



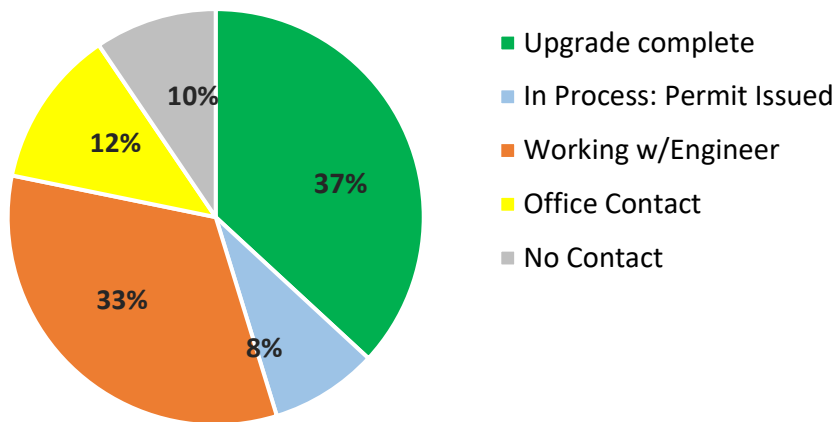
**TOWN OF TRURO**  
**HEALTH & CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT**  
24 Town Hall Road, Truro 02666  
508-349-7004 x119

Memo to: Truro Board of Health  
From: Emily Beebe, Truro Health & Conservation Agent  
Date: September 19, 2023  
Re: **Water Resources Update September 2023**

#### **Regarding cesspool upgrades to Title 5**

To date, 45% of the properties with cesspools have either completed the upgrade process or have permits issued to do so, that number is up from 41% last month. 33% are working with engineers and 12% have contacted our office with questions but may not yet be under contract with an Engineer/designer. The “no contact” column is shrinking, and we made direct contact with 2 of those homeowners in the last couple of weeks. We mailed another round of certified mailings to those who did not collect their certified mailings last sent out. We also have begun to issue personal appeals to folks on this list to try to move them to another column. This is slow work, but we are at the stage where the progress of each property is becoming a matter of strategic compliance assistance.

### **Cesspool Upgrade Progress**



**Regarding Administrative Consent Orders (ACOs).** At their last meeting the Board of Health met with property owners from Beach Point to review their proposed ACO. (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.)

The Board will be meeting with a new property owner at their 9/19 meeting to discuss his scenario. ACOs will be processed as Board of Health variance requests.

**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:

- The draft Stormwater and Sediment control bylaw will be advanced to the Fall Town Meeting on October 21, and will be discussed by the Selectboard at their meeting of 9/19.
- 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.
- The Board of Health and Conservation will be issuing their recommendations on the Bylaw at their next meetings, October 3, and 2<sup>nd</sup>, respectively.

#### **Regarding changes to Title 5, and TMDL NSAs**

Health and Conservation staff will attend a training with the DEP about the changes to title 5 on 9/29.

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.

#### **Regarding Wastewater Management Planning/ Water Resources discussion with Provincetown:**

We have no updates on planning status for this reporting period.