

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
CAPE COD WATER PROTECTION COLLABORATIVE
Governing Board
December 12, 2019

Summary of Discussion/Action taken: The board heard a summary of the Pleasant Bay Watershed Permit Plan and discussed its ongoing efforts by the towns of Chatham, Harwich, Orleans, and Brewster.

Members:

Barnstable	Paul Hebert	Absent
Bourne	Terri Guarino	Absent
Brewster	Ryan Bennett	Absent
Chatham	Aly Sabatino	Present
Dennis	Wayne Bergeron	Absent
Eastham	Jane Crowley	Present
Falmouth	Vacant	
Harwich	Larry Ballantine	Present
Mashpee	Vacant	
Orleans	Sims McGrath	Present
Provincetown	Vacant	
Sandwich	Dave Mason	Absent
Truro	Emily Beebe	Present
Wellfleet	Justina Carlson	Present
Yarmouth	Jeffrey Colby	Present (Arrived at 11AM)
County Appointee	Zenas Crocker	Present
County Appointee	Ron Beaty	Present

Others Present:

Kristy Senatori	Cape Cod Commission
Erin Perry	Cape Cod Commission
Sarah Colvin	Cape Cod Commission
Meghan Boudreau	Cape Cod Commission

Sims McGrath, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:11 AM. The meeting minutes from the September 12, 2019 Governing Board meeting were unanimously approved.

Pleasant Bay Watershed Permit Plan Implementation Update

Carole Ridley, coordinator for the Pleasant Bay Alliance (Alliance), provided a brief update on the Pleasant Bay Watershed Permit Implementation Plan. The Alliance is an intermunicipal organization, formed about 20 years ago to coordinate implementation of the resource management plan for the Pleasant Bay area of critical environmental concern. The resource management plan is a multifaceted plan that considers water quality, coastal and biodiversity, geomorphology, and other coastal issues.

An area of focus for the Alliance has been understanding the extent of nutrient pollution and working with member communities to address this problem. A nitrogen total maximum daily load has been established for Pleasant Bay and the four communities in the watershed have been working implement a coordinated and comprehensive approach to reducing nitrogen in the watershed.

The four communities jointly pursued a watershed permit, which requires a targeted watershed management plan consistent with the Area Wide Water Quality Management Plan (208 Plan). The Alliance and its member communities worked closely with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) on development of the permit, which provides a clear process for obtaining nitrogen reduction credit for non-traditional technologies. Benefits of the permit include priority for State Revolving Fund loans and forbearance from enforcement actions if communities are adhering to the terms of the permit.

Communities first worked together to determine nitrogen load allocations and then created a 20-year implementation schedule with specific town actions. The communities are currently in year 2 of the plan and a reporting annually on progress to MassDEP and the Cape Cod Commission.

Early progress on plan implementation includes golf course and residential fertilizer reductions in Brewster, an intermunicipal agreement between Chatham and Harwich to treat wastewater from Harwich at the Chatham wastewater treatment facility, a shellfish demonstration project in Lonnie's Pond, and town meeting approval of sewerage in downtown Orleans.

The Alliance received a \$250,000 Southeast New England Program Watershed Grant to implement the permit plan, consider and test organizational approaches, update the water quality monitoring for the embayment, and continue with stakeholder engagement.

Ms. Ridley covered some of the ongoing projects in more detail. The Alliance is working with George Heufelder at the Massachusetts Septic System Test Center to identify the best available onsite technology to meet nitrogen reduction required in Brewster. The Town of Orleans completed its third year of the Lonnie's Pond aquaculture project and anticipates a report in early 2020 that synthesizes results. The Alliance member communities are also considering models for a nitrogen trading program in the watershed.

Committee members discussed some concerns about using shellfish to address nitrogen, including the potential impact to local shellfishermen and the market. Members identified and discussed the potential need for a study on market impacts. Kristy Senatori, Executive Director of the Cape Cod Commission, stated that the Commission continues to update the technologies matrix and there may be an opportunity to focus on shellfish aquaculture in a future update.

Cape Cod Commission Report

Ms. Senatori noted that she and staff were in attendance at the last Dennis, Harwich, Yarmouth Community Partnership meeting. She and Erin Perry attended an environmental leadership exchange with the Southeast New England Program partners and representatives from the Chesapeake Bay region to exchange ideas and experiences on water quality initiatives. Ms. Senatori also noted that the Commission has been working with the towns of Falmouth and Barnstable and anticipates completing 208 consistency determinations for their wastewater management plans in the coming months.

Ms. Perry noted that the Commission has been continuing to work on the regional water quality monitoring project and staff plans to provide a more detailed update at the March 2020 meeting, at which time Tim Pasakarnis from the Commission and Jennie Rheuban from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution will report on database improvements, data analysis, and quality assurance and control.

Member Reports

Larry Ballentine from the Town of Harwich reported that phase two of the sewer system is under construction.

Jeff Colby from the Town of Yarmouth reported that Yarmouth is considering a residential exemption. He also noted that the Parker's River bridge project is underway and is anticipated to improve flow. This is a similar project to the Muddy Creek bridge project. Mr. Colby stated the town is continuing discussions with Barnstable regarding potential opportunities for collaboration.

County Commissioner Ron Beaty reported that the Barnstable County Commissioners authorized an extension of the amendment to the agreement for an alternative septic system demonstration project in Falmouth. Ms. Perry noted that a representative for this project is planning to attend the March meeting to update members on this project. .

Jane Crowley from the Town of Eastham is working with Commission staff to develop a community engagement framework intended to build community understanding of the water quality projects being undertaken by the town. She also noted that Commission staff is helping to facilitate conversations between the towns of Orleans and Eastham related to nitrogen loading in the shared Nauset Harbor estuary. Ms. Crowley noted that permitting through the Cape Cod National Seashore is complete for a permeable reactive barrier and the town completed a shellfish feasibility study and will consider implementation of a shellfish program in 2020.

Zenas Crocker from the Barnstable Clean Water Coalition reported that the Cranberry Bog Workshop being held with the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Research and Development was scheduled to take place the following day and that 50 people were planning to attend. The Clean Water Coalition is working with partners on the Hamblin bogs, with a long-term goal to transition them to wetlands.

Aly Sabatino from the Town of Chatham reported that the town is currently working on implementation of sewerage and construction of pump houses recently approved by the planning board.

Justina Carlson from the Town of Wellfleet noted that the town continues work toward a watershed permit. She noted that they were using the Commission's matrix of technologies and were currently considering inlet widening and salt marsh restoration. Ms. Carlson noted that the town is looking at ways to use oysters for both nitrate removal and habitat restoration.

Sims McGrath from the Town of Orleans reported that the town is moving forward with the downtown sewer infrastructure. He also noted that the Department of Public Works completed a survey of stormwater infrastructure and level of maintenance.

Mr. McGrath opened the floor for public comment. Upon seeing none, he called for a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 11:46AM.