

Memo to: Truro Board of Health  
 From: Emily Beebe, Truro Health & Conservation Agent  
 Date: January 12, 2024  
 Re: **Water Resources Update January 2024**

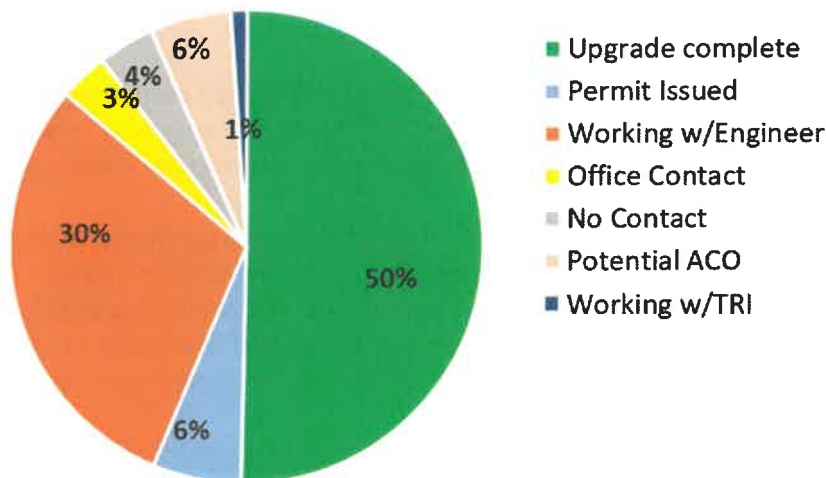


**TOWN OF TRURO**  
**HEALTH & CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT**  
 24 Town Hall Road, Truro 02666  
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**Regarding cesspool upgrades to Title 5**

To date, 56% of the properties with cesspools have either completed the upgrade process or have permits issued to do so. 31% are working with engineers. 6% will enter into an ACO (described below). The 7% of properties that have made no progress will be issued notices of violation filed with the Housing court.

**Cesspool Upgrade Progress**



| Bucket | Count | Deadline  |
|--------|-------|---|
| 1      | 11    | Installation by 9/1/2024 or 9 months from date of permit issuance |
| 2      | 10    | Completion of ACO by 6/1/2024                                     |
| 3      | 56    | Plan complete by 5/1/2024, install within 9 months                |
| 4      | 13    | 12/31/2023  |



**Regarding Administrative Consent Orders (ACOs).** At the 12/5 Board of Health meeting, the Board approved issuing draft ACO's to 10 property owners on Beach Point to allow time for a possible connection to the Provincetown Municipal sewer, based on the result our feasibility analysis being conducted by GHD. (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.) These draft ACO's must be finalized by June 1, 2024. Finalization includes approval of the variance that allows the agreement, by the Board of Health.

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

- The draft Stormwater and Sediment control bylaw is on the Special Town Meeting warrant now scheduled for May 2024.
- The goal of the draft Stormwater by-law is to establish the same performance standards for all property owners, private and municipal, to properly manage stormwater on-site and not runoff into public ways. This environmentally sound practice will protect our groundwater and surface water resources and will reduce the burden on Town resources to have to mitigate downstream.
- This version of the By-Law is intended as a starting point to 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 by-law 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 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:**

The Provincetown Water system IMA requires development of a Master Plan that describes improvements, upgrades, distribution, and expansion. For many years Provincetown has been working on their water supply projects with the engineering firm Environmental Partners Group (EPG). EPG developed the current Master plan and updates the plan every 5 years. Based on recent discussions between Town staff and requests for new connections, the scope of this Master plan revision well may include a new water source well, water main expansions in Truro (for example, in Pond Village to address water quality concerns), a detailed work plan for the addition of a water tank in Truro and fire flows. The Master plan revision scope is currently under discussion at the staff/consultant level. The IMA also requires development of a watershed plan, another plan that requires scoping to address the concerns of both Communities.