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INFORMATION FROM THE
CAPE COD COMMISSION
BARNSTABLE COUNTY

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Paul Niedzwiecki, Executive Director
David Still II, Special Projects Coordinator
Cape Cod Commission
508-362-3828

www.capecodcommission.org



CCC LAUNCHES THREE-POINT APPROACH FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN WASTEWATER PLAN UPDATE

BARNSTABLE COUNTY, MA -- In the coming weeks, the Cape Cod Commission will be actively connecting with residents online and in person in support of the regional water quality plan it was directed to update. The Commission has already opened registration for the launch of an interactive, online engagement activity (Cape₂O) on July 22; is scheduling a series of 50 community meetings watershed-by-watershed to begin on July 15; and has established a public-review advisory board to which it will present monthly updates about the Section 208 Area-wide Water Quality Management Plan.

“Section 208 requires significant public outreach during the update process,” Executive Director Paul Niedzwiecki said. “We want to engage as many people in as many ways possible on the way to preparing an implementable plan.”

Cape₂O

As part of an intensive outreach effort in support of the plan update, the Commission partnered with Emerson College's Engagement Game Lab to create two online games on the lab's Community PlanIt platform.

Cape₂O begins July 22, but registration is already live at communityplanit.org/capecod. The game is designed to educate, raise awareness, and gather information from residents in a new and innovative way to reach a broader part of the Cape community on their schedule and their terms.

An additional benefit of the game is the support it will also generate for three local causes: Cape Abilities, Cape Cod Volunteers, and the Boys & Girls Club of Cape Cod. Each nonprofit

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stands to earn funding for project-specific needs should they be among the top causes identified by those who sign up to play the game. For more information, visit capecodcommission.org/game.

Watershed-by-Watershed Community Meetings

As Cape₂O is getting under way, the Commission will kick off the first set of 50 watershed-level meetings in mid July in four geographic regions across Cape Cod:

Outer Cape: July 15, Wellfleet COA, 4-6 p.m.

Upper Cape: July 16, Mashpee Public Library, 4-6 p.m.

Lower Cape: July 17, Chatham Town Hall, 4-6 p.m.

Mid-Cape: July 18, Barnstable Town Hall, 4-6 p.m.

Within these areas, 14 sub-regional watershed groups will work in a more focused process. These groups will meet individually three times over the coming four months. Scheduling of logistical details is ongoing.

Input gathered during these meetings will inform the Commission of the preferred nutrient-reduction solutions at watershed and sub-regional levels. These more-targeted plans will discuss and develop recommendations that will eventually roll into the Cape-wide plan.

208 Plan Advisory Board

Additional public review throughout the planning process will come from a six-member appointed 208 Plan Advisory Board. The board is scheduled to meet the second Tuesday of each month at the Commission offices.

The advisory board members are:

Robert Churchill, Broker-Owner of Buyer Brokers of Cape Cod, Churchill Associates

Robert Lawton, interim Harwich Town Administrator and former Yarmouth Town Administrator

Wendy Northcross, CEO of the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce

Sheila Vanderhoef, Eastham Town Administrator

Virginia Valiela, member of the Falmouth Water Quality Management Committee

Robin Wilkins, former member of the Town of Harwich Board of Selectmen

In January, the Commission was directed to update Cape Cod's 1978 Area-wide Water Quality Management Plan under Section 208 of the federal Clean Water Act. The 208 Plan update is funded by a three-year, \$3-million grant from the Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust.

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For information, visit capecodcommission.org/initiatives/wastewater or follow us on facebook.com/CapeCodCommission

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ABOUT THE CAPE COD COMMISSION:

Cape Cod Commission is the regional land use planning, economic development, and regulatory agency created in 1990 to serve the citizens and 15 towns that comprise Barnstable County, Massachusetts, better known as Cape Cod. The Commission works toward maintaining a healthy balance between economic progress and environmental vitality. "Keeping a special place special" describes the agency's mission to protect the region's unique qualities. The 19-member volunteer Cape Cod Commission board represents a wide spectrum of the community and provides oversight for a staff of 40 professionals. The Commission is responsible for regional planning, policy, and regulations to help manage growth, and the agency supports the Cape's 15 towns with cost-effective planning and technical services. For more information, visit: www.capecodcommission.org