

**APPROVED MEETING MINUTES - Approved 12/10/2020**  
**CAPE COD WATER PROTECTION COLLABORATIVE**  
**Governing Board**  
**September 10, 2020**

**Summary of Discussion/Action:** Members approved minutes of the December 12, 2019 and June 11, 2020 meetings. Cape Cod Commission staff provided updates on progress toward development of the regional water quality database, user interface, and associated water quality data analysis; and the Cape Cod and Islands Water Protection Fund. Members provided feedback on criteria for selection of a pilot watershed to test the regional water quality monitoring database application.

**Members:**

Barnstable	Paul Hebert	Present
Bourne	Terri Guarino	Absent
Brewster	Ryan Bennett	Absent
Chatham	Robert Duncanson	Present
Dennis	Paul McCormick	Absent
Eastham	Jane Crowley	Present
Falmouth	Ray Jack	Present
Harwich	Larry Ballantine	Present
Mashpee	Vacant	Vacant
Orleans	Sims McGrath	Present
Provincetown	Vacant	Vacant
Sandwich	Dave Mason	Present
Truro	Emily Beebe	Present (left at 11:30)
Wellfleet	Justina Carlson	Present
Yarmouth	Jeffrey Colby	Present
County Appointee	Zenas Crocker	Present
County Appointee	Ron Beaty	Present (left at 11:30)

**Others Present:**

Erin Perry, Cape Cod Commission  
Sarah Colvin, Cape Cod Commission  
Meghan Boudreau, Cape Cod Commission  
Tim Pasakarnis, Cape Cod Commission  
Jennie Rhueben, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute

This Meeting was held virtually as allowed by Governor Baker's Executive Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law dated March 12, 2020.

**Call to Order**

Sims McGrath called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM and proceeded with a roll call vote to confirm members present for the meeting. Members present for the meeting are noted above.

**Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes**

Meeting minutes were approved for the December 12, 2019 and June 11, 2020 meetings.

Motion to approve the 12/12/19 meeting minutes by Jane Crowley and seconded by Zenas Crocker.

Roll Call Vote: Bob Duncanson, abstain; Jane Crowley, Yes; Ray Jack, Abstain; Sims McGrath, Yes; Emily Beebe, Yes; Justina Carlson, Abstain; Jeff Colby, Yes; Zenas Crocker, Yes; Ron Beaty, Abstain.

Motion to approve the 6/11/20 meeting minutes by Bob Duncanson and seconded by Larry Ballantine.

Roll Call Vote: Bob Duncanson, Yes; Jane Crowley, Yes; Ray Jack, Abstain; Larry Ballantine, Yes; Sims McGrath, yes; Emily Beebe, Yes; Justina Carlson, Abstain; Jeff Colby, Yes; Zenas Crocker, Yes; Ron Beaty, Abstain.

### Election of Officers

Paul Herbert moved to appoint Sims McGrath as Chair of the Cape Cod Water Protection Collaborative, seconded by Larry Ballantine.

Roll Call Vote: Paul Hebert, Yes; Bob Duncanson, Yes; Jane Crowley, Yes; Ray Jack, Yes; Larry Ballantine, Yes; Sims McGrath, Abstain; Emily Beebe, Yes; Justina Carlson, Yes; Jeff Colby, Yes; Zenas Crocker, Yes; Ron Beaty, Yes.

Bob Duncanson moved to appoint Jane Crowley as Vice Chair of the Cape Cod Water Protection Collaborative, seconded by Paul Hebert.

Roll Call Vote: Paul Herbert, Yes; Bob Duncanson, Yes; Jane Crowley, Abstain; Ray Jack, Yes; Larry Ballantine, Yes; Sims McGrath, Yes; Emily Beebe, Yes; Justina Carlson, Yes; Jeff Colby, Yes; Zenas Crocker, Yes; Ron Beaty, Yes.

Jane Crowley moved to appoint Larry Ballantine to the Steering Committee of the Cape Cod Water Protection Collaborative, seconded by Paul Hebert.

Roll Call Vote: Paul Hebert, Yes; Bob Duncanson, Yes; Jane Crowley, Yes; Ray Jack, Yes; Larry Ballantine, Yes; Sims McGrath, Yes; Emily Beebe, Yes; Justina Carlson, Yes; Jeff Colby, Yes; Zenas Crocker, Yes; Ron Beaty, Yes.

Sims McGrath explained that these terms run through June 30, 2021.

### **Regional Water Quality Monitoring Project Update**

Tim Pasakarnis, Water Resources Analyst at the Cape Cod Commission, Jennie Rheuban, Research Specialist at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, provided an update on progress toward development of the regional water quality monitoring database, user interface and associated water quality data analyses.

To date, all available historic data has been uploaded to the database. The end user group met several times in the last quarter, primarily to provide input on the types of analyses presented in the user interface, and to react to and provide feedback on interface mockups. Data will be made available through the interface and can be exported based on monitoring organization, watershed,

and station, among other variables. An average trend line will allow the user to determine whether a data point is an anomaly or if it falls into a typical trend for the station. The interface will be flexible to allow the user to view the parameters and time range of interest. The Commission will be hiring a web developer in the next couple of months to develop the web interface. Staff will then work with partner agencies to apply the database and analyses in a pilot watershed.

Commission staff anticipates the pilot watershed will include meetings with key decision-makers in contributing communities, and will allow the project team to explore the capabilities of the interface while supporting local management decisions.

Tim Pasakarnis and Jennie Rheuban facilitated a discussion with Collaborative members on criteria for selecting a pilot watershed. Criteria identified by Collaborative members include: watershed size; data availability; land use in the watershed; number of contributing towns; state of implementation within the watershed; severity of degradation. Members recommended making the initial pilot less complex.

