

COMPREHENSIVE WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)

October 19, 2006 – 4:00 pm
Town Hall Meeting Room - Televised
Main Street, Chatham, Massachusetts

PRESENT:

CAC: Phil Christophe, Bob DePatie, Didi Lovett, Herb Bernard, John Randall, and Scott Tappan

CAC members not present: Fred Jensen, Chuck Pollard, David MacAdam, John Payson, Burt Segall,

TAG: Bob Duncanson, Bill Redfield, Judith Giorgio

Others Present: Al Haven, Chuck Bartlett, Judith Bruce (Pleasant Bay Alliance), Tim Wood (*Cape Cod Chronicle*), Gussie McKusick (Orleans WWMSC), Mike Giggey (Wright-Pierce), Carole Ridley (Pleasant Bay Alliance)

In the absence of Chairman Fred Jensen, the meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Phil Cristophe at 4:00 pm.

Item 1: Stearns & Wheler's and TAG's recommendations for reducing nitrogen loading in the northern area of Chatham

Nate Weeks of Stearns & Wheler narrated a PowerPoint presentation (attached) which focused on the northern portion watersheds of Chatham (primarily the Pleasant Bay watersheds). The presentation reviewed information presented in conjunction with earlier presentations including a review of watershed information, TMDL removal targets, varieties of removal systems (Title V, Individual Nitrogen-Removal Systems, Cluster Systems, Centralized Systems). It was noted that the northern sections of Chatham border on Pleasant Bay so that nitrogen-removal efforts will require the coordination/cooperation of other towns. Nate Weeks noted that the Pleasant Bay Alliance has been meeting regularly to coordinate work being done in that area.

It was also noted that the "break" has increased flushing in Pleasant Bay, thereby reducing nitrogen-removal needs; this situation could reverse itself in the future. The MEP report for Pleasant Bay evaluated a scenario of the flushing returning to "pre-break" conditions and the impact on water quality.

Restoration of the breached dike in Muddy River (aka Monomoy River) was mentioned as a possible means of changing water quality in the upper reach of the river. If restored to create a fresh-water system (which will require extensive permitting activity) it may provide a benefit to the water in the entire system. This is currently being reviewed and models will be run to determine the potential benefits of restoring the dike.

Summary:

- Much of the area needs remediation at or above a 75%-removal level.
- Work is continuing with DEP and USGS regarding recharge of treated wastewater.

- Planning is continuing with consideration for:
 - Low cost
 - Fiscal fairness
 - Minimizing raised systems
 - Inclusion of the industrial parks
 - Prioritizing work

Questions/Answer Session:

Following the presentation, discussion included:

Dike Restoration

- Could proceed relatively quickly if permitting is allowed. Several state agencies have already been contacted regarding permitting issues.
- Scott Tappan asked about concern for phosphate pollution as a trade-off for nitrogen. Nate Weeks explained that this area will not function as a pond but will be a fresh-water wetland and therefore not as likely to be affected by phosphates.
- Consideration regarding possible enlargement of the culvert beneath Route 28 has not been pursued as it is not seen as an optimal way to increase flushing and because the State Highway Department has not indicated a willingness to pursue this option.

Re-use of Treated Water

- In response to Phil Christophe's question, Nate Weeks explained that they have looked at the possible re-use of treated water but feel that the additional treatment, and cost, that would be required does not justify the re-use of treated waters. Re-use of water is more important in areas, such as the desert southwest, where water shortages exist.

Scott Tappan made the following motion:

That the CAC supports Stearns & Wheler's recommendations regarding the northern section of town.

The motion passed unanimously.

Item 2: Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the August 24, 2006 meeting were approved without changes.

Item 3: CAC comments on summer residents' advisory committee's recommendation that all properties in Chatham be connected to the central sewer plant.

It was noted that in addition to recommending that all properties in Chatham be connected to the sewer, the summer residents have also recommended that the entire sewer project be completed in 8 to 10 years as opposed to the 20 to 25 years being discussed. Bill Redfield noted

that this suggested quicker schedule may relate to the “fairness” issue as those who are connected to the sewer initially will have more value than those who wait 20 to 25 years for connection.

Attendance at the Summer Residents meeting was relatively small (compared with the number of total summer residents) and the sewerage endorsement was made by 38 votes while summer residents make up 55 to 65% of the town.

There was discussion regarding the CAC’s need to endorse or reject the summer residents’ recommendations. John Randall expressed the opinion that their recommendations were premature and that the decisions they suggested should not be made yet.

Bob Duncanson suggested that it was appropriate for the CAC to discuss the issues and to provide its own recommendations to the Board of Selectmen.

There was discussion regarding providing additional information/educational materials to the Summer Residents Committee. Bob Duncanson noted that all CAC meetings are now televised and that meeting minutes and other pertinent reports are available on the Town’s website. A newsletter or mailing was suggested to help educate the public regarding these issues.

Item 4: CAC comments on the Town of Falmouth’s Wastewater Facilities Plan of 2001.

There was brief discussion regarding the level of detail to be included in the CWMP. Bob Duncanson noted that there is a difference between the “plan” and preliminary design which contains greater detail about work to be done.

Item 5: Updates on work in progress

- A. **Cockle Cove Creek Salt Marsh Study** – DEP and SMAST have received the Town’s comments regarding the study. No timeline has been provided regarding receipt of the final report.
- B. **Re-runs of MEP’s water-quality models** – Bob Duncanson indicated that he has been talking with Ed Eichner about these model re-runs. The models have been run; the data has shown some differences from previously run models; efforts are being made to analyze the data to determine if the differences are “real” or just reflections of different data sets (i.e., four-quarter water data; corrected errors from previous work). It is hoped that this will be resolved soon.
- C. **RFP for Lovers Lake and Stillwater Pond** – Bob Duncanson reported that a consultant has been selected (ENSR from Westford, MA) and that the project will be conducted in two phases:
 - 1. Evaluating possible solutions (dredging, alum treatment, aeration, circulation enhancement). This phase will be completed next summer.

2. Phase 2 will involve the engineering, design and permitting of the selected method of improving the water quality in these bodies of water. This should be completed by summer, 2008.

The consultant contract for this work is for \$77,688.00.

Item 6: Other Business

The Board of Selectmen will be meeting as Water & Sewer Commissioners on November 7. CAC members were encouraged to attend that meeting.

The next meeting date (November 16) is the date of a conference at the Harwich Community Center entitled *Restoring and Protecting Coastal Waters – Local and Regional Efforts to Implement total Maximum Daily Loads and Opportunities for the Future of Cape Cod*. Bill Hinchey will speak at this conference regarding fiscal planning. Members were encouraged to attend and it was suggested that an alternative meeting date be selected once Fred Jensen returns.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm.

Marie Williams
Recorder