

MEETING MINUTES
CAPE COD WATER PROTECTION COLLABORATIVE
Governing Board Committee
January 10, 2018

A meeting of the Cape Cod Water Protection Collaborative was held on January 10, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. in the Cape Cod Commission's main conference room, 3225 Main Street, Barnstable, MA.

Members:

Barnstable	Paul Hebert	Present
Bourne	Terri Guarino	Present
Brewster	Ryan Bennett	Present
Chatham	Florence Seldin	Present
Dennis	Wayne Bergeron	Absent
Eastham	Jane Crowley	Present
Falmouth	Ray Jack	Absent
Harwich	Larry Ballantine	Present
Mashpee	Vacant	Absent
Orleans	Sims McGrath	Absent
Provincetown	Vacant	Vacant
Sandwich	Dave Sampson	Absent
Truro	Emily Beebe	Present
Wellfleet	Curt Felix	Present
Yarmouth	Jeffrey Colby	Present
County Appointee	Zenas Crocker	Present
County Appointee	Ron Beaty, Alternate	Absent
Ex-officio member	George Heufelder	Absent
Ex-officio member	Paul Niedzwiecki	Present

Others Present:

<i>Erin Perry</i>	<i>Cape Cod Commission</i>
<i>Tom Cambareri</i>	<i>Cape Cod Commission</i>
<i>Kristy Senatori</i>	<i>Cape Cod Commission</i>
<i>Stephanie Houghton</i>	<i>Cape Cod Commission</i>
<i>Scott Michaud</i>	<i>Cape Cod Commission</i>
<i>Bob Duncanson</i>	<i>Town of Chatham</i>
<i>Scott Horsley</i>	<i>Horsley Whitten</i>
<i>Rachel Jakuba</i>	<i>Buzzards Bay Coalition</i>

Report from Paul Niedzwiecki, Executive Director of the Cape Cod Commission

Monitoring: Discussion and potential vote on establishment of a monitoring subcommittee; and overview of a grant proposal to fund monitoring data analysis and improvements to the regional water quality monitoring database; potential vote to support the proposal, which is intended for submission for a National Estuarine Research Reserve System Science Collaborative grant

Mr. Niedzwiecki reviewed the role of the monitoring subcommittee: to review and discuss existing sampling sites, the data collected by each organization at each site and potential redundancies. The membership includes Jane Crowley, Zenas Crocker, Brian Dudley, Bob Duncanson and a representative from the Association to Preserve Cape Cod, either Andrew Gottlieb or JoAnn Muramoto.

Florence Seldin asked if the County will contribute fund towards the monitoring program. Mr. Niedzwiecki said he did not know but the Collaborative should prepare a request for funds. Curt Felix volunteered to serve on the committee. Jane Crowley asked if members had suggestions for the committees, either from their towns or local organizations. Mr. Felix asked if the Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies was represented. Mr. Niedzwiecki said they are serving in an advisory capacity. Ms. Seldin suggested the committee represent all subregions of the Cape. Erin Perry said Rachel Jakuba from the Buzzards Bay Coalition will serve in an advisory capacity.

Paul Hebert asked if the County lab can do monitoring lab work more efficiently and cost effective than if samples were sent out. Mr. Niedzwiecki said this issue would have to be evaluated by the subcommittee. Larry Ballantine offered to assist the committee in reviewing the County lab.

Ms. Seldin put forth a motion to vote the members of the monitoring subcommittee, seconded by Paul Hebert and unanimously approved.

Ms. Perry provided an update on the grant proposal to fund monitoring data analysis and improvements to the regional water quality monitoring database. The Commission is partnering with WBNERR, WHOI and existing monitoring organizations (Cape Cod National Seashore, Buzzards Bay Coalition, UMASS School for Marine Science and Technology-SMAST). The tasks include: quality assurance/quality control on the database, a collaborative stakeholder process to identify appropriate analysis for decision making and development of a script to analyze data region wide that could be run on a regular basis. The Collaborative is the primary end user of the outputs of the proposal. The proposal will be submitted for National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS) Science Collaborative Catalyst grant or a Southeast New England Program (SNEP) grant. Ms. Perry said a support letter from the Collaborative would be helpful. Larry Ballantine asked that a draft of the letter be sent to members. Ms. Seldin made a motion for the Collaborative send a write a letter of support for the grant application, seconded by Mr. Ballantine and unanimously approved.

