

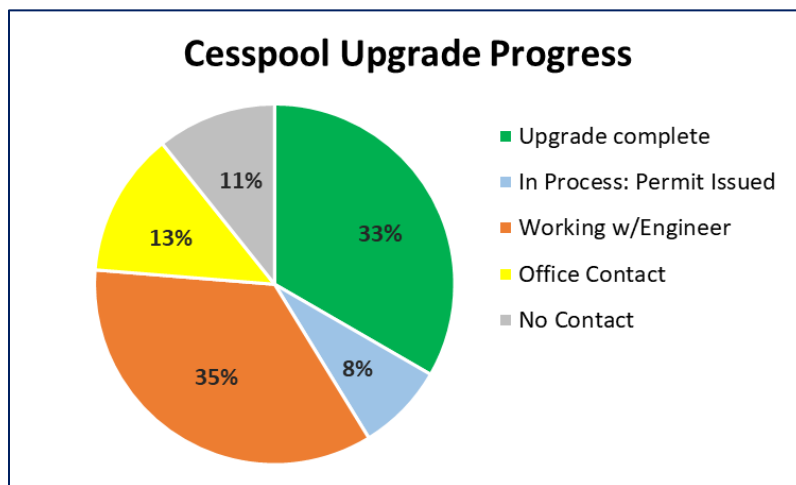


TOWN OF TRURO
HEALTH & CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT
24 Town Hall Road, Truro 02666
508-349-7004 x119

Memo to: Truro Board of Health
From: Emily Beebe, Truro Health & Conservation Agent
Date: August 15, 2023
Re: **Water Resources Update August 2023**

Regarding cesspool upgrades to Title 5

To date, 41% of the properties with cesspools have either completed the upgrade process or have permits issued to do so. 35% are working with engineers and 13% have contacted our office with questions but may not yet be under contract with an Engineer/designer. The number is shrinking, but we still have not been able to make direct contact with 19 homeowners, and we have not yet heard from them. To date, we have verified that none of the 19 properties are registered rental properties, and 4 of them are non-habitable/abandoned.



Regarding Administrative Consent Orders (ACOs). An ACO is a legal agreement between the Board of Health and a property owner regarding the timing of upgrades or connection to sewer facilities. Property owners may be required to pay into an escrow account to fund either the upgrade or potential future sewer connection. ACOs will be processed as Board of Health variance requests. We have scheduled 2 draft ACOs to come before the Board on September 5 for discussion. We have numerous property owners, with whom we have been having process-oriented discussions.

Regarding stormwater management- Stormwater that is directed into or overflows into wetland resource areas contributes significant amounts of nutrients and pathogens. We are working to address how stormwater is managed, on many fronts:

- A draft Stormwater and Sediment control bylaw will be advanced to the Fall Town Meeting on October 21.
- A public meeting was held at the August Conservation Commission meeting for additional discussion and comments.

- Stormwater is currently addressed in our curb-cut policy.
- The goal of the draft Stormwater bylaw is to add accountability for private property owners to properly address stormwater flows on their own property by requiring it not to runoff into public ways.
- This version of the By-Law is meant to be a starting point that can be supported by other local regulations, such as the Conservation Commission regulations and Board of Health regulations. These supplemental regulations can target areas of jurisdiction that are of special concern, such as wetland resource areas, and the Zone II's of Public Water supplies. The general bylaw can also be amended in the future as needed.

Regarding changes to Title 5, and TMDL NSAs

Changes to Title 5 became effective on July 7, 2023. MassDEP has also developed final Watershed Permit Regulations. Title 5 now designates watersheds on Cape Cod that include an EPA-approved TMDL as NSAs - which are Nitrogen Sensitive Areas.

Truro does not have a TMDL for nitrogen so the change in regulations does not apply to most of Truro at this time. However, a portion of South Truro is in the area covered by the Wellfleet Harbor Watershed permit. This permit is still under review with the DEP but should be approved soon. For a map of this area see [Nitrogen Sensitive Areas Address Lookup \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com)

Since East Harbor and the Pamet River are impaired water bodies, 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, and once we are inside that permit, we will have up to 20 years to meet the enhanced I/A upgrade targets.

Regarding Wastewater Management Planning:

Health Department staff met with Scott Horsley on August 10th to discuss the changes to Title 5 and how they will impact Truro. Discussions revolved around the timing for the use of best available technology (BAT) systems and their costs as well as when Truro would know its targets for reduction of nitrogen pollution. In late July the Health Agent met with Provincetown staff regarding the feasibility of connection to the Provincetown sewer system, and a follow-up meeting with GHD is going to be scheduled during the week of August 21.

Water Resources discussion with Provincetown:

The Provincetown-Truro staff/consultant team met again in late July to continue discussion around the peer review of past and present modeling. This work is moving forward, and we expect to have detail to report out this fall.