

# TOWN OF TRURO

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Date: November 2, 2010

From: Board of Selectmen

To: **Water Resources Oversight Committee** (Est. Oct.2, 2002, Rev. Nov. 2, 2010)

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In recognition of the fact that potable water is a finite resource and both fresh surface water and coastal water and resources are economic assets to our community, the Truro Board of Selectmen hereby establishes a Water Resources Oversight Committee in accordance with Truro Town Charter, Chapter 6-4-4.

Committee Organization: The Committee shall be comprised of one representative each from the Conservation Commission, Board of Health, and Planning Board, an Engineer and/or Hydrologist, and three members-at-large. These shall be three-year, staggered terms. The Assistant Town Administrator/Planner and the Health/Conservation Agent shall serve as staff liaisons. The Committee will work closely with Truro's members of the Provincetown Water Board and the Cape Cod National Seashore as needed.

## **Water Resources Oversight Committee**

The Committee shall have two primary charges: Drinking Water Management and Wastewater Management.

### **Drinking Water Management**

Two delivery systems serve this outermost Cape; private wells and the Provincetown Water System, which also serves Beach Point and other North Truro areas, and originates within the Pamet Lens. Truro, along with Provincetown are working to address the two major challenges faced by the public water system; a) protection of the resource and b) identification of further water supplies. Truro continues to face an immediate need to identify potential well sites and/or other water sources. These problems might be addressed, and remedies found, by Truro and Provincetown together, by either town alone, or as a step in the development of a regional water system. Expanding use plus the burgeoning problem of contamination indicated that one of the Town's future capital investment priorities must be the development of a new well field and pipe line.

The Water Resources Committee will address and coordinate relevant information relating to the following principal issues:

- Truro must continue its work with the Provincetown Water and Sewer Board.
- Truro must continue discussions with the National Park Service concerning long-term use of the North Truro Air Force Base wells.

- Truro should enter into discussions with Provincetown, Wellfleet and the National Seashore on the feasibility of an independent regional water district.

**Drinking Water Management Charge:**

- To periodically review the overall quality and quantity of Cape Cod groundwater to ensure a sustainable supply of high quality, untreated drinking water.
- To review efforts to protect the Pamet and Chequesset Lenses.
- To identify and protect future water supplies.
- To work with adjacent communities, the National Seashore, and other Federal, State, and Regional agencies to protect existing and future water supplies.
- To monitor for compliance the Provincetown-Truro Intermunicipal Agreement currently in effect.

**Wastewater Management**

Comprehensive Wastewater Management Planning (CWMP) is mandated under the Federal Clean Water Act of 1978. CWMP utilizes a scientific and logical planning process to meet the town's long term wastewater needs through a projected time-frame (10, 15, 20 years, etc.) Some of the needs that are addressed in a CWMP include:

- Nitrogen issues that are degrading the water quality of the harbor, estuaries, Cape Cod Bay and the Atlantic Ocean, along the shore and impacting fishing, shellfishing, recreation, and tourism;
- Protect the good drinking water quality that exists with the Town of Truro;
- Preserve the valuable fresh water pond resources in Truro;
- Provide future utilities for the Town to implement smart development;
- Meet acceptable wastewater management practices either through continued use of onsite Title 5 subsurface disposal systems, an offsite treatment and disposal or other nitrogen management practices.
- Increase public awareness of the drinking water management planning process through a series of periodic public meetings and regular updates to the Board of Selectmen.

**Wastewater Management Charge:**

- Compile a working library of all past studies and reports that may have a bearing on wastewater management.
- Investigate the experiences of other communities on Cape Cod and Southeast Massachusetts with regard to wastewater management planning and implementation;
- Determine the types of services required to complete a wastewater management plan, and choose which tasks can be completed by Town staff and what services must be obtained from a professional consultant (needs analysis);
- Develop and expedite a Request for Proposals to obtain the services of a qualified professional wastewater management planning firm;

Water Resources Oversight Committee Charge

- Assessment of existing regulations and their impacts on groundwater, surface water and estuarine water quality;
- Research new and innovative methods of treatment and/or disposal of wastewater that may be appropriate for Truro;
- Provide guidance in working with the consulting firm to complete a needs analysis and develop alternative solutions for each of the sub watershed basins in the community;
- Increase public awareness of the wastewater management planning process through a a series of periodic public meetings and regular updates to the Board of Selectmen.
- Present a final report with implementation recommendations to the Board of Selectmen upon completion of the study.

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Curtis Hartman, Chairman

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Christopher R. Lucy, Vice-Chair

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Jan Worthington, Clerk

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Gary Palmer

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William Golden