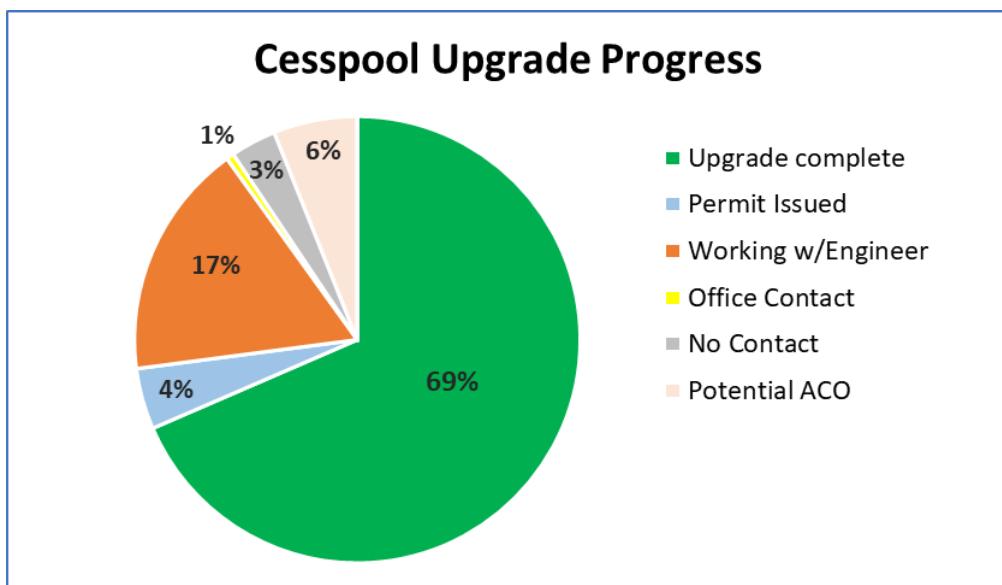


Memo to: Truro Board of Health
From: Emily Beebe, Truro Health & Conservation Agent
Date: December 17, 2024
Re: **Water Resources Update**
For November & December 2024



Regarding cesspool upgrades to Title 5

To date, 73% of properties with cesspools have either completed the upgrade process or have permits issued to do so. 17% 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	8	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	31	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.

At this time, the current deadline for the BoH to finalize all cesspool-related draft ACOs is December 31, 2024; however, there remain 8 properties that still must come before the Board to have the ACO variance approved. We do not have a final cost per gallon but anticipate having that estimate by mid-January. (Let's talk about it at the January 21, 2025, meeting.)

We respectfully request an additional 60 days to invite these property owners to the table and engage in the ACO variance request process with the Board :

274 Shore Road;

379 Shore Road

392 Shore Road

420 Shore Road

462 Shore Road

492 Shore Road

654 Shore Road

674 Shore Road

676 Shore Road

Regarding stormwater management – (no new update, December 2024)

Regarding changes to Title 5, and TMDL NSAs – (no new update, December 2024) New (in 2023) watershed permit regulations are now a part of title 5 and include newly defined criteria for Nitrogen Sensitive Areas (NSA) estuarine watersheds on Cape Cod that have an EPA-approved Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for nitrogen. These new NSAs have timeframes for compliance with approved watershed plans. On Wednesday July 3, a notice of intent was filed with the DEP by GHD on behalf of Truro for the portion of South Truro that is located in the Wellfleet Harbor Watershed. A public notice requirement was satisfied by publishing details of the filing": 1. in the Environmental monitor, and, 2. in a newspaper of local circulation, and, 3. posting in the Town Hall for the municipality.

The notice states that "the Town of Truro, MA has filed the Notice of Intent (NOI) to apply for a watershed permit for the Wellfleet Harbor watershed with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Water Resources – Watershed Permitting Program. This is a pre-Watershed Application form that allows the Town to submit a proposed schedule for obtaining watershed permits for the listed watersheds. Filing the NOI prevents commencement of the five-year time period in which Title 5 system upgrades would otherwise be required under 310 CMR 15.215(2)(a) and suspends the Title 5 upgrade requirements for new construction under 310 CMR 15.215(2)(b). Additional information regarding the Notice of Intent may be obtained by contacting Emily Beebe – Truro Health & Conservation Agent by calling (508)214-0919."

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>

East Harbor and the Pamet River are both impaired water bodies, but neither have a TMDL for nitrogen, however, to protect these resources the Town is working proactively, to align our planning process with the new regulations. We have contracted with the engineering firm GHD to prepare our Comprehensive wastewater management plan which will guide our wastewater management activities across town. It is likely that we will be moving into a watershed permit application process within several years for the Pamet River.

Regarding Wastewater Management Planning/ Water Resources discussion with Provincetown:

Both Select Boards and the Provincetown Water and Sewer Board will meet jointly on February 24th.

PFAs (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) Update:

The Town is planning to expand the private well testing around the transfer station to ensure the public health is protected.

There are also will be extended private well testing down gradient of the DPW facility at Town Hall Road. Both sampling rounds will be completed by mid-January.

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>