### **Update on the Cape Cod and Islands Water Protection Fund**

Erin Perry, Deputy Director of the Cape Cod Commission, reported that the Cape Cod and Islands Water Protection Fund and Management Board has been in place for over a year. As of June the total funds collected are approximately \$9.1 million and the next distribution to the fund is expected mid-September. She explained that revenues were directly impacted by COVID-19 and it will take a couple of years to better understand how much might be anticipated annually. In May of 2019 the Management Board created a Bylaws and Regulations Committee. They have met many times, working closely with Commission staff and staff from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust, to develop and discuss draft regulations for equitable distribution of the funds. At their August 2020 meeting, the Committee voted to forward draft regulations to the full Management Board. The Management Board met to consider the draft regulations on September 9, 2020 and will schedule an additional meeting to continue discussions later this month.

Ray Jack asked for a copy of the draft regulations and Erin Perry confirmed staff would distribute a copy.

### **Cape Cod Commission Update**

Erin Perry shared updates on the grants Commission staff were pursuing to support pond water quality work. She confirmed that the Commission was unsuccessful in obtaining grants from the Massachusetts Environmental Trust and the Southeast New England Coastal Watershed Restoration Program (SNEP) Watershed Grant Program. Staff will continue to look for opportunities to support this work.

She also reminded members that the Commission was required to submit a progress report on 208 Plan implementation to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in July. This report documents local and regional effort, as well as includes draft 2020 town compliance reports. She noted that Commission staff will be sharing the draft 2020 compliance reports with towns for review, but will be holding off on finalizing reports until after the fall town meetings. She also noted that EPA expressed

interest in meeting with Cape Cod towns to discuss progress directly and asked Cape Cod Commission staff to facilitate that effort.

Erin added that the Commission is partnering with the Martha's Vineyard Commission to incorporate their communities into the WatershedMVP application. She also let members know that the Commission is initiating a stakeholder process to support development of the Cape Cod Climate Action Plan, and that anyone interested in participating can access information regarding the process on the Cape Cod Commission website.

### **Member Reports**

Paul Hebert, from the town of Barnstable, reported that Town Council passed an \$8.5 million improvement to their wastewater facility. He also said that he is very eager to put some additional pipes in the ground and is hoping to do some additional work if the Vineyard Wind project moves forward.

Bob Duncanson, from the town of Chatham, reported that the town has just restarted two wastewater projects – the joint project with Harwich and continuation of the oyster pond sewer project. The town of Chatham is working on wastewater pump stations that will be complete this fall or late winter. He explained that they opened bids this summer on a joint sewer and stormwater project and that they are hoping for State Revolving Funds this year for another stormwater project.

Jane Crowley, from the town of Eastham, noted that the town continues to work on a targeted subwatershed plan for the Nauset estuary. They have installed a permeable reactive barrier this spring. She also explained that they have received approval for a pilot innovative/alternative system that will be installed this September.

Ray Jack, from the town of Falmouth, reported that the contracts for the next phase of sewer expansions had to be rolled back due to monetary concerns. He explained that the Bourne Pond Bridge project is one of their biggest issues. He said with respect to climate and storm impacts on beach erosion it has become fairly significant.

Larry Ballantine, from the town of Harwich, reported that town meeting is scheduled for Saturday, September 26, 2020. Wastewater articles have been postponed until spring. He said that they continue to work on phase 2 of the Pleasant Bay Watershed, as well as continue to work with Dennis and Yarmouth on the regional plant.

Dave Mason, from the town of Sandwich, reported that they are working with the Upper Cape towns and Barnstable as it relates to the Joint Base Cape Cod sewer infrastructure. They are also working with the Sandwich Water District to expand water lines to a third of the town that are currently on private wells. They are monitoring those wells to ensure it doesn't impact the proposed wastewater work.

Justina Carlson, from the town of Wellfleet, reported that the town is continuing to work on developing a watershed permit plan for Wellfleet Harbor with Horsley and Witten.

Jeff Colby, from the town of Yarmouth, reported that spring town meeting approved \$5 million for wastewater. They have been able to use those funds to commit to partnering with the

Massachusetts Department of Transportation on projects along Route 28. Town meeting in Yarmouth will be on November 17, 2020. He noted that adoption of a water infrastructure investment fund is on the warrant for that meeting. He also noted that the Parkers River bridge project is now half complete.

County appointee, Zenas Crocker, reported that they are in the final phase of dredging at the Dead Neck Sampson's Island area. They will complete this project over three years and hope to have water quality improvements in the Cotuit Bay area. They have been developing video shorts and now have over a dozen looking at how a title 5 systems works. The major project that they are working on is the Marston's Mills cranberry bog project. The main bog owner has applied for Division of Ecological Restoration priority status and has installed several pilot projects to identify ways in which to remove nitrogen within the system. They anticipate installing 10-15 sampling wells this fall. He also reported that they are going to be installing a landscape demonstration project this fall in Osterville. They are also working towards raising funds for an education science center within Prince Cove in partnership with the town and the High School.

Sims McGrath said that the spring town meeting was successful. They experienced a significant cost overrun in the engineering estimates but town meeting approved a \$56 million wastewater treatment facility in downtown Orleans.

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn by Paul Hebert and seconded by Bob Duncanson.

Roll Call Vote: Paul Hebert, Yes; Bob Duncanson, Yes; Jane Crowley, Yes; Ray Jack, Yes; Sims McGrath, Yes; Dave Mason, Yes; Justina Carlson, Yes; Jeff Colby, Yes; Zenas Crocker, Yes.

Meeting adjourned at 11:47 AM

Meeting Materials:

1. PowerPoint presentation
2. Meeting minutes from 12/12/19 and 6/11/20