water system for a first phase of development at Walsh, that would include approximately 9900 gallons per day for development of housing. This request was recently approved by the Provincetown Water and Sewer Board. The final decision on the connection will likely be discussed in October by the Water and Sewer Board and the Provincetown Select Board.

CWMP - GHD is fine tuning the draft CWMP (Comprehensive Wastewater Management plan), and is ready to present preliminary recommendations for nitrogen removal strategies from the 3 watersheds in Truro previously identified. Additionally, surface water sampling of the Pamet river/harbor has continued through the summer and will wrap up in another couple of weeks. This data will inform the work by GHD to develop a working nitrogen threshold that we can use as a basis for our remediation/removal plan.. GHD will work with DEP to determine if additional work will be needed to refine an approvable N 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 spring. Additional sampling in targeted locations is being scheduled. 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 any PFAS have been detected, bottled water has been supplied. Long term and more permanent measures include equipping these homes with Point of Entry Treatment (POET) systems to remove the PFAS from the water as it comes into the house. Once those systems are in place, bottled water service is discontinued. Further remediation will include installation of a permeable reactive barrier (PRB) and a soil cap over the source.

The Town has reached out again in another round of certified letters to property owners with homes possibly downgradient to our site- who had not previously responded to our requests for sampling access so their well water could be tested for PFAs. We have had more access granted and another

round of sampling will be underway in the coming days. Any detection of PFAs will result in immediate delivery of bottle water, and POET connection.

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

8/15/2025

The Park has reported a *potential (suspect)* harmful algal bloom in Slough Pond. Signs were posted by Park officials at the pond warning the public of this Public Health Advisory, and cautioning them not to swim, or let their dogs drink or swim. The pond will be monitored, and APCC will sample and test the water for cyanobacteria. The Town website and social media pages will be updated as more information is available.

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

The pond water quality for Village Pond is monitored by APCC and results can be found on the APCC website. Great Pond is also monitored by APCC.

**Swimmers should please use caution and look for evidence of an algal bloom before entering any 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>