



FY2013 Annual Report of the Cape Cod Commission to the Town of Orleans

The Cape Cod Commission is the regional land use planning, economic development, and regulatory agency created in 1990 to serve the citizens and 15 towns of Barnstable County, Massachusetts. The Commission's mission is "to keep this special place special," and the agency strives to achieve technical excellence, environmental protection balanced with economic progress, and regional consensus. The Commission pursued the following **regional priorities** for Fiscal Year 2013 (July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013):

1. Wastewater Management – Related to this priority, this year the Commission prepared an initial Regional Wastewater Management Plan to serve as a framework and a set of tools to help begin identifying several water quality solutions for each watershed across the Cape. The Commission also prepared a guidance document for the agency's regulatory review of local Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plans (CWMPs), conducted a Cape-wide buildout analysis to support local and regional planning, developed the Watershed MVP application for technical experts and municipalities to explore various potential management scenarios, developed a "green infrastructure" siting tool as a companion to the Watershed MVP, and pursued pilot projects to better understand green approaches to treating wastewater and stormwater. In January 2013, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts directed the Cape Cod Commission to prepare an update to the 1978 Area-wide Water Quality Management Plan for Cape Cod, a requirement under Section 208 of the federal Clean Water Act. The Commission subsequently developed a Program Work Plan for the 208 Update and has embarked on that work plan. The work plan has an ambitious set of tasks to complete within three years, the bulk of which is to be completed in FY2014. The Commission and its consultants are tackling the technical analyses, planning, financial, and public participation requirements for the 208 Update simultaneously. Stakeholders are engaged in the program's policy, affordability, financing, planning, and implementation issues, and in watershed- or basin-specific issues, needs



assessments, evaluation of alternatives, and evaluation of costs. The overall goal is to identify the most cost-effective, appropriately scaled and phased solutions on a watershed-by-watershed basis, focusing on the most severely impaired waters and the most easily and affordably implemented solutions while maximizing the use of existing infrastructure.

2. Strategic Information Office – Related to this priority, this year the Commission helped establish a governance committee. The Smarter Government Steering Committee then executed a data-sharing agreement with Cape towns to collaborate on opportunities for digital regionalization and recommend potential regional solutions for services and products that increase governmental efficiency and decrease costs to taxpayers. One example activity is the development of an “ePermitting, Licensing, and Inspection System” that is under development now. When fully implemented, the online system will allow Cape Cod municipalities to issue and monitor permits, licenses, and inspections, with a web-based portal for citizens and contractors. The system uses a common technology infrastructure and software that can be adopted regionally but tailored to each town.

3. Community Design Services – Related to this priority, this year the Commission managed a number of complex planning projects for which the staff provided community design services to Cape municipalities. Design services can focus on land use, streetscape, roadway, development patterns, transportation alternatives such as bicycle and pedestrian amenities, stormwater management, sustainable landscape design, and more. Design services are frequently integrated through Regional Economic Strategy Executive Team (RESET) assistance projects, which offer a multi-faceted, multi-disciplined approach to community and economic development planning.

4. Economic Development – Related to this priority, the Commission continued to pursue the implementation of priority projects that were identified in the Five-year (2009-2014) Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). This year the focus was on wastewater management planning in economic centers; continuation of the SmarterCape Initiative to promote the use of technology infrastructure that helps the region’s economy evolve from service-based to knowledge-based; and initial work on a comprehensive Cape Cod Canal area transportation study, which includes considering major congestion, safety, and community/economic issues associated with the bridges and the rotaries.



5. Regional Consensus – Related to this priority, the Commission coordinated a number of ongoing planning and policy-making endeavors striving to achieve consensus across the region. In addition to the activities mentioned above, the Commission embarked on a consensus-building update to the Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) for the Massachusetts Military Reservation and surrounding communities. The US Department of Defense-funded planning process between the military installation and the communities of Bourne, Falmouth, Mashpee, and Sandwich aims to ensure that future community growth and development is consistent with the military training and operational missions and to help reduce the impacts of military operations on the adjacent land. The Commission also continued to help Cape communities prepare Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plans for FEMA certification and potential future funding.

