

10/15/18

Comments on 2018 draft regional policy plan (RPP).

Hi, Kristy, Erin, Tom, Patty and whoever else may have contributed to this draft.

I have spent some time comparing it to the 2009 RPP and I find the 2018 format more easily negotiated and understood. The writing too is clear and compelling. Thank you for the work you have done on it!

I have one concern. Although in 2009 you devoted a separate section specifically to ponds, in this draft, there is no equivalent section. Yes, the Key Challenges section in this draft mentions pond issues, appropriately so. However, pond water quality issues are then generally obscured. In sections where pond problems might reasonably be mentioned and mitigation recommended, they are often not considered.

Some examples:

The stormwater management section considers runoff of nitrogen and phosphorus to coastal embayments but does not mention run off to ponds.

The Regional Performance Measures consider them not at all, nor are there any freshwater pond related Recommended Actions.

Although Freshwater Ponds and Wetlands are distinguished under Cape Cod Systems, page 25, I am wondering if it is possible pond issues, goals and objectives and related performance measures lurk quietly in other sections under the guise of “wetlands”, which I believe they are a subset of. That could be. And if true, I ask that you distinguish them and add the word ponds overtly for several reasons.

The hundreds of citizen scientists who have spent many thousands of hours over 19 years acquiring data on our ponds would likely be quite unhappy to see ponds “disappear”.

Others may wonder what all the fuss about ponds has been if they are not even mentioned in the suggested Recommended Actions. Some may even think the ponds are now healthy!

Last, this is an educational opportunity. If you consider ponds to be wetlands, say so, but do use the word (freshwater) ponds as a subset. Subtlety not needed, and is in fact, counterproductive.

Finally, would you consider using two additional graphics:

One, a schematic or diagram of a watershed. I am convinced people still don't get what they are and why we would do watershed-based planning. Two, a map of priority watersheds.

Thanks again for your work.

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