

Barnstable County Coastal Resources Committee (CRC)

Timeline of achievements

Late 1980's – 1995:

- CRC's predecessor, the Cape Cod Marine Water Quality Task Force, conducted a survey entitled "Local Efforts at Controlling Coastal Pollution".
- CRC was formed through combination of Cape Cod County Marine Water Quality Task Force and Coastal Zone Management Committee.

1995 – 2007:

- CRC advocated for the formation of the Barnstable Water Protection Collaborative to address wastewater pollution.
- CRC published a written report in 2002 entitled "Coastal Resource Protection Update" describing goals, needs and recommendations concerning marine water quality, land use, wastewater planning and management, and managing coastal wetlands and waterways. The report was submitted to the Barnstable County Commissioners. The report contained a description of the CRC's mission and a list of its members as of 2002.
- CRC advocated for the Cape Cod Water Resources Restoration Project (CCWRRP) to restore shellfish beds, salt marshes and fish runs. The CRC provided guidance and input to the development of the plan for this federal program administered by NRCS.

2006:

- APCC became the new Regional Service Provider for the Cape Cod region of the Massachusetts Bays National Estuary Program (MassBays), and the MassBays Regional Coordinator was Dr. Jo Ann Muramoto. The CRC is the local governance committee for the Cape Cod region. Dr. Muramoto provided support for the CRC from this date on.
- The CRC Executive Committee worked with APCC to redefine the CRC's mission and membership with a focus on municipal representation and coastal agencies.
- The Cape Cod Water Resources Restoration Project Plan and Environmental Impact Statement was published by NRCS, describing the benefits of this restoration program for restoring impaired fish runs and tidally-restricted salt marshes and treating stormwater discharges to restore and protect shellfish.

2007:

- With the County Commissioners' support, the CRC was re-convened with a new mission statement (charge) and membership composed of municipal coastal resource managers and other local, state and federal resource managers. Municipal staff are voting members with one vote per town.

2008:

- The CRC and Cape Cod Cooperative Extension co-hosted the first workshop on "Shellfish and Nitrogen Uptake".

2009 – 2013:

- The Cape Cod Water Resources Restoration Project (CCWRRP) was approved by Congress in late 2009. In early 2010 the CCWRRP got underway with \$6.5 million in funding from ARRA. CRC reviewed and recommended projects. The MassBays Regional Coordinator assisted NRCS in ranking stormwater projects. Approximately 24 projects and 10 feasibility studies were completed by Fall 2013. In 2013 the CRC hosted a workshop to present the results of monitoring to demonstrate success of projects.
- At CRC's recommendation, the County Commissioners sent a letter to NRCS supporting federal funding for the CCWRRP and to designate Cape Cod as a critical conservation area under NRCS's Regional Conservation Partnership Program.
- CRC, APCC and MassBays co-hosted the first Stormwater Financing Workshops on Cape Cod. One town (Yarmouth) conducted a pre-feasibility study for a stormwater utility and prepared a Request for Responses for a full feasibility study.

2014:

- In anticipation of the pending MS4 stormwater permit, CRC convened an informal group of municipal stormwater managers (aka Cape Cod Stormwater Managers) and provided information on grants, updates on the pending MS4 permit. The two CRC co-chairs and MassBays regional coordinator provided direction and support.
- CRC, APCC and MassBays co-hosted a December workshop on the draft 2014 MS4 Stormwater Permit featuring EPA and DEP stormwater permit experts, and began exploring the potential benefits of forming a Cape Cod stormwater collaborative.
- CRC, APCC, MassBays and the Cape Cod Commission co-hosted a workshop on "Effects of Sea Level Rise on Cape Cod's Aquifer". This APCC-led project resulted in a USGS study that modeled the effects of sea level rise on groundwater in the mid-Cape region. This study will be useful for evaluating risks to coastal communities from groundwater inundation and threats to infrastructure, water quality and habitat resulting from rising sea levels.