In addition to the Cape-wide regional services and programs that the Cape Cod Commission pursues each year (the highlights mentioned above), each of the 15 municipalities in Barnstable County receives direct assistance from the Commission that is tailored to that community's specific needs. **Some highlights of Cape Cod Commission activities specific to the Town of Orleans during Fiscal Year 2013 follow.**

PLANNING, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, AND TECHNICAL SERVICES

PLANNING AND TECHNICAL STAFF

- The Commission's community design staff remained involved with the Orleans Village Center Subcommittee in their ongoing work to implement the 2011 Orleans Village Center Streetscape Plan. The staff provided assistance with a cultural designation application and continues to work with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) on furthering components of the streetscape plan.



- The Commission’s planning and technical staff completed a “Living Streets” study of a 1.7-mile segment of the Route 6A corridor between Orleans and Brewster. The study identified planning and design approaches for a retrofit to improve safety, bicycle and pedestrian accommodations, and increase connections between transportation modes, and to enhance stormwater management along 6A between Nickerson State Park and Orleans village center. The Commission held several public meetings and finalized a report with conceptual design plans, standard details, and plant lists in December 2012. (Online: www.capecodcommission.org/departments/planning/design/sustainabledesign/livingstreets_brewsterorleans)

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- With the assistance of \$150,000 in HOME funds from the Barnstable County HOME Consortium (which is coordinated by the Commission’s affordable housing staff specialist), the Preservation of Affordable Housing organization completed the rehabilitation of Rock Harbor Village, a project that preserved 100 units of affordable age-restricted rentals.

TRANSPORTATION

- The Commission’s transportation staff conducted annual summer traffic counts in Orleans, including automatic traffic recorders (ATRs) and turning movement counts (TMCs). Traffic data are available online: www.capecodcommission.org/departments/technicalservices/transportation/counts

Roadway segments and intersections in Orleans included Route 28 north of Route 39, south of Route 6A, and south of Main Street; Route 6 at the Brewster/Orleans town line and west of the Orleans/Eastham Rotary; Route 6A at the Brewster/Orleans town line; Routes 6A/28 east of Route 28; Brewster Cross Road east of Route 6A; Eldredge Parkway east of Route 6A; Lots Hollow Road south of Eldredge Parkway; Main Street west of Route 28, east and west of Route 6A, and east of Locust Road; and Old Colony Way east of Old Tote Road.



WATER RESOURCES

- The Commission's water staff continued to support the town's efforts for comprehensive wastewater management planning. The six-phase CWMP, approved by the Commission as a DRI in Fall 2011, aims to meet nitrogen-loading limits for Pleasant Bay, embayments to Cape Cod Bay, and Nauset Marsh/Town Cove. The CWMP accommodates sewage and sludge handling and proposes five cluster treatment systems. The DRI approval contained several conditions for sharing the town's wastewater facility with the neighboring towns of Brewster and Eastham. Local debate about implementation of the CWMP is ongoing.
- The Commission's water staff conducted the annual Pond and Lake Stewardship (PALS) freshwater ponds water-quality sampling snapshot for Bakers, Bolands, Cedar, Critchett's, Deep, Gould, Ice House, Meadow Bog, Reuben's, Sarah's, Shoal, Twinings, Uncle Harvey's, Uncle Israel's, and Uncle Seth's ponds, and Crystal and Pilgrim lakes.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS)

- The Commission's GIS staff supported the "Living Streets" project as necessary, and provided some analysis and maps to promote discussion at local meetings with concerned citizens and municipal staff.

REGULATORY ACTIVITIES

DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL IMPACT (DRI) MITIGATION FUNDS IN FISCAL YEAR 2013

- The Commission provided \$82,600 toward the John P. Hinckley Jr. affordable housing project.



CAPE COD
COMMISSION

DRI MINOR MODIFICATIONS – TYPE #1

- The Commission's executive director approved several requested minor modifications to the previously approved decision for the Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank Operations Center (TR98019) on 5/6/13.

For more information about the Cape Cod Commission, visit the web site:
www.capecodcommission.org