



TOWN OF TRURO
HEALTH & CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT
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Memo to: Truro Board of Health
From: Emily Beebe, Truro Health & Conservation Agent
Date: August 12, 2022
Re: Water Resources Update: August 2022

Regarding cesspool upgrades to Title 5

The third correspondence package to property owners with cesspools has been mailed. As proposed, two separate letters have been sent: Letter A was sent by regular mail to those who have contacted our office or have already contracted with a professional designer; Letter B was sent by certified mail to those who have not yet contacted our office, and thus do not appear on the path to compliance. The complete correspondence package to both groups includes: a list of all licensed septic installers; information on septic system upgrade financing and an FAQ about the Barnstable County loan program; a short primer on why we are requiring the upgrade of cesspools, and an email discussion we had with a homeowner.

FINANCING:

We have met with Brian Baumgartel and Angela DoCarmo from the Barnstable County Health department septic loan program to investigate how the Town might cover the cost of interest for any Truro resident that wishes to use their septic loan program to reduce the homeowner's costs. The County is open to this and has let us know that they have applied for an EPA grant that would allow them to issue loans at 0% interest based on income eligibility, and other loans at a sliding scale of interest from 1% to 5%. We will meet again in 2 weeks and review the number of applications Truro has in their system, and further discuss our offer to pay the loan interest. We have also reached out to Seamen's bank and the lower Cape CDP about developing other streams of financial support for property owners and will report back to the BoH on those developments.

Regarding Administrative Consent Orders (ACO's)

Several draft ACO's have been developed, following review of the process by Town Counsel. The draft ACO's will be mailed to the property owners in the next 2-4 weeks, and we will schedule in-office meetings with the owners to discuss the terms of their agreements. Once we have an understanding that can proceed, we will schedule a hearing with the Board to discuss the situation triggering the ACO.

ACO process example: we have several individuals with extenuating circumstances that will delay implementation of compliance measures; we also have properties that are ideal candidates to be considered for connection to a Provincetown sewer expansion. Executing a compliance agreement (the ACO) will be done to facilitate compliance during the planning process and will allow us to place properties "on hold" until wastewater planning options have been more clearly defined.

Regarding the Massachusetts Estuaries project (MEP)

We have met with Dr. Brian Howes about completing the MEP study for the Pamet Harbor/Pamet River and have requested an estimate from SMAST for completion of this project. It is unclear at this time, if a full MEP study will be required by DEP to establish a nitrogen target for the Pamet, or if the 604(b)-

report generated by the preliminary study that was completed by SMAST and the DEP in 2010 is sufficient. Meanwhile, we will be prepared to pursue this project if needed.

A meeting of the Town Administration and representatives from both the Southeast and Boston offices of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) was held Last week, to discuss the upcoming regulatory changes to Title 5. The DEP staff provided an overview of the proposed regulatory framework and discussed what this will mean for Truro. (please see attached materials)
Until a nitrogen removal target is assigned, we will use the 25% removal assigned by the EPA for an un-targeted estuary watershed. This could be addressed with a BoH regulation requiring IA systems within the Pamet River watershed.

The question of the East Harbor watershed may be addressed as the Comprehensive wastewater planning process unfolds.

Regarding stormwater management

H&C staff received a tutorial with the Cape Cod Commission (CCC) for a mobile phone app to gather mapable field data. The app was deployed by staff, and they have developed a plan for updating the catch basin data layer on our assessor's maps. They are truthing in the field and simultaneously gathering the specific locations of country drainage and any outfalls. Photos are uploaded with this app, and the CCC will be able to graphically update our information about our drainage systems and the locations of any direct outfalls. This will advance our stormwater management planning process.

Regarding Pond water quality:

We have created a Pond FAQ for our web page

Pilgrim/Village Pond is regularly tested by the APCC cyanobacteria bacteria monitoring program and has been determined "acceptable" at this time.

Regarding Private well water quality:

- The scope for the well protection pilot project has been developed. We are in the process of obtaining estimates for the project. The funding for this project will likely be the 2023 Annual Town Meeting.
- The Town currently accepts well water samples from our kits on Wednesday mornings from 8-9:30 and brings them to the Barnstable County water quality lab for analysis. This will continue thru Labor Day.

Regarding MA DOT:

This topic was discussed during our meeting with DEP and will be addressed in an upcoming meeting with them.