

COMPREHENSIVE WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)

September 22, 2005
Town Hall Meeting Room
Main Street, Chatham, Massachusetts - 4:00 pm

PRESENT:

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

CAC members not present: Chuck Pollard

TAG: Bob Duncanson and Bill Redfield

Others: Jean Young, Chuck Bartlett

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

Fred Jensen reported that public hearings regarding the proposed Cape Cod Wastewater Collaborative were scheduled for 7 pm on October 5 (Wellfleet Library) and October 19 (Mashpee Senior Center). He noted that the meeting held on September 21 had been poorly attended.

Item 1: Minutes

Minutes of the August 18, 2005 meeting were approved with several typographical corrections (*date* changed to *data* and *actually* changed to *actual*) on page 2 and the addition of the phrase “annual average” on page 3 to clarify the discussion of treatment facility capacity for sewerage the entire town, i.e., 1.8 million gallons per day *annual average*.

Item 2: Discussion of Town correspondence regarding options for developing wastewater management solutions: Bill Hinchey’s memo of August 19, 2005 to the Board of Selectmen and DEP’s letter of August 26, 2005 to Bob Duncanson.

Chairman Jensen asked for comments from the committee.

Phil Christophe stated that Bill Hinchey’s memorandum seemed to be appropriate and comprehensive and it provided a framework for further discussion.

John Payson asked if the figure of 1.8 million gallons per day included all town properties, even those on wells. Bob Duncanson indicated that Sterns and Wheler had developed the figure and that it does include all properties and coincides with the projected 30,000 summer population projected use of 55 gallons per day per person.

Burt Segall noted that DEP’s response to our request would allow some design work to be done prior to completion of the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP) but advised caution in expending money for design work prior to completion of the CWMP.

Fred Jensen noted that there are still unresolved issues that the TAG would like to have resolved/completed:

1. Cockle Cove Creek marsh study
2. MEP's Pleasant Bay water-quality study
3. Re-run of the water quality model using full four-quarter water data and updated build-out analysis.
4. Resolution of the TN septic system value to be used (35 vs. 26.25 mg/L) in the water quality model.

Once these issues are resolved/completed, completion of the CWMP can move forward. Bob Duncanson reported that DEP indicated that the Cockle Cove Creek study should be completed in October; the Pleasant Bay MEP study is still on schedule and a draft report is due to be delivered to DEP by 12/31/05.

Fred Jensen noted that constructions costs are increasing by approximately 3% annually, and encouraged quick action whenever possible. Burt Segall added that more important savings can be achieved through careful engineering planning with regard to the plant configuration and the timing of implementation.

David MacAdam introduced the following motion:

The CAC supports Bill Hinchey's wastewater plan as set forth in his letter to the Board of Selectmen of August 19, 2005, providing that it includes, second after "Design a 1.8 million gallon/day treatment plant," in its implementation timetable, "Completion of the CWMP as soon as unresolved issues are settled.

Discussion:

Burt Segall asked about the feasibility of expanding the plant at the treatment present location. Bob Duncanson explained that there is adequate space at the present location for expansion of the treatment plant and reminded the committee of the difference between the treatment functions and the dispersal functions. Ideally, both treatment and dispersal are handled at the same location but that is not always possible. He added that the TAG and S&W have been investigating other dispersal locations. Pending completion of the Cockle Cove Creek marsh study the full capacity of the existing dispersal site is unknown.

Design/construction of a new facility will most likely require a minimum of 36 months from the availability of funds. Expansion of the collection system could be done simultaneously with work on the treatment plant and completion of the CWMP. However, new connections to an expanded collection system must await DEP approval based on treatment plant performance

Bob Duncanson noted that it will likely be a number of years (5-10) before additional dispersal capacity is needed as our current filter beds were designed for 440,000 gallons per day. The potential delay in the need for additional dispersal capacity is due to the lag time in bringing new connections online following treatment plant and collection system expansion.

Fred Jensen expressed concern that the nitrogen loading issue in the Cockle Cove Creek area will not allow for an increase from the existing 100,000 gallons per day to the projected 1.8 million

gallons per day (annual average). The TN load from that increase will far exceed the anticipated 17% TN increase proposed by DEP last spring. Bob Duncanson noted that one way to achieve maximum dispersal capacity in the Cackle Cove Creek area is to increase the level of treatment. Town staff and S&W are evaluating treatment processes that achieve 3 mg/L TN levels. He again reminded the Committee that increased dispersal needs will be occurring over a period of years so there is time to look at alternative disposal sites as needed.

