

COMPREHENSIVE WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT  
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)

June 21, 2007 – 4:00 pm  
Town Hall Meeting Room - Televised  
Main Street, Chatham, Massachusetts

**PRESENT:**

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

CAC members not present: Bob DePatie, Scott Tappan, and David MacAdam

TAG: Bob Duncanson, Bill Redfield

Others Present: Chuck Bartlett, Al Haven, Dr. John Raye

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

**Item 1: Minutes**

Minutes of the May 3, 2007 meeting were approved with the following change: On page 3, in the first full paragraph, the phrase “including betterments” was added to the second sentence which now reads: “Bill Redfield indicated that it would be too difficult to calculate estimated costs for each property; an average cost of \$30,000 per property, including betterments, has been estimated.”

**Item 2: Presentation by Dr. Brian Howes regarding the implication of the new “Break” on water quality in Pleasant Bay and implications for wastewater planning.**

Dr. Howes provided a power-point presentation entitled Inlet Migration and Water Quality: Pleasant Bay. The new break is 2.2 miles north of the present break by the lighthouse and is 600 feet wide at high tide. He discussed the impact of the 1987 break near the lighthouse. Salient points:

- It is not possible to predict what will happen as the new inlet stabilizes; we can only predict the consequences of various scenarios.
- Tidal flushing can play a role in nitrogen removal.
- The 1987 break increased flushing in Pleasant Bay and thereby improved water quality
- If the new inlet becomes dominant / larger, it could increase tidal flushing, however, the impact/water-quality improvements will not be as dramatic as those created by the 1987 break.
- Despite improvements in water quality in Pleasant Bay, there is still a need for improvement
- The channel is not uniform with some holes and some very shallow spots.
- If the new break becomes dominant we can possibly expect a 10 to 15 percent improvement in water quality in Pleasant Bay. Most of the impact is likely in Orleans terminal ponds.

- The inlet is in a transitional phase and it is not yet possible to predict if there will be any negative impacts such as the loss of homes, navigational hazards, financial impacts, environmental and habitat changes.

(Copies of the PowerPoint slides attached)

**Item 3: Discussion of the CAC Sub-committee's memo of May 23, 2007 recommending actions to help win voter approval of the proposed revision to Chatham's Sewer Use Regulations.**

Fred Jensen reported that he had met with David MacAdam and Burt Segall to review the sewer use regulations and make recommendations.

Burt Segall summarized the draft memorandum/recommendations:

- No changes were suggested for the revised sewer use regulations.
- Consultants and the TAG should develop information to provide homeowners with cost estimates, re. sewer hook-up.
- A worksheet should be developed and made available through the Water and Sewer Department which would enable homeowners to do rough calculations of connection and related costs.

In discussion, Chuck Pollard suggested that it would be best to provide ranges of costs for plumbing work, excavation work, etc.

There was general consensus that the memorandum should be forwarded to the Board of Selectmen.

Bob Duncanson noted that the TAG/S&W have not yet had time to respond to the memo. He noted that there may be cost savings which will become better defined in the future. The Town will be installing major infrastructure as a municipal project and it has not yet been decided how much of the costs will be paid through betterments vs. the tax rate. As the project progresses, the town will be able to explore ways to seek cost savings for homeowners such as: bulk purchasing of items such as grinder pumps, contractor savings by working on multiple streets at a time, including individual house connections as part of the larger collection system contract, etc..

Bill Redfield indicated that the Water and Sewer Department will provide information to the public to assist homeowners in accessing these savings.

Burt Segall indicated that it is important to discuss the cost of hook-up vs. payment of betterments and increased tax rates as the impact of hook-up costs will be immediate and have a major impact on many homeowners.

Bill Redfield asked the committee for an endorsement of the proposed revisions to the Sewer Use Regulations. He noted that the proposed revised Sewer Use Regulations have no financial impact on homeowners and indicated that homeowners will have 1 to 3 years during which to make their connection with the sewer once the lines have been completed. He also suggested

that the CAC try to separate discussions of costs from those on the proposed changes to the Sewer Use Regulations.

There was additional discussion of the need to educate and inform voters about sewer connection costs and general agreement that additional information is helpful.

Fred Jensen noted that the sub-committee had decided **not** to focus on any cost impacts that might result from the revised sewer use regulations but was more concerned with making the homeowners aware of what costs will be involved in both paying for the sewer construction and paying for individual home connections.

Burt Segall made the following motion:

*“That the CAC subcommittee which reviewed the revised Sewer Use Regulations be authorized to amend the May 23, 2007 memorandum to reflect the comments made above, i.e., that the CAC supports the revised Sewer Use Regulations, and encourages the Board of Selectmen to develop programs to educate the public about sewer connection costs.”*

The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Item 4: Stearns & Wheler’s schedule for completing a draft of the CWMP.**

Bob Duncanson reported that a draft report is expected in late July which should keep us on schedule to begin public review process in late September or early October.

John Payson questioned changes in the TMDLs. Bob Duncanson explained that there have been changes in remediation need to meet the TMDLs, but that the TMDLs themselves have not changed to date. John Payson will direct his questions to the DEP contact in Worcester.

#### **Item 5: Updates on Work in Progress**

##### **A. Lover’s Lake/Stillwater Pond eutrophication mitigation project**

Bob Duncanson indicated that the following has been completed to date: 5 dissolved oxygen/temperature profiles, 2 rounds of water column chemistry, and sediment sampling. 4 more DO/temp profiles are expected along with 3 more rounds of water column chemistry. The data received so far is being analyzed by ENSR. He expects a draft assessment report in September or October.

##### **B. Effluent recharge site evaluation**

Bob Duncanson reported that the modeling requested by DEP has been completed using a revision of the USGS model with additional refinements for the Chatham treatment plant site, i.e., clay layer, more wells, etc. The results have supported the use of a 30 gpd/SF

design hydraulic loading rate. A report on the results has been sent to DEP, USGS, and the CCC for review.

C. Cape Cod Water Protection Collaborative

Bob Duncanson noted that the Collaborative met last week and have received a grant of \$38,000 from the Mass. Environmental Trust to study “Smart Growth Planning” initiatives as they relate to sewer expansion Cape Cod. The Collaborative is also working with Senator O’Leary regarding proposed legislative changes to: allow “checkerboarding” in a community that wishes to adopt these measures, earmark a % of the Clean Water State revolving Fund (SRF) to Barnstable County towns; and provide criteria for towns to access the SRF funds at a 0% interest rate rather than the current 2%. The proposed legislation is expected to be filed this summer.

**Item 6: Other Business**

Fred Jensen asked about the results of model re-runs on Bucks Creek. Bob Duncanson indicated that they are not yet available as SMAST is behind schedule.

John Payson asked about several water monitoring stations which have been discontinued: Mitchell River (CM-5A) and Lower Bucks Creek (CM-9). Bob Duncanson affirmed that these monitoring stations have been discontinued.

**Item 7: Next Meeting: Thursday, July 19, 2007.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Marie Williams  
Recorder