

COMPREHENSIVE WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT  
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)

May 3, 2007 – 4:00 pm  
Town Hall Meeting Room - Televised  
Main Street, Chatham, Massachusetts

**PRESENT:**

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

CAC members not present: Herb Bernard, Didi Lovett, Chuck Pollard John Randall, Scott Tappan

TAG: Bob Duncanson, Bill Redfield

Others Present: Chuck Bartlett, Bill Schweizer, Al Haven

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

Chairman Fred Jensen reported that Herb Bernard has sent a letter of resignation to the Board of Selectmen. Herb was one of the first CAC members, serving since 1996. David MacAdam made the following motion:

*“That the CAC recognize Herb Bernard for his contribution to the work of the Committee and the Town of Chatham, and wish him the best in the future.”*

The motion passed unanimously.

**Item 1: Minutes**

Minutes of the March 1, 2007 meeting were approved without changes.

**Item 2: Discussion of the MEP report of February, 2007 re-evaluating critical nitrogen loading thresholds for Chatham’s southern estuaries and the Muddy Creek scenario.**

Bob Duncanson provided a chart showing the changes from the three reports. He reviewed the chart noting that it is not appropriate to attempt to compare figures from the 2003 and 2006/7 reports as the base data was not the same.

Summary comments included the following:

- As Brian Howes had anticipated, there are no statistically significant differences between the reports.
- Changes in N removal percentages for some north-side embayments (Crows Pond/Ryder’s Cove/Bassing Harbor) are the result of a change in approach. After discussions it was decided to not include some areas as proposed for sewerage due to the significant difficulties/costs related to installation (i.e., Nickerson’s Neck). This resulted in other areas showing increased N removal percentages. This change in philosophy

resulted in changes in N removal percentages which were not directly related to scientific assessment of nitrogen loading but rather implementation.

John Payson asked about build-out figures and questioned the changes. Bob Duncanson explained that the build-out estimates have been refined to include nuances which apply to Chatham, i.e., re-development of existing properties. The change represents an approximate 20% increase in build-out figures over those figures used in previous scenarios.

Bob Duncanson asked that committee members send him any comments or questions regarding the report so he can forward them to SMAST. He would like to send a comment letter by next week.

Bob Duncanson indicated that the TMDL's remain as previously approved by EPA. The nitrogen-removal figures are changing to achieve the TMDL's.

There was brief discussion of the Muddy Creek dike scenario. Bob Duncanson indicated that the Town will begin to pursue this option as it can be done in the short term (once the permitting process is completed). David MacAdam asked about the current trend to increase flushing in such cases, which would need to be done by creating a larger culvert or bridge over the mouth of Muddy Creek at Pleasant Bay. Bob Duncanson indicated that MA Highway has previously indicated no interest in such a project unless a substantial cost/benefit can be shown. He also stated that only the Pleasant Bay end of Muddy Creek is functioning as a salt marsh and the upper portion was formerly a cranberry bog. Phosphorous issues will need to be considered. The permitting process is likely to be arduous.

### **Item 3: Revision of Sewer Use Regulations**

Bill Redfield had provided a memo explaining expected costs and responding to questions raised by David MacAdam in a prior memo. He noted that the Board of Selectmen will be holding a further hearing on this issue soon and are seeking input from the CAC. The TAG is looking at alternatives to lessen the impact of sewer connections to individual property owners.

Discussion included the following:

- Property owners can insist on connecting to the sewer if the line passes their property.
- The Board of Health is charged with responsibility of requiring homeowners to connect if the sewer is available to them.
- The Town is considering making bulk purchases of grinder pumps to lessen the cost to homeowners.
- Temporary easements could be granted to allow the Town to absorb more of the cost of installation.
- Betterment issues are still to be refined.
- Town costs for labor are higher than costs would be for an individual property owner because of the Massachusetts requirement to pay "prevailing wage."
- Homeowners can hire consultants to provide cost estimates for individual properties.
- The current focus is on the design and construction of the expanded treatment facility.

- The collection system will be designed to be as efficient as possible and will likely include few or no areas where lines go deeper than 20 feet as costs increase exponentially with deeper excavations.
- Costs can be shared by hiring one engineer to manage multiple connections.
- Betterments and related issues (i.e., bulk purchases of grinder pumps) will be discussed this summer.

John Payson stated that the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP) should include specific cost figures for homeowners. Bill Redfield indicated that it would be too difficult to calculate estimated costs for each property; an average cost of \$30,000 per property has been estimated. Bob Duncanson added that the CWMP will only include cost estimates within ranges. He reminded the CAC that there is a 20-year implementation schedule so costs will vary depending on that timeline.

Bill Schweizer stated that it is important to get voter support which will be tied to ensuring equity as much as possible. He suggested that the town should pay additional costs for properties that are below grade and require a pumping system.

Fred Jensen suggested that the CAC is not yet ready to make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen; more discussion is warranted.

Bill Redfield noted that some of the Sewer Guidelines are already in use. He suggested that comments could be made on sections of the proposed revisions. Bob Duncanson noted that it will likely be at the May, 2008 Town Meeting when final decisions are presented/made. He suggested that a working sub-committee be formed to work with the Water & Sewer Advisory Committee and staff on reviewing the regulations. Burt Segall and David MacAdam agreed to meet with Bill Redfield, Al Haven and Chuck Bartlett.

#### **Item 4: Sterns & Wheler's proposed schedule for completing the CWMP**

A timeline was included in the meeting packet.

Bob Duncanson reviewed the schedule:

- Draft CWMP/EIR completed in late June or early July.
- TAG and CAC to review and provide comments (3 to 4 weeks).
- Sterns & Wheler to provide Response to Comments; revise document with submittal to MEPA in late September or early October.
- MEPA posting in the *Environmental Monitor* is required, along with a 30-day public comment period. A public hearing will be held during the comment period.
- Secretary of Environmental Affairs - two-week review and issuance of findings.
- S&W to respond to issues raised in Secretaries findings letter; revise report, new information gathered if needed.
- S&W to produce a final CWMP/EIR by the end of 2007.
- MEPA to review the final document (30-day public comment w/hearing)
- Secretary of Environmental Affairs - two weeks to issue final ruling

- Review by Cape Cod Commission; Development of Regional Impact (DRI) process begins, involving public notices and public comment period. A public hearing will be held.
- Final CWMP/EIR to be presented at Town Meeting, 2008.

The CAC will participate in public forums and workshops to provide information and educate the public about the CWMP/EIR. More frequent CAC meetings will be likely during portions of this process.

David MacAdam asked about the earlier vote to combine phase 400 and 500 of the process. Bob Duncanson indicated that both phases are being completed simultaneously. He noted that CAC members will be able to review the draft plan to ensure that all aspects of both phases have been addressed.

**Item 8: Next Meeting: Thursday, June 21, 2007.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 pm.

Marie Williams  
Recorder