Mr. Ballantine asked what the budget process is for the monitoring program. Mr. Niedzwiecki said a request was made to the County in the Cape Cod Commission budget.

Financing: Continued discussion on 208 Plan Update Chapter 6 revenue options

There have been no new developments on the rental tax legislation but staff continue to follow the issue.

Mr. Niedzwiecki informed the board that he is leaving the Commission on February 2, 2018. Erin Perry will staff the Collaborative and Kristy Senatori will serve as Acting Executive Director of the Cape Cod Commission.

Presentation on the Buzzards Bay Coalition Water Quality Monitoring Program by Rachel Jakuba, Science Director for the Buzzards Bay Coalition

Ms. Jakuba said Buzzards Bay Coalition is a non-profit membership organization founded in 1987 dedicated to restoring, protection and sustainable of the Bay and its watershed. A citizen monitoring program, Baywatchers, was established in 1992 to track water quality, long term ecological health and to engage and educate citizens.

The Baywatchers program includes

- 200 monitoring station in 30 harbors and coves
- 80,000 samples of water quality
- 166 volunteers in 2017
- methods approved by US EPA and MassDEP
- A partnership with MBL

Coalition staff train volunteers to collect samples. Basic water quality testing is performed every 5 days between May-September, nutrient and algae samples are collected twice in July and twice in August.

The data is used in the Coalitions advocacy efforts, provide regulator with sound water quality data, illustrate to towns and citizens the decline in water quality and the benefits for reducing nitrogen. The data was used to show the degraded water quality in the Agawam River downstream of the wastewater treatment plant which led to US EPA to adjust the plants permit. The data is also being used to think about future impacts from climate change.

Reports from Governing Board Member Towns and Organizations on Water Resources Issues

- **Town of Chatham** – Florence Seldin: The town is continuing with sewer construction and connections in the Oyster Pond Watershed. Three more contracts will be going out to bid before the summer. There is a draft IMA between the four towns of the Pleasant Bay Alliance for a watershed permit. There is also a draft watershed permit.
- **Town of Yarmouth** – Jeff Colby: Yarmouth continues wastewater partnership discussions with neighboring towns. Responses to the anaerobic digester RFP are due next week.
- **Town of Eastham** – Jane Crowley: The town looking at the Salt Pond sub-watershed and site characterization for a PRB. The town has been in discussions with the Cape Cod National Seashore nutrient reduction goals within the watershed.
- **Town of Wellfleet** – Curt Felix: The Town of Wellfleet is requesting a letter of support from the Collaborative regarding the dredging of Wellfleet Harbor to submit with a request to the federal government for funds.

- **County** – Zenas Crocker: George Heufelder has another innovative septic system. It is a concrete box which uses wood chips, limestone and some aeration. The numbers look very good. It can be used with existing systems.
- **Town of Brewster** – Ryan Bennett: Brewster is hoping to install the septic systems for the town’s pilot septic program. Brewster continues to work closely with Pleasant Bay Alliance watershed permit.
- **Town of Bourne**– Terri Guarino: Bourne has a draft permit for a small-scale treatment plant in downtown Buzzards Bay. The town is collaborating with neighbors on a long-term approach for wastewater management utilizing the existing Wareham treatment plant.
- **Town of Harwich**– Larry Ballantine: Harwich is working with the Yarmouth and Dennis on a watershed permit. Harwich recently voted \$9 million for the design phase of connecting to Chatham. On January 16th details will be presented at a community meeting. This is in preparation for a \$20 million warrant article, for construction of the connection, at town meeting in the spring.

Ms. Perry informed the board that a survey would be sent to the board to determine the best time and date to hold the meetings.

Ms. Perry asked the board members to give their signed copy of the Open Meeting Law certification to a Commission staff member.

MATERIALS USED/PRESENTED AT THE JANUARY 11, 2018 CCWPC MEETING:

Handout materials:

- January 11, 2017 CCWPC Governing Board Meeting Agenda