

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – **August 13, 2013**

INFORMATION FROM THE
CAPE COD COMMISSION
BARNSTABLE COUNTY



CAPE COD
COMMISSION

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Seeking Stakeholders

BARNSTABLE COUNTY, MA -- The Cape Cod Commission is seeking residents across the Cape to participate in watershed-level groups to assist in the development of the Section 208 Area-wide Water Quality Management Plan Update for Cape Cod. The Commission is seeking citizens from diverse walks of life, owners of businesses, and members of various civic organizations to come join the effort.

In January, the Commission was directed by the Commonwealth to prepare an update to the 1978 Plan, developed under Section 208 of the federal Clean Water Act. Watershed Working Groups will assist in developing a set of options within each watershed area. The goal is not to find the perfect solution, but to explore and identify a supportable and implementable set of options to improve water quality, meet regulatory requirements, provide efficiencies across towns, where appropriate, and improve the quality of life on the Cape.

We are now convening 11 Watershed Working Groups across the Cape. Each will meet three times between now and December. The first meetings begin in September and will review baseline information on existing conditions and impairments specific to each of the watershed areas. The second meeting will look at potential remediation strategies and where they may be most appropriate. The third meeting is designed to develop a set of watershed-specific options. The watershed plans will then be reviewed and rolled into the Cape-wide 208 Plan update.

An initial set of four regional meetings to introduce the 208 Plan Update process were held in mid-July. Those meetings were also designed to seek volunteers to participate in the Watershed Working Groups and solicit input from the public on the proposed approach and on opportunities and challenges ahead.

Responding to information gathered during the initial four public meetings, all August working group meetings were postponed until September to ensure broad-based participation in the groups. The additional time will allow our facilitation team, the Consensus Building Institute

(CBI) of Cambridge, to ensure the watershed working groups are fully representative of their areas. The first set of stakeholders meetings for the reformulated working groups begin September 18.

Now and in the coming weeks, the CBI Watershed Working Group facilitators will reach out to all who expressed interest in the Working Groups, as well as other active and knowledgeable stakeholders within the watershed areas, to finalize the Working Group participation.

Stakeholder forms can be completed online at <http://watersheds.capecodcommission.org/> by clicking on the "Become a Stakeholder" menu link. The meeting schedule is available at this link as well. Please consider joining this important effort to improve Cape Cod's future.

A second set of regional meetings later this month – Aug. 26 through 29 – focus on financing and affordability. These will set the groundwork for the watershed-level discussions.

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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