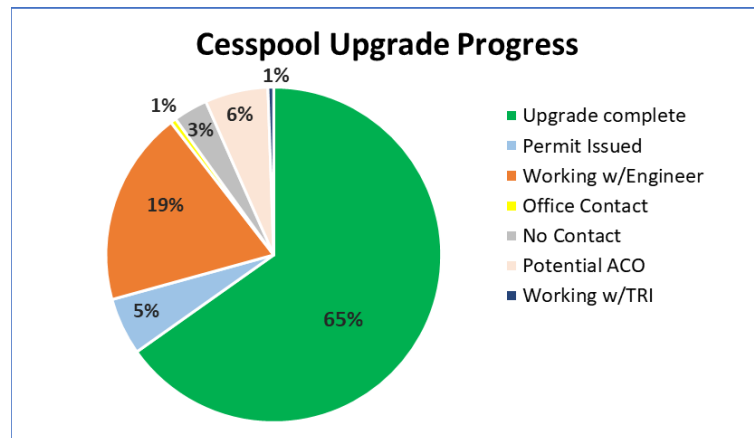


Memo to: Truro Board of Health  
 From: Emily Beebe, Truro Health & Conservation Agent  
 Date: November 15, 2024  
 Re: **Water Resources Update October 2024**



**Regarding cesspool upgrades to Title 5**

To date, 70% of properties with cesspools have either completed the upgrade process or have permits issued to do so. 20% 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	10	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	35	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. Draft ACOs must be finalized December 31, 2024 by BoH approval of a variance to allow the agreement, using GPD value placeholder until the actual cost/gallon multiplier is determined by GHD.

An update from Engineers at GHD will be included in the August update.

**Regarding stormwater management – (no new update, October 2024)**

**Regarding changes to Title 5, and TMDL NSAs – (no new update, October 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:**

The joint Truro and Provincetown discussion on water supply was held on September 30 at the community center.

The video of this meeting can be found under the channel 8 section of the Towns website, listed under the SB meetings:

[Select Board \(Truro, Provincetown\) 9-30-2024 \(cablecast.tv\)](#)

The meeting included both Select Boards and the Provincetown Water and Sewer Board, and was the first discussion about planning for a redundant source. The goal of the meeting was to bring the Boards together to provide perspective into the future. The next joint meeting will be held on February 24<sup>th</sup>. In the interim, an FAQ from the meeting and other resources and updates will continue to be shared by the two Towns on the Provincetown Water department web page, found under DPW, and at this link:

<https://www.provincetown-ma.gov/2548/ProvincetownTruro-Joint-Water-Resources>

This information can also be located through the same link found on the Health Department web page.

#### **PFAs (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) Update:**

The Town is planning a public education session on PFAS this fall. It will be advertised on the Town website, newsletter “Truro Talks” and through social media.

#### **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>