

COMPREHENSIVE WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT  
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)

August 16, 2007 – 4:00 pm  
Town Hall Meeting Room - Televised  
Main Street, Chatham, Massachusetts

**PRESENT:**

CAC: Phil Christophe, Fred Jensen, Didi Lovett, David MacAdam, John Randall, John Raye,  
John Payson, and Scott Tappan

CAC members not present: Bob DePatie, Burt Segall, Chuck Pollard

TAG: Bob Duncanson, Bill Redfield, Judith Giorgio

Stearns & Wheler: Nate Weeks, Jeff Gregg

Others Present: Chuck Bartlett (W&S Adv. Cmtt.)

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

Fred Jensen introduced Dr. John Raye, a new CAC member replacing Herb Bernard. He then indicated that this meeting would involve a presentation by Sterns & Wheler of the draft of the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan.

**Item 1: Minutes**

Minutes of the June 21, 2007 meeting were approved with the following change: Delete “out” as part of the word “without” referring to changes in minutes to the previous meeting.

**Item 2: Presentation by Sterns and Wheler – Highlights of the working draft of the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan/Environmental Impact Report/Notice of Project Change.**

Nate Weeks of Sterns and Wheler presented a PowerPoint overview of the plan. He indicated that the plan will be in four volumes with Volume 1 being the text; Volume 2 the figures and tables; and Volumes 3 and 4 the appendices.

The presentation outline was as follows:

- Alternatives Evaluation Summary
  - Watershed evaluations
  - Hydrogeologic and site evaluations
  - Alternative plan formation and evaluation
- Recommended Plan
- Next Steps

The presentation included the following information, much of which had been presented as part of earlier presentations:

- Maps of watersheds with percentages of nitrogen to be removed as suggested by MEP.

- Review of four methodologies for wastewater treatment and typical N removal percentages.
- Findings: the best way to remove the necessary nitrogen is through collection and treatment at an upgraded Chatham WWTF.
- Concerns related to sewer extension include: N removal; low cost; fiscal fairness; minimum raised systems; other Areas of Concern (i.e. industrial areas).
- Map of proposed sewer extensions to meet the TMDLs which will result in an average annual flow of approx. 1.3 million gallons per day. This involves sewerage approximately 2/3 of the town.
- Alternative Recharge Site Evaluations – hydraulic load testing and groundwater modeling demonstrates that the treatment plant site can accommodate an expansion to 1.9 million gallons per day annual average with no adverse impacts.
- Four Plan Options: (1) No Action Alternative; (2) Combination of sewers and I/A technology in selected watersheds; (3) sewer extension to meet nitrogen TMDLs; (4) Town-wide sewer extension. Options 3 and 4 are also the most efficient, cost-effective way to treat other pollutants such as phosphorous and emerging contaminants like endocrine disruptors. It will take 20 years to accomplish Option 3. Option 4 can be seen as a long-term alternative.
- Phase 1 will be the expansion/upgrade of the treatment plant and sewer extensions to meet the TMDLs; Phase 2 will add additional capacity at the treatment plant and complete the town-wide sewer extension.
- It is important to use technology that will work with Chatham's large seasonal fluctuations in population.
- An aerial view of the conceptual treatment plant upgrade/expansion was presented with proposed upgrades: a treatment reactor constructed in concentric rings to provide operational flexibility; post anoxic tanks; secondary clarifiers; tertiary filter. A new operations building was also shown.

Cost Summary:

Phase I:	Treatment plant expansion - \$42 million
Phase II:	Treatment plant expansion - \$13 million
Phase I:	Collection system - \$170 million
Phase II:	Collection system - \$88 million

Plan review information was also provided:

MEPA Review – six weeks; concurrent review with Cape Cod Commission.