2015 – 2017:

- CRC meetings and workshops focused on stormwater management and preparing Cape Cod towns for the pending MS4 stormwater permit for Massachusetts:
 - A joint meeting of the CRC and Stormwater Managers Group featured a presentation by APCC on stormwater collaboratives in Massachusetts.
 - In April 2016 the U.S. EPA issued the 2016 MS4 Stormwater Permit for Massachusetts. In May 2016 the CRC, APCC and Cape Cod Commission co-hosted a workshop on the MS4 permit and stormwater collaboratives. The Commission conducted a poll to determine interest in forming a stormwater collaborative and the answer was yes.
 - The Cape Cod Commission applied for and obtained a DEP 604b grant for \$50,000 to identify options for forming a Cape Cod Stormwater Coalition. Partners included the CRC, County and APCC. The grant enabled a survey of municipal stormwater resources and needs, gap analysis, stormwater cost estimator for towns to use to implement the MS4 permit, and recommendations for policies, procedures and benefits of forming a Cape-wide stormwater

coalition. A second proposal was prepared for the DEP MS4 Municipal Assistance Grant program but was turned down.

- CCWRRP: APCC continued to work with the Cape Cod Conservation District to advocate for additional federal funding for the program.

2018:

- CCWRRP: Congress approved \$10 million for Phase II for a second round of restoration projects. CRC's municipal representatives and municipal support remain key to the success of the CCWRRP. Many times during the development of the project, the strong unified advocacy of the CRC membership was the pivotal selling piece to NRCS headquarters and elected officials.
- Regular meetings on coastal issues covered topics including: CCWRRP, County dredge, and coastal resilience. The CRC hosted a grant information meeting on the state's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness or MVP grant program. Prior to this grant information meeting, only two Cape Cod towns had MVP planning grants; after this meeting, ten additional towns applied for and obtained MVP planning grants.
- The MS4 stormwater permit for Massachusetts came into effect on July 1, 2018 after a one-year delay. The Cape Cod Stormwater Managers Group, chaired by the two CRC co-chairs (Robert Duncanson, Ph.D. and Stephen McKenna), met regularly to address the MS4 permit's requirements for stormwater management. These include: mapping, regulating, monitoring and eliminating stormwater discharges from MS4 areas into receiving waters, addressing stormwater discharges into impaired waters and waters designated as TMDLs, and coordinating with the Section 208 Water Quality Plan for Cape Cod. The Commission's 604b grant enabled consultants to be hired to develop policies, bylaws, and recommendations for stormwater BMPs for Cape Cod conditions.
- In summer 2018 the CRC paused meetings as the County Commissioners began reorganization of County committees. This included formation of the Barnstable County Coastal Management Committee (BCCMC) and two subcommittees that would report to it: the Dredge Subcommittee and a Coastal Resources Subcommittee (CRS).

2019:

- At the BCCMC's second meeting on 1/31/19, the CRC co-chair, Robert Duncanson, Ph.D., gave a presentation on the CRC's history and achievements. BCCMC members voiced support for having the existing CRC serve as the above-mentioned coastal resources subcommittee (i.e., CRS) and asked that a list of members be provided to them in advance of the next BCCMC meeting in April 2019. At that meeting the BCCMC will recommend that the CRC be adopted as the above-mentioned coastal resources subcommittee.

List of Abbreviations

CRC	Barnstable County Coastal Resources Committee
APCC	Association to Preserve Cape Cod
ARRA	American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009
BCCMC	Barnstable County Coastal Management Committee, formed in 2018
CCWRRP	Cape Cod Water Resources Restoration Project
DEP	Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
DEP	Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
MassBays	Massachusetts Bays National Estuary Program
MS4	Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer Systems (NPDES)
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture
TMDLs	Total Maximum Daily Loads
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey

This timeline was prepared by Dr. Jo Ann Muramoto, MassBays Regional Coordinator for the Cape Cod region and Director of Science Programs at the Association to Preserve Cape Cod.