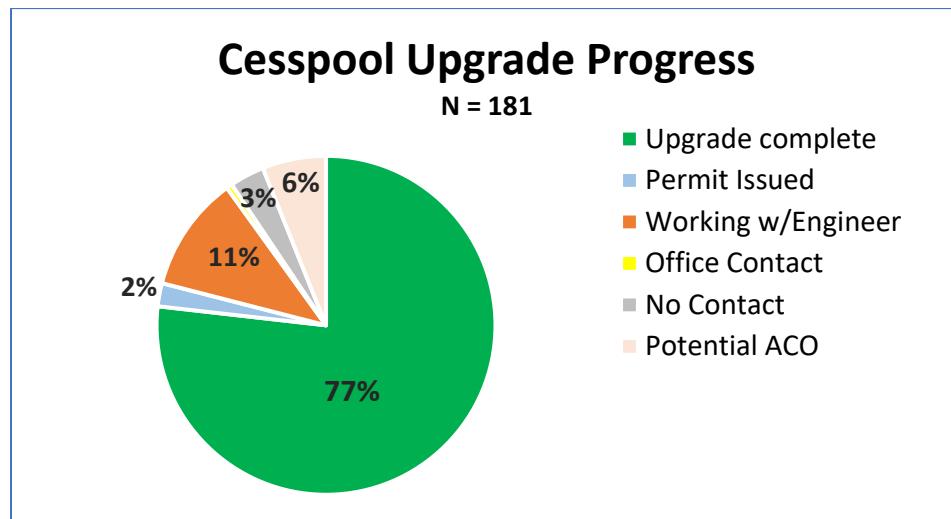


Memo to: Truro Board of Health
From: Emily Beebe, Truro Health & Conservation Agent
Date: December 16, 2025
Re: **Water Resources Update**



Regarding cesspool upgrades to Title 5

To date, 79% of properties (143) with cesspools have either completed the upgrade process or have permits issued to do so. 11% (20 properties) 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. The feasibility (costs/approach) of connecting to the Provincetown sewer system and alternatives for wastewater treatment on Beach Point was described in the Draft CWMP released on October 31, 2025. The discussion about feasibility is continuing.

Regarding stormwater management

Discussion on a draft stormwater management bylaw will be on the Jan 20 Board of Health Agenda.

Regarding changes to Title 5, and TMDL NSAs

The 2023 amendments to Title 5 included newly defined Nitrogen Sensitive Areas or NSAs, and watershed plan requirements. A small portion of South Truro lies within the Wellfleet Harbor NSA. Presentations of Truro's draft CWMP (Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan) including potential strategies to comply with the requirements of the Wellfleet Harbor Watershed plan have been presented to the BoH at several public discussions held from late September to mid-November. Nitrogen removal options for the South Truro residents within the Wellfleet Harbor watershed will include requiring residential septic systems upgrades to I/A (Innovative/Alternative) treatment systems and future development of strategic stormwater and fertilizer best management practices through municipal regulations.

Regarding Water Resources planning discussions with Provincetown

Pamet Lens Watershed Master Plan and Pamet Lens Management planning discussions with the Provincetown staff and their Engineering firm APEX have included collaborating with Truro's Engineering teams and our Water Resources consultant Scott Horsley. Developing a strategy for modeling selected sites and arriving at suitable demand analysis continues to be a team effort. Truro is focused on understanding the long-term safe yield of the Pamet Lens and setting sustainable management goals for protecting the groundwater resources for generations to come. A cornerstone task of the management planning process is to shape a roadmap for the Public Water system to include new sources that will provide system redundancy.

CWMP – The Comprehensive Watershed Management plan includes wastewater and nitrogen management strategies for 3 watersheds in Truro. This planning initiative has been funded by an ARPA grant, and an appropriation at the 2024 Annual Town meeting. The scope of the project includes developing a comprehensive plan for managing wastewater across the Town. The Town hired GHD engineering to develop the plan, which at their suggestion has morphed from a Comprehensive Wastewater Management plan (CWMP) to its regulatory equivalent, a Comprehensive/ Targeted Watershed Management plan. (CWMP). The plan looks at wastewater impacts to 3 watersheds:

- 1) Wellfleet Harbor (Herring River watershed, in south Truro)
- 2) Pamet River watershed
- 3) Provincetown Harbor/East Harbor- (Pilgrim Lake) watershed

Our Water Resources consultant Scott Horsley, and GHD presented an overview of the CWMP at a joint meeting of the Truro Select Board and Board of Health, on September 25. A second discussion was hosted by the Board of Health on October 14 at Town Hall. The draft report was issued on October 31, and a third presentation and public discussion was held on November 18, 2025.

Slides from the meetings can be found here: <https://ma-truro.civicplus.com/361/Wastewater-Watershed-Management>

Meeting videos can be found:

- September 25 - <http://trurotv.truro-ma.gov/CablecastPublicSite/show/7694?site=1>
- October 14 - <http://trurotv.truro-ma.gov/CablecastPublicSite/show/7707?site=1>
- November 18 - <http://trurotv.truro-ma.gov/CablecastPublicSite/show/7750?site=1>

PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) Update

Groundwater sampling in proximity to the Town Hall/DPW property and downgradient of the Transfer Station is ongoing as routine protocols require. There are 7 homes downgradient of the DPW facility and 4 homes downgradient of the Transfer Station with detectable PFAS concentrations, and they have been provided with bottled water until a Point of Entry Treatment (POET) system could be installed to remove PFAS from the water as it comes into the house. Initial water testing included homes within a 500' radius of the site. Subsequent testing was based on groundwater flow direction to further define the plume.

The Barnstable County Water Quality Lab 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/>