

COMPREHENSIVE WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT  
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)

August 18, 2005  
Town Hall Meeting Room  
Main Street, Chatham, Massachusetts - 4:00 pm

**PRESENT:**

CAC: Fred Jensen, Bob DePatie, Herb Bernard, Burt Segall, Phil Christophe, Chuck Pollard,  
David MacAdam, John Payson, and Scott Tappan

CAC members not present: Didi Lovett and John Randall

TAG: Bob Duncanson, Judith Georgio and Bill Redfield

Others: Jill McDonald (Summer Residents Advisory Committee), Robert Cooling (Summer  
Residents Advisory Committee), Pat Siewert.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm.

Fred Jensen called for a moment of silence in memory of Kevin Mikita.

**Item 1: Minutes**

Minutes of the June 16, 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 that the Town has approached DEP about moving forward on some aspects of the plan prior to completion of the CWMP. DEP generally does not approve requests based on partial plans, but the Town believes that Chatham is far enough along in some areas to proceed with design. Specifically, if approval can be obtained from DEP, the Town would like to proceed with design work on the treatment plant and the collection system in the Cockle Cove Creek area. However, because such approval is counter to past DEP practice, DEP is proceeding slowly to avoid setting a precedent which could be problematic in other towns.

Bob Duncanson reiterated that we must have DEP approval to proceed and that it is also necessary to insure future funding paths.

Based on a recent conversation with Brian Dudley, Bob Duncanson expects an answer from DEP in the near future.

David MacAdam asked if there was any action that the committee could take that would speed a DEP decision. Bob Duncanson explained that DEP is carefully considering the legal implications of endorsing action based on a partial plan. He also noted that a decrease in DEP personnel has impacted the agency's ability to act swiftly.

Fred Jensen asked about the position of the Board of Selectmen, especially with regard to the letter sent to them in April urging them to proceed with completion of the CWMP. Bob Duncanson said that the TAG has not yet had a formal meeting with the Board of Selectmen to discuss pertinent issues. A meeting scheduled for last week was changed to a later date.

Bert Segal asked if the town would be ready to move when DEP responds, or if there would be a need for more study. Bob Duncanson explained that the town has asked DEP if they are sufficiently confident in the 17% figure posited as a potential increase in TN load in the Cackle Cove Creek watershed to approve a CWMP based on that figure.

Phil Christophe asked about the nitrogen level used in the modeling: 35 or 26 mg/L. Bob Duncanson explained that a figure of 35 was used in Chatham; 26 was used in Pomponesett. DEP is studying this question and has not yet determined which figure is most appropriate.

Fred Jensen asked about the status of the hydrodynamic studies being done for Stage Harbor. Bob Duncanson said that the town has provided water date and build-out data, but the models have not yet been run. We do not have control over when the work is done.

David MacAdam asked about the parts of the study that have been completed and whether that information is available. Bob Duncanson stated that much of the work is in the earlier MEP report and in the draft TMDL report. The early drafts of the Phase 400 report done by Stearns & Wheler also contained much of the information gathered to date. He added that once all of the pieces are available, the actual compilation of the report will be fairly straightforward, involving technical/engineering writing.

David MacAdam asked about future scheduling of activities. Bob Duncanson said that there is no point in re-working the schedules/timelines as there are too many potential delays from other agencies (i.e., DEP, S Mast, Coastal Zone Management).

Fred Jensen expressed concern about delays as costs continue to increase over time.

**Item 3: Progress report on the study of Cackle Cove Creek's salt marsh's ability to accept greater nitrogen loading without adverse effects to the marsh.**

Bob Duncanson reported that the Town is still awaiting word from DEP regarding nitrogen loading in the Cackle Cove Creek area. Water samples have been collected twice weekly.

Burt Segal asked who would be writing the report. Bob Duncanson said it was a joint effort involving staff from multiple agencies: Coastal Zone Management, S Mast and DEP.

Burt Segal asked if the town received approval from DEP to proceed with design, would we proceed prior to having results from the cackle Cove Creek study. Bob Duncanson said this would be a policy decision to be made by the Board of Selectmen. Such a decision would likely be based on DEP's level of assurance with the 17% figure.

There was brief discussion about how to proceed with planning. Bill Redfield explained that we would likely begin by designing greater capacity for the treatment facility using a modular approach so that the plant could be expanded in phases.

It was noted that the total capacity for sewerage the entire town at build-out would be 1.8 million gallons per day. This figure is based on Title V figures and a standard of 55 gallons per day per person usage and a maximum summer population of 30,000.

Bob Cooling asked if we were assuming 24-hour operation of the treatment plant. Bill Redfield responded affirmatively.

Fred Jensen asked about the need for an RFP if DEP gives approval for the town to proceed with design on a segmented basis. Bob Duncanson explained that that decision has not yet been made. There are pros and cons to bringing in new consultants or using existing consultants who are up-to-date with the project. He noted that the TAG has discussed having the concept plan done by Stearns & Wheeler and the engineering plan done through the RFP/bidding process.

**Item 4: Update on the status of TAG's estimates of future costs of plan implementation and how these costs might be distributed among Chatham's property owners.**

Bob Duncanson reported that he has been working with the Town Manager and the finance Director to analyze various fiscal scenarios. Betterments are generally calculated based on lot frontage, however, there needs to be relief for corner lots and adjustments for panhandle lots. The amount to be carried by the town vs. betterments from property owners is being studied. The final decision will require Town Meeting approval.

**Item 5: Update on the status of the proposed county wastewater collaborative.**

Bob Duncanson reported that the proposal was presented to the Assembly of Delegates on July 20. Public hearings have not yet been scheduled. It is likely that there will be three public hearings, one in each area of the Cape. Hearings will likely be held in September.

**Item 7: Other Business**

***Committee Co-Vice Chairmen:*** Fred Jensen noted that Phil Christophe has been serving as Co-Vice Chair along with Kevin Mikita. Bob DePatie was nominated and unanimously elected to fill the vacancy resulting from Kevin's passing.

***Summer Residents Steering Committee:*** It was noted that this group met last Friday and has expressed the opinion that it favors the sewerage of the entire town. They have submitted a position paper which will be attached to these minutes and which is on the town's website.

***Lover's Lake/Stillwater Pond:*** Bob Duncanson reported that the RFP process is ongoing to hire a consultant to do that work.

***Pleasant Bay/Atlantic Water Samples:*** Bob Duncanson reported that the sampling station for Atlantic Ocean background has been moved due to logistic considerations. The sampling is now done inside Chatham Harbor on flood tides. This data will be made available to the Pleasant Bay study.

**Item 7: Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 22 at 4 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Recorder: Marie Williams