

COMPREHENSIVE WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)

June 16, 2005
Town Hall Meeting Room
Main Street, Chatham, Massachusetts - 4:00 pm

PRESENT:

CAC: Fred Jensen, Bob DePatie, Herb Bernard, Burt Segall, Didi Lovett, Phil Christophe,
Chuck Pollard, John Randall, John Payson, and Scott Tappan
CAC members not present: Kevin Mikita, and David MacAdam,
TAG: Bob Duncanson, Judith Giorgio

Others: William Schweizer, Chuck Bartlett, Paul Kelley

Fred Jensen distributed copies of a memorandum to Bob Duncanson regarding the eventual distribution of costs for wastewater management projects.

Item 1: Minutes

Minutes of the April 21, 2005 meeting were approved without corrections.
Minutes of the May 5, 2005 meeting were approved without corrections.

Item 2: Update on Technical Advisory Group's (TAG) plan and schedule for developing wastewater management solutions for Chatham.

Bob Duncanson reported on ongoing activities:

- The Town is working to resolve nitrogen-loading issues related to the Cockle Cove Creek marsh: Water samples are being collected; Coastal Zone Management will be conducting the saltmarsh biota survey in July-August; SMAST will be undertaking the benthic survey/analysis later this summer.
- TAG is preparing information about cost distribution to be presented to the Board of Selectmen.
- DEP has approved the Town's request to re-allocate sewer flows to allow some connections (Existing homes, with and without covenants, adjacent to sewer lines will be able to connect. The work will probably be done in the fall and winter to minimize traffic disruptions.). The additional connections will use approximately 10,000 gallon/day from the allotment previously earmarked for emergencies. Connections will be made to prevent the negative impacts of Title V failures. Bob Duncanson explained that the allocation of 10,000 gallons is based on Title V flow estimates which are high; the actual flow will be less, so we will be well below the 150,000 gallon/day cap.

Fred Jensen asked about estimates for a completion time for the study.

Bob Duncanson responded that a definite date cannot be determined, but he anticipates that a draft of the Cockle Cove saltmarsh study may be ready by the end of the year. Resolution of the

Cockle Cove marsh nitrogen loading issue will allow completion of the CWMP in a timely fashion.

Fred Jensen asked what has happened as a result of the CAC's earlier recommendations to proceed with the plan based on an assumption that no additional nitrogen can be added in Cockle Cove Creek watershed.

Bob Duncanson indicated that the TAG is discussing how to proceed and working with the Town Manager to assess fiscal implications of moving forward prior to a definitive conclusion to the Cockle Cove Creek saltmarsh issue. Further discussions will take place this summer; a letter from the Board of Selectmen and/or Town Manager will be forthcoming.

Bob Duncanson explained that other issues are being addressed:

- Working to add adjacent properties along existing sewer lines
- Preparing estimates of future costs
- Exploring possible plant upgrades/technologies
- Exploring siting of possible plant expansion/upgrades

The plan should be viewed as chapters in a book. Many are being developed at the same time and will be combined into a complete book (plan) when all are completed.

Bob Duncanson expressed concern about making fiscal expenditures for certain aspects of the plan prior to the conclusion of the Cockle Cove Creek saltmarsh study.

Fred Jensen asked about the request to DEP to allow the Town to proceed with work while awaiting a conclusion to the Cockle Cove Creek saltmarsh study. Bob Duncanson indicated that a formal request has not yet been submitted as we are still awaiting responses from DEP on other issues. While DEP generally will only approve **complete** plans, there is some precedent for their allowing work to proceed on a partial-plan basis.

Fred Jensen asked about Sterns & Wheler's recent activities, specifically, the finalization of the four-quarter water data. Bob Duncanson reported that this work has been completed and forwarded to the Cape Cod Commission for inclusion in the modeling work. He added that the new build-out data has also been completed and forwarded to the CCC.

The MEP is currently doing modeling for Pleasant Bay and the Town's water data and build-out data are being included in those model runs. The four-quarters of water use data are from August, 2002 through July, 2003 and is consistent with data from the other towns included in the Pleasant Bay study.

Item 3: Update on the issue of the value that should be used (35 mg/l vs. 26 mg/l) for the septic tank portion of nitrogen loading to the aquifer.

Bob Duncanson reported that he has met recently with Brian Dudley regarding this question. MEP's Chatham report used 35 mg/l as input for septic systems; in Pompanessett, 26.25 mg/l was used. There are questions as to which figure should be used. DEP is trying to determine which value was used in Chatham and which is most appropriate. Brian Dudley has indicated that the review has been completed and results will be made available soon.

Bob Duncanson indicated that internal study of this question has shown that 35 mg/l has been used historically and seems to be a more appropriate figure.

John Payson noted that the results of using these two figures would vary significantly. It is a question he will pose at the upcoming WIC meeting.

Item 4: Update on Board of Health's proposed change to its nitrogen loading regulation to require deed restrictions to use a bedroom as a non-bedroom.

The Board of Health adopted several changes to the nitrogen loading regulation in May, but none dealing with deed restrictions. A county-wide tracking system has been adopted relating to composting and incinerating toilets as well as testing, maintenance and inspection of I/A systems.

Scott Tappan asked about the application of regulations to the North Beach camps. Bob Duncanson responded that most of the camps use composting or incinerating toilets for which regular inspection is not required. There are only a few of these systems, so they are not a major concern.

Item 5: Update on the status of the proposed County Wastewater Collaborative

Bob Duncanson reported that the blue-ribbon panel has made some minor revisions to the proposed ordinance and is also preparing a white paper in response to issues presented during the public information sessions.

The proposed ordinance will be presented to the Barnstable County Commissioners on July 6 and then presented to the Assembly of Delegates on July 20. The proposed ordinance will then be referred to the Assembly's Government Oversight Committee which will schedule public hearings. It has been proposed that three public hearings be held, one in each region of the Cape, to facilitate attendance. Part of the public hearing process will involve additional public education. A full Assembly vote is anticipated in September or October.

Item 6: Other Business

Cost Allocation Memorandum (distributed prior to the meeting)

Fred Jensen asked if the CAC members would like to have a special meeting to discuss/explore funding and cost-allocation ideas. There was discussion of many of the factors which make this a complicated issue:

- Funding a "dual system" (some sewerage and some IA systems)
- Maintenance and inspection costs for IA systems vs. a large treatment facility
- Uncertainty re. the lifetime of IA systems

Bob Duncanson noted that the TAG is working on this issue and will be presenting its ideas to the Board of Selectmen later this summer. He added that it is difficult to discuss funding in detail until the final treatment solutions are determined.

Generally, treatment facilities are funded through the tax rate while the collection systems are funded through betterments or a percentage share is designated as a betterment cost (i.e., 50/50).

Burt Segall asked about the use/effectiveness of IA systems. Bob Duncanson reminded the committee of the information provided by George Heufelder relative to the Innovative Test Center on Cape Cod. We will be gathering additional updates and reports from the test center to determine the effectiveness of these systems in the local environment.

Our job will be to determine what is needed in Chatham and then to select the appropriate technology with the best cost-benefit for our purposes. Bob Duncanson noted that the technology is changing rapidly and some I/A systems are now being tested that may achieve nitrogen removal to a levels of less than 10 mg/L.

John Payson asked about the system used at Chatham Bars Inn. Bob Duncanson reported that their system is permitted by DEP because of its size and is monitored almost daily.

Item 7: Next Meeting

After brief discussion a tentative meeting date was set for Thursday, August 18 at 4 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 pm.

Recorder: Marie Williams