Dave MacAdam redirected discussion to the motion at hand, stating that the point of the motion is to endorse the proposal made by Bill Hinchey while still requiring completion of the CWMP.

Burt Segall noted that the CAC has not been involved in the search for alternative dispersal sites. Bob Duncanson indicated that the analysis of alternative dispersal sites is still ongoing and a function of work by S&W and TAG.

In response to questions Bob Duncanson explained that Bill Hinchey, in response to the Board of Selectmen, was preparing a "worst-case" fiscal analysis scenario using the assumption of sewerage the entire town. He indicated that this is not being done as a substitute for completing the CWMP but for the purposes of long-term financial planning. The information will be presented to the Board of Selectmen on Tuesday, October 4, 2005.

Bill Redfield explained that the expansion of the treatment plant will likely occur in stages, increasing capacity through time. He also stated that the new facility will utilize parts of the existing plant, for example, re-using existing tanks as an aerated sludge digester. New treatment trains will be added. The result will be a blending of old and new. He also indicated that a new facility will be designed to handle the peak demands of summer.

Bob Duncanson explained that the money already appropriated at the Town Meeting in May, 2005 was for a conceptual design; money to be requested at the Town Meeting in May, 2006 (\$2.1 million) will be for detailed design of the treatment plant and for Phase 1 of the collection system.

The memo from Bill Hinchey presents steps to begin the implementation process while still working to complete the CWMP. The unresolved issues will be settled later, but we can start now on some areas of implementation.

The motion passed unanimously.

John Payson asked about the boundaries on the map that had been enclosed with Committee materials. Bob Duncanson explained that the boundaries were not drawn with great detail but rather indicate general areas according to anticipated priorities for the fiscal analysis.

Item 3: Updates on Work in Progress

1. Cackle Cove Creek salt marsh study

Bob Duncanson reported that DEP has indicated that the study should be completed in October.

2. MEP's study of Pleasant Bay

Bob Duncanson reported that DEP has indicated that the draft report is to be delivered to DEP by December 31, 2005. This means that the draft report should get to the Town in January or early February depending on the level of DEP comment and revisions. There is a public forum scheduled to review the status and initial conclusions of the Pleasant Bay MEP study on Thursday, October 13, 2005 at 7 pm at the Harwich Community Center.

3. Septic system nitrogen loading value (35 mg/L vs. 26.25 mg/L).

Bob Duncanson reported that DEP has not yet resolved this issue but an answer is expected in the next 4 to 6 weeks.

4. Re-runs of MEP's water-quality model using Chatham's 2002/2003 water-use data and TAG's new build-out analysis.

Bob Duncanson reported that he has spoken with Ed Eichner at the Cape Cod Commission and there are no apparent issues with the new data provided by the Town in May. He noted that resolution of the 35 vs. 25 mg/l septic system load issue should be resolved prior to re-runs. These water quality model runs are outside the DEP MEP effort, as a result correspondence has been sent to Dr. Brain Howes (SMAST) regarding the status/schedule of this work.

5. Plans to improve the water quality of Stillwater Pond and Lovers Lake.

Bob Duncanson reported that an RFP is being prepared to hire a consultant for this work. The RFP should be completed in the next few weeks.

Fred Jensen asked if this work would be completed this fall. Bob Duncanson said that most of the work needed involves analysis of sediments, so it may be done this fall. The concern is for the concentration of phosphorus both from recycling within the ponds and from incoming loads.

Fred Jensen asked if remediation would likely occur next summer. Bob Duncanson indicated that permitting is difficult and the presence of a herring run will raise the level of concern, so permitting agencies will likely proceed cautiously.

Item 4: Other Business

Phil Christophe asked if the CAC could receive some financial updates as has been done in the past. Bob Duncanson agreed to provide financial information at the next meeting.

David MacAdam asked about the status of the \$350,000 approved at last Town Meeting. Bob Duncanson reported that these funds are still available.

Fred Jensen informed the committee that a new Environmental Technician has been added to the Town staff: Shannon Cook.

Fred Jensen requested clarification of the September 19th memo from the Town Manager to the BOS regarding CWMP communication (cc'd to the CAC). Bob Duncanson indicated that the TAG and S&W will be instituting a regular monthly update report to the Board of Selectmen regarding wastewater activities. He will be attending the first meeting of every month to provide updates. He again encouraged committee members to attend the October 4 BOS meeting.

Item 5: Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 20 at 4 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 pm.

Recorder: Marie Williams