

# **ENHANCING WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT ON CAPE COD: Planning, Administrative and Legal Tools**

**July 2004**

## **Wastewater Management Solutions by Issue Summary of Chapter 5 Recommendations**

### **5A. Interim Wastewater Management Tools**

1. Start early planning tasks concurrent with MEP studies
2. Begin to identify sites for wastewater facilities
3. Identify N-sensitive watersheds
4. Establish program for escrow accounts
5. Require developers to set aside land
6. Use covenants to acknowledge interim solutions

### **5B. Municipal Involvement in Private Facilities**

1. Mandate cluster system evaluation
2. Require consistent engineering design basis
3. Consider addressing nearby sewer needs
4. Identify growth and redevelopment areas
5. Consider transfer of ownership to town
6. Expand SRF eligibility for town purchase
7. Modify DEP Groundwater Discharge Permit program to reduce costs and promote coordination
8. Establish design & construction standards
9. Oversee operations
10. Modify site assignment policy

### **5C. Coordination among Town Boards**

1. Develop clear long-term responsibilities in CWMP
2. Fine tune interim coordination
3. Establish written policies

### **5D. Multi-town Implementation**

1. Support WIC's regional focus and public education
2. Develop MOUs between towns sharing common watersheds
3. Support the Mass. Estuaries Project
4. Include regional plans in TMDLs
5. Consider DEP's regulatory authority to exert pressure on tardy towns
6. Educate public on regional impacts
7. Consider management districts based on Commission's identification of best opportunities
8. Consider DCPC designations
9. Support Blue Ribbon Panel's evaluation of County-wide entity

**5E. Build-out Projections and Reserve Capacity**

1. Integrate CWMP with Local Comprehensive Plan
2. Consider project phasing
3. Use water use data to judge seasonality
4. Adopt systematic approach to build-out

**5F. Mandatory Sewer Connections and "Checkerboard" Sewer Systems**

1. Amend MGL 83 § 3 to allow checkerboard systems without town-by-town special legislation

**5G. Betterment Assessments for Public Sewer Systems**

1. Mix betterment assessments and property taxes to balance direct and indirect benefits
2. Educate public on income tax issues
3. Consider wastewater management districts and special taxes

**5H. Use of Open Space for Wastewater Facilities**

1. Develop priority ranking of sites considering disturbed sites first
2. Incorporate flexible wording on future land set-asides
3. Pursue selective use of power line easements and road rights of way
4. Promote innovative effluent disposal options

**5I. Affordable Housing Built Under MGL Chapter 40B**

1. Actively plan to accommodate 40B projects
2. Ensure that DEP groundwater discharge permits reflect locally-based limits
3. Establish scientific basis for stringent limits
4. Modify Title 5 to expand N-sensitive areas

**5J. County Oversight of Enhanced Treatment Systems**

1. Provide County service to all towns
2. Expand program to include inspection, monitoring, etc.
3. Implement County budget increase or local license program with fee

**5K. Options for District Formation**

1. Consider benefits in single- and multi-town settings
2. Choose from several mechanisms for district formation
3. Coordinate planning efforts watershed-wide

**5L. Management of Wastewater Treatment Residuals**

1. Educate public on need for regular pumping
2. Mandate pumping of cluster & satellite systems
3. Make formal arrangement with centralized wastewater plants or regional septage facilities
4. Increase grease handling capacity