Proposed Calendar of Implementation Schedule – Review Process

October 1, 2007 – submit DCWMP/DEIR to MEPA

November 15, 2007 – Receive MEPA comments; and prepares Final CWMP/EIR

March 2008 – submit Final CWMP/EIR to MEPA

May 2008 – Expected MEPA approval

June 2008 – Expected County DRI approval

Implementation Schedule for Recommended Plan:

Phase 1: WWTF upgrade and expansion - design, permitting, bidding - January 2008 – January 2010

Construction – January 2010 through November 2011.

Phase 1: Collection System Expansion – design, funding requests, review, bidding, construction – 2010 through 2030 in multiple phase (contract) approach.

Next Steps:

CAC review of Preliminary DCWMP/DEIR.

CAC questions/comments to TAG/S&W by September 5.

Sterns & Wheler to provide summary memo re. questions and how they were addressed in the final draft.

Submitted of DCWMP/DEIR to MEPA – October 1

MEPA review through November 8, with public comment period and public hearing.

MEPA comments to be delivered on November 15

Sterns & Wheler to address comments and prepare the Final CWMP/EIR for TAG and CAC review

There were several questions regarding scheduling of the review process and the public comment period. Bob Duncanson indicated that most of the material in the draft is not new and he encouraged a quick response by CAC members to enable submission to MEPA by the October 1 deadline (MEPA allows for filing every two weeks). As part of the MEPA process copies will be distributed to multiple local, regional, state, and federal agencies for review and comment to MEPA.

There was discussion of the need for public education and public information presentations. Nate Weeks indicated that if the October 1 deadline is met, there could be public presentations in late October or early November. Bob Duncanson suggested that this be discussed at the next meeting as public education is a primary role of the CAC. MEPA will be holding a formal public hearing during the public comment period but additional information presentations could be planned. He also indicated that a project update flyer is being prepared for town-wide mailing.

It was also noted that the plan, including the Executive Summary, will be available on the town website. Today's S&W PowerPoint presentation will also be placed on the website.

The May, 2008 Town Meeting will likely see a request for funding (between \$1 and 3 million) to address design of the first phase of the collection system.

John Randall asked about potential funding sources for the project. Bob Duncanson indicated that there is financial information in the draft which includes seeking funds from the State Revolving Fund ("SRF"), taxes, betterments, the proposed Real Estate Transfer tax, and the USDA's Rural Development Program. The Town Manager made presentations on funding to the BOS last year. Further funding information is being developed for additional BOS presentations/discussion this fall. Information is also being gathered from those who have

connected to the sewer in recent months to develop “real Chatham” costs involved in permitting, engineering, and construction/hook-up.

John Payson asked about the “unassailability” of the scientific data. Nate Weeks indicated that the science used by the MEP is the most advanced available and has been reviewed at many levels (DEP, EPA). He noted that Dr. Brian Howes at SMAST has applied his good judgment to the project. At this point, it is the best science that is available.

Scott Tappan noted that a vote to fund design of the collection system at Town Meeting will indicate acceptance of the plan. Bob Duncanson agreed and noted that the town will have completed the review process and it is hoped that they will support implementation. Scott Tappan asked if the Town will vote on the plan itself. Bob Duncanson responded that this is a timing issue and that the Town Meeting will need to vote on money for implementation.

Fred Jensen asked about the status of the Bucks Creek/Cockle Cove Creek scenario. Nate Weeks indicated that they are still waiting for that information. Bob Duncanson indicated that Brian Howes has promised the information by August 31<sup>st</sup>.

There was brief discussion regarding how to prepare and submit comments on the Preliminary DCWMP/DEIR. It was agreed that each person would submit questions and comments to Bob Duncanson with copies to others on the CAC, preferably by email. Bob Duncanson asked for those comments by September 5. He added that it will be possible to continue to submit comments and/or questions during the formal review process.

CAC members were reminded not to discuss questions/comments in their emails.

**Item 3: Next Meeting: Thursday, September 20, 2007.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm.

Marie Williams  
Recorder