

COMPREHENSIVE WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)

July 31, 2008 – 4:00 pm
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Town Offices, Chatham, Massachusetts

PRESENT:

CAC: Phil Christophe, Fred Jensen, John Randall, Burt Segall, John Payson, Didi Lovett

CAC members not present: Bob DePatie, David MacAdam, Chuck Pollard, John Raye, and Scott Tappan

TAG: Bob Duncanson, Bill Redfield, Nate Weeks (Stearns & Wheler)

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm.
Members introduced themselves to the television audience.

Item 1: Minutes

Minutes of the May 15, 2008 meeting were approved without corrections.

Item 2: Discussion of comments re. the Draft Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (DCWMP)

Fred Jensen asked Bob Duncanson to provide a brief overview of comments and responses regarding the DCWMP. Bob Duncanson stated that all comments will receive responses but indicated that most were not of great substance. Mentioned in his comments were the following:

- **Neighboring Communities** – there will be more detailed explanation of how Chatham plans to work with neighboring communities such as Harwich.
- **Disinfectant of effluent** – DEP commented that disinfection would be required due to effluent recharge within a Zone II in accordance with the reuse guidelines. The Cape Cod Commission supported the Town's position that disinfection is not needed based on a variety of factors. The Town, Stearns & Wheler, DEP and Commission staff to review this issue in more detail. The Town will be proposing several alternatives to obviate the need, and costs, for disinfection.
- **Modeling re. Taylor's Pond** – The Town will be double-checking the modeling done relative to Taylor's Pond. This will be included in our response to the Secretary's comments.
- **Adaptive Management** – More detailed information will be provided explaining the uses and advantages of adaptive management.

- **Muddy Creek restoration** – The Pleasant Bay Alliance has a Resource Assessment currently underway. This information will serve as a basis for determining the viability of the proposed dike restoration.
- **Mitigation** – Proposed actions to mitigate any negative impacts caused by the work required to achieve the plan will be included in the plan, i.e., the requirement that large equipment use low-sulfur diesel fuel.

John Payson asked if the questions about Muddy Creek will be resolved before the final plan is approved. Bob Duncanson indicated that the Resource Assessment should be received in October. A final determination on restoration of the dike will probably not be finalized until after the completion of the FCWMP/FEIR, this is a good example of adaptive management.

Fred Jensen asked about the request for detailed implementation information. Bob Duncanson indicated that we continue to try to be as generic as possible in our planning in order to allow greater flexibility in the implementation stages. Phase 1 is for a 20-year period during which the Town is committing to spend \$15-20 million every two years for collection system construction. Bob Duncanson said that Nate Weeks has had additional discussions with DEP to ensure that they understand our commitment to this project as articulated in the DCWMP/DEIR.

Burt Segal suggested that when providing more detail about Adaptive Management, the Town should ensure that there is an understanding that if TMDLs are met prior to completion of the project, that the Town could save money by not proceeding with additional construction. The Town should have the flexibility to discontinuing sewerage if TMDLs are met.

John Payson questioned the impact of inflation on the numbers used in the report. Bob Duncanson indicated that the report is based on 2007 dollars. In brief discussion about the impossibility of predicting inflation rates and costs, Nate Weeks stated that we have all concluded that expenses will increase, therefore it is important to proceed with the project as soon as possible.

John Payson asked about probable dates for the beginning of construction. Bob Duncanson indicated that construction of the WWTF should begin within three years, adding that much depends on how long the design/approval work takes. It is expected that design/construction work on the collection system will occur concurrently to speed up connection times.

There was brief discussion about possible benefits from being able to serve neighboring towns with any excess capacity available in our expanded treatment plant. This could provide important additional revenue to the town.

Bob Duncanson stated that we expect to have completed the responses to the Secretary's comments by late September or early October. It is hoped that we will have a Final CWMP/FEIR to submit later this fall.

Item 3: Updates on other project activities

Summer Residents Annual Meeting – Bob Duncanson will make a presentation on the DCWMP/DEIR at the upcoming meeting (Tuesday, August 5, 2008).

Lovers Lake and Stillwater Pond – The final report from the consultant is due next week. There were no comments at the public meeting so the final report will have few changes from the draft. The report will be available at the Library and on the town website. A 319 Program grant request has been submitted to the state. It passed initial review and a final decision is expected on/around August 1. If the project remains on the state's list for funding it then goes to EPA for final approval in early September. The permitting process is being initiated with a Notice of Intent being filed with the conservation Commission. The Commission has scheduled a public hearing for Thursday, September 18th at 11:00 am at the Annex. It is most likely that the treatment will occur in the fall of 2009. This is primarily due to the fact that treatment is weather dependent and also considering the need to minimize impact on the herring run during the spring months.

Cape Cod Water Protection Collaborative – Bob Duncanson reported that Senator Rob O'Leary has introduced legislation which earmarks a percentage of the State Revolving Fund (SRF) for Cape Cod, would lower the SRF interest rate from 2 to 0% for communities addressing nutrient issues, makes "checker-boarding" easier, etc. The legislation must be passed by the Legislature by midnight today or it will need to be re-filed next year. The governor then has 10 days to sign the legislation. If this occurs, the money could be made available at a zero-percent interest rate, providing important savings for upcoming wastewater projects. Chatham is well positioned to take advantage of this cost-saving legislation.

Muddy Creek – The Resource Assessment is underway.

Fertilizer Management – The Collaborative is working with a consultant to develop updated information about the impact of fertilizer leaching on Cape Cod. The MEP currently estimates that 20% of fertilizers find their way into the ground water.

Public Education – Bob Duncanson is working on the public education committee of the Cape Cod Wastewater Collaborative to provide more information about wastewater issues and solutions.

Public Information Activities

Bob Duncanson indicated that financial information is being updated for a presentation to the Board of Selectmen in the fall.

Fred Jensen asked if there will be additional public hearings. Bob Duncanson said there would be more public hearings and comment periods upon submittal of the Final CWMP/FEIR. These reviews would be done concurrently for the Cape Cod Commission and MEPA as done on the Draft.

There will likely be two additional brochures mailed to the public highlighting changes in the plan and explaining fiscal issues.

Fred Jensen asked about receipt of revised TMDLs for the south embayments. Bob Duncanson stated that these have been received from DEP for internal review but indicated that they do not impact on our planning.

Item 4: Other Business

Chuck Bartlett invited the committee to attend the upcoming annual meeting of Friends of Chatham Waterways to be held on August 11 at 7 pm at the Eldredge Public Library.

A letter has been received from Roger Donald of the Barn Hill Village Road Committee. The letter expressed concern about the re-paving of private roads following collection system construction. A responding memo from Bill Hinchey, Town Manager, was distributed. In his memo, Mr. Hinchey indicated that the Town will return all roads to equal or better condition. Bob Duncanson indicated that this was an “implementation” issue and not really the purview of the CAC.

Item 5: Adjournment

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 18 at 4:00 pm.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Notes by
Marie Williams