

COMPREHENSIVE WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)

April 24, 2008 –4:00 pm
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Town Offices, Chatham, Massachusetts

PRESENT:

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

CAC members not present: Didi Lovett, Chuck Pollard, John Raye

TAG: Bob Duncanson

Others Present: Al Havens, Chuck Bartlett

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 pm.

Item 1: Minutes

Minutes of the November 28, 2007 meeting were approved as submitted.

Minutes of the December 7, 2007 meeting were approved as submitted.

Item 2: Status of the Draft Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan/Environmental Impact Report (DCWMP/DEIR)

Bob Duncanson distributed a chart of timelines for the review process and provided the following information about the plan:

- Sterns & Wheler has incorporated CAC comments into the Draft Plan as reviewed with the CAC in the fall.
- The Draft of the Plan is currently in production and should be at the printers tomorrow.
- The draft should be submitted to MEPA by April 30, 2008.
- The 30-day review period/public comment period will begin when notice of the submission to MEPA is published in the *Environmental Monitor*, expected on May 7, 2008.
- A hearing has been tentatively scheduled for May 22, 2008. This date has not yet been confirmed by the Cape Cod Commission (CCC); this will be a joint review meeting (MEPA and CCC).
- Two regulatory processes will be occurring simultaneously: MEPA and CCC. The CCC is involved because the plan includes an environmental impact report which automatically triggers a "Development of Regional Impact" review
- Following the public comment period, the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs will rule on the adequacy of the DCWMP/DEIR in meeting MEPA requirements and identify comments received that need to be addressed. This ruling will then generate responses by Sterns & Wheler, the TAG, and the CAC.

- The Final CWMP/FEIR is expected by early fall. Following publication of the notice of the FCWMP/FEIR in the *Environmental Monitor*, there is another period of public comment.
- It is expected that the Secretary could sign off on the FCWMP/FEIR by late November or early December.
- Timelines could change depending on the level of public comment and the level of effort necessary to address comments.

David MacAdam asked about the role of the CAC in this process. Bob Duncanson explained that the CAC can make comments during the public comment period and can also express support for the plan.

Copies of the plan will be distributed to all CAC members. Volumes 1 and 2 will be hard copies; all appendices are being copied onto CDs.

Fred Jensen asked about the procedure at the public hearing. Bob Duncanson explained that the CCC's Subcommittee will chair the hearing. There will likely be an opening statement and introductions handled by the Board of Selectmen, Bill Hinchey or Bob Duncanson. Sterns & Wheler will then provide an overview of the plan to be followed by public comments.

The plan will be available at the library and on the Town's website. Bob Duncanson also noted that anyone can request a copy of the plan under MEPA regulations.

John Payson asked about the status of the revised TMDL report. Bob Duncanson indicated that DEP is still working on the revisions and there is no timeline for finalization.

David MacAdam asked how earlier comments from the CAC are being handled. Bob Duncanson said that they had been incorporated into the DCWMP/DEIR as reviewed with the CAC last fall and would not be addressed in a separate document (which had already been provided last fall).

Burt Segall suggested that the CAC should prepare a formal statement to be read at the public hearing regarding its support of the plan and the reasons for support. It was generally agreed that this was a good idea and members were requested to prepare individual statements which would be discussed and combined into a single statement at the next meeting.

Item 3: Discussion regarding the Regina Villa and Sterns & Wheler proposals re. Public Information

Bob Duncanson distributed a memo dated January 18, 2008 outlining proposed PR activities which included the following:

- A flyer to be mailed to every household next week (already reviewed by the CAC).
- An informational project display to be exhibited at Town Hall, the library, and at the High School at Town Meeting.
- Additional fact sheets on subjects such as (1) finances and (2) timelines of the public hearing process and of the project.

- Media outreach proposals

David MacAdam suggested that financial information relative to individual homeowner costs be included in the financial flyer.

Burt Segall suggested that it would be important to provide a rationale about how priorities were being set regarding the sequencing of the project.

Item 4: Summer Residents' Advisory Committee Letter – Don Edge

There was discussion about the letter sent by Don Edge on behalf of the Summer Residents' Advisory Committee advocating acceleration of the wastewater management project and water reuse. Bob Duncanson indicated that the Board of Selectmen, TAG, and CAC had discussed the schedule issue about a year ago and had determined that spreading the costs of the sewer project over a 20-year period was the best fiscal approach. There had also been discussion of the impact of construction on tourism during the summer months and it had been decided that summer construction would not occur as it would be too disruptive. Both the TAG and Board of Selectmen had felt that an 8- to 10-year construction period was too short and was not financially feasible. This information, as well as information on the reuse topic, has been provided to the SRAC.

Bob Duncanson agreed to provide a more detailed explanation of this decision-making process to Fred for transmittal to the SRAC.

John Randall also suggested that there may be unknown benefits from a longer construction period in that technological advances may benefit the project.

Item 5: Update of ENSR's report re. Lover's Lake and Stillwater Pond.

Bob Duncanson reported that ENSR has completed its work and he provided an Executive Summary of the Draft project report. The entire Draft report is on the Town's website.

ENSR examined alternatives (dredging, aeration, circulation, nutrient inactivation [alum treatment]) and determined that the alum treatment was the best alternative. They recommended treating Lovers Lake first and waiting several years to treat Stillwater Pond, as necessary.

Funding for treating Lovers Lake is estimated to be \$125,000 (median). The proposed FY09 Town budget includes \$100,000 for the project. Bob Duncanson also noted that grant funding will be sought for the project. He also reported that some property owners near Stillwater Pond have introduced a petition article to seek \$105,000 to be able to treat both ponds at the same time. This will be discussed at the meeting of the Board of Selectmen on Tuesday, April 29, but will remain on the Town Warrant regardless of the outcome of that discussion as it is a petition article.

Bob Duncanson added that the ENSR report was, in his opinion, an excellent report backed by good science.

~~Burt Segall questioned the value of alum treatment and suggested looking into other possible methods of improving water quality in these ponds.~~

Fred Jensen said that Dave Mitchell had cited successes from alum treatment in other Cape Cod ponds. Bob Duncanson noted that alum was used on Long Pond in Harwich last year. He also explained that these are kettle ponds that do not benefit from stream-based circulation for flushing, and that other methods explored to improve water quality involve mechanical techniques which must be continually operated/maintained. The one-time alum treatment is expected to benefit the water quality for 15 to 20 years.

Permits will be needed, so the process will automatically be further “vetted” during the permitting process.

If permits can be obtained, it is hoped to proceed with Lovers Lake in the Fall.

Item 6: Other Business

There was brief discussion of the Town’s efforts to amend the existing order. Bob Duncanson noted that the treatment plant has the capacity to handle larger volumes and that the issued of groundwater impacts has been resolved. DEP has been asked to review the current cap of 150,000 gals/day annual average. DEP and the Town are still reviewing/discussing the request.

Item 7: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, May 15, at 4:00 p.m

Notes by
Marie Williams