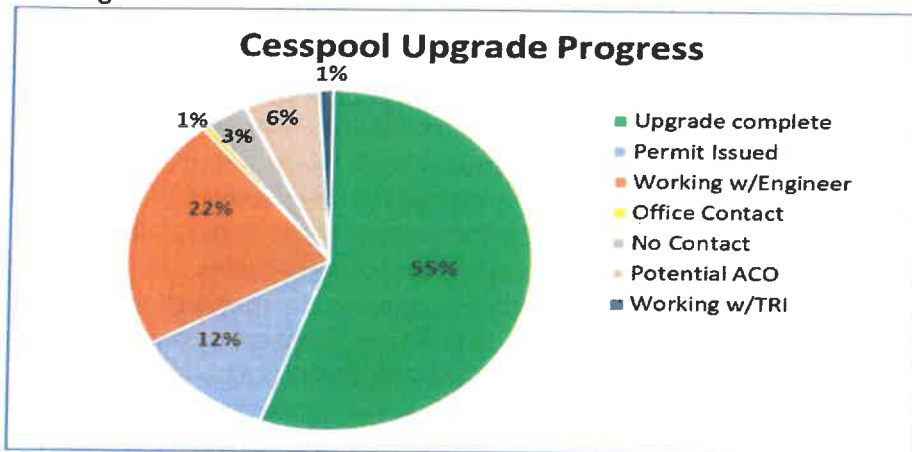


Memo to: Truro Board of Health
 From: Emily Beebe, Truro Health & Conservation Agent
 Date: May 16, 2024
 Re: **Water Resources Update May 2024**



Regarding cesspool upgrades to Title 5

To date, 67% of the properties with cesspools have either completed the upgrade process or have permits issued to do so. 23% 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 to enter into an ACO have been formally approved by the board. The other ACO properties will be on upcoming agendas. 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	21	Installation by 9/1/2024 or 9 months from date of permit issuance
2	8	Completion of ACO by 6/1/2024
2a	3	Approved ACO
3	42	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 by June 1, 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. The Town and Engineers from GHD were scheduled to meet with the DEP on March 15, and the meeting was rescheduled by the DEP to April 4. At that time, we will review the use of the ACO process, and our Comprehensive Wastewater Management planning strategy.

Regarding stormwater management— (no new update, May 2024)

Regarding changes to Title 5, and TMDL NSAs – (no new update, May 2024)

Changes to Title 5 became effective on July 7, 2023 and a new include watershed permit regulations, and new Nitrogen Sensitive Areas (NSA). Watersheds on Cape Cod with an EPA-approved Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) are now designated NSAs with timeframes for compliance with approved watershed plans.

It is important to note that Truro does not have a TMDL for nitrogen so the change in regulation has minimal impact on most of Truro. However, a portion of South Truro is in the Wellfleet Harbor Watershed. In October the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), Watershed Planning Program (WPP), announced the approval of the Final Wellfleet Harbor Embayment System Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) For Total Nitrogen by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). You can find a copy of the permit 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.

Regarding Wastewater Management Planning/ Water Resources discussion with Provincetown:

Staff from Provincetown, Truro and GHD met in late April to continue discussions about the current estimated costs for a potential wastewater interconnection between the 2 Towns. Future upgrades to the Provincetown Wastewater Treatment facility will include an increase in flow; some of that new capacity could be reserved for Truro, and our discussions continue to move closer to developing a “treatment cost” that would represent Truro’s share of the cost of the existing facilities. Additionally, they are developing estimated installation costs for pipes and pump stations. The thinking is that the infrastructure would be funded in large part by the owners of those future connections, and the design and construction would be done by Provincetown with Truro’s share calculated as a percentage of the total costs, based on flow. Considering that the dates for actual connection appear to be 3-5 years hence, these estimates are providing us with a ballpark of estimates to help us evaluate feasibility.

We have had several meetings with the Truro and Provincetown water resource planning staff team. In our process of reviewing the IMA (Inter-municipal agreement) the staff team recognizes that both Towns must continue to collaborate to protect our water resources. Upon review of the questions we have about the IMA, we are recommending that a joint meeting of the Provincetown Water and Sewer Board AND the Select Boards of both towns be held before the end of September.

Public outreach will be a significant part of the planning process, and to that end we will be using this WR report and the websites of both Towns as a source of information for these meetings, as well as a home for some of the source materials, such as the IMA, Provincetown Water Department reports and Provincetown’s Water Management Study update from 2017.

PFAs (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) Update: There are hundreds of variants of these substances, which have been used since the 1940s in products such as firefighting foam, non-stick cookware, waterproofing sprays, and many others. The properties that made these substances good at what they were used for is the issue now. These compounds are very difficult to break down, so they persist in the environment, hence the name “forever chemicals.”

Transfer station monitoring wells tested positive for PFAs: Two nearby homes have tested negative for PFAS and results from a third home are pending.