



## Barnstable County Coastal Resources Subcommittee (BCCRS)

**Approved Minutes | April 21, 2021 at 9:00 am - Approved October 20, 2021**

Virtual via Zoom

**The meeting was held by remote participation by the Barnstable County Coastal Resources Subcommittee pursuant to Massachusetts Governor Charles D. Baker's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law dated March 12, 2020.**

The Chair announced that because the meeting was being held virtually all votes and other actions would be done by roll call. He stated that the members participating remotely would be announced as roll call is taken.

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The meeting was called to order at 9:06 am with roll call:

### Roll Call

Town	Member	Attendance
Barnstable	Nina Coleman	Present
Bourne	Sam Haines	Present
Brewster	Chris Miller	Present
Chatham	Dr. Robert Duncanson, Chair	Present
Dennis	Karen Johnson	Present
Eastham	Shana Brogan	Absent
Falmouth	Jennifer Lincoln	Present
Harwich	Heinz Proft	Present
Mashpee	Ashley Fisher	Absent
Orleans	Vacant	-----
Provincetown	Tim Famulare	Present
Sandwich	David Deconto	Present
Truro	Emily Beebe	Present
Wellfleet	Hillary Lemos	Present
Yarmouth	Karl Von Hone	Present
Ad Hoc (non-voting)		
MassBays Regional Coord	Dr. Jo Ann Muramoto	Absent
At large	Steve McKenna (co-Chair)	Absent
At large	Donald Liptack	Present

Others present:

Cape Cod Cooperative Ext	Shannon Hulst
Cape Cod Cooperative Ext	Abigail Archer
APCC	Andrew Gottlieb
APCC	April Wobst
Town of Eastham	Chuck Katuska
BC Dredge	Ken Cirillo
Barnstable Town Council	Gordan Starr
Town of Chatham	Renee Gagne
Friends of Bass River	Erinn McCarty
Town of Provincetown	Stephen Wisbauer
Cape Cod Commission	David Still
Cape Cod Commission	Siobhan Cavacco

## Public Comments

April Wobst informed members that APCC submitted a preproposal to the SNEP Watershed Grant to build upon work they have been doing in Three Bays for stormwater management to improve water quality. The preproposal is for the initial assessment for prioritization and design of stormwater improvements at public boat ramps on ponds and coastal waters. She said they are waiting to hear if the preproposal was accepted for a full proposal. Ms. Wobst said if it is accepted they will bring it back to the BCCRS and the Stormwater Managers for letters of support.

## Approval of Minutes

Upon a motion by Sam Haines, seconded by Tim Famulare, the minutes from the October 21, 2020 BCCRS meeting were approved with a roll call vote.

## Roll Call Vote

Nina Coleman	Yes
Sam Haines	Yes
Chris Miller	Yes
Robert Duncanson	Yes

Karen Johnson	Yes
Jennifer Lincoln	Yes
Heinz Proft	Abstain
Tim Famulare	Yes
David Deconto	Yes
Emily Beebe	Abstain
Hilary Lemos	Abstain
Karl Von Hone	Yes

**Presentation** from Cape Cod Cooperative Extension's Marine Program on how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected recreational use of shellfish areas.

Abigail Archer, Fisheries and Aquaculture Specialist at the Cape Cod Cooperative Extension and Woods Hole Sea Grant, informed members last year Woods Hole Sea Grant made available \$100,000 to all Sea Grant programs to support fisheries in their state. She and her colleague Harriet Booth, Marine Program Specialist at the Cape Cod Cooperative Extension and Woods Hole Sea Grant, wrote a proposal to support the shellfish aquaculture growers and the municipal propagation programs. She said they were able to secure and make available \$20,000 to support five different projects in Brewster, Chatham, Wellfleet, and Provincetown. Ms. Archer said shellfish growers were having a hard time selling their product because restaurants were shut down during COVID. She said fifty growers participated in the program and sold their oysters to the four towns. Ms. Archer said Sea Grant is making an additional \$50,000 available. She said they have to apply again and for this proposal. They reached out to the towns through the Barnstable County Shellfish Advisory Committee. Ms. Archer said they asked questions to find out how the pandemic affected the recreational fishery. She reviewed the questions and responses in detail (attached) and said they received responses from Barnstable, Brewster, Bourne, Eastham, Harwich, Orleans, Provincetown, and Wellfleet. Ms. Archer said all the towns indicated they would be interested in funding and that they saw an increase in participation in the recreational fisheries since March 2020.

Chris Miller said he wanted to clarify that Brewster has a recreational stocking program but their concern was social distancing so the wardens did not touch anyone's permit to verify. He said they limited the sale of permits to residents and taxpayers and did not sell visitor passes. Mr. Miller said the actual number of permits wasn't lower from the previous year but there was an increase in activity. Ms. Archer said she will make sure this information is reflected in the report.

Renee Gagne, Shellfish Constable in Chatham, said they saw an increase with people on the flats since March 2020. Ms. Gagne said in October & November, they doubled the number of people checked and the catch limits were doubled from the previous year. She said people commented on how happy they were to be out of the house with a recreational opportunity. Ms. Gagne said the numbers were primarily for oysters. She said they will see the impact on quahog numbers this spring. Ms. Gagne said their resident permits increased but non-resident permits decreased slightly.

Hilary Lemos asked if there is any room in the grant for an ice machine for Wellfleet. She said they received some funding through the Cape Cod Cooperative Extension for the shellfish farmers market but as they head into the warmer months an ice machine would be helpful. Ms. Archer said the original funding they received was from Buy Fresh, Buy Local and said she will see if an ice machine fits in with the proposal.

Stephen Wisbauer, Shellfish Constable from Provincetown, said they had a 40% increase in shell fishing. Ms. Archer commented that the increase was families getting outside and people accessing a protein source to help get them through the pandemic.

Dr. Duncanson asked Ms. Archer when she expects her report to be issued. Ms. Archer said they need to apply for the grant in the next 20 days so hopefully they will have all the information from the towns. Dr. Duncanson requested she send the report to Ms. Hulst who can then distribute it to the BCCRS.

**Discussion** of how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected recreational use of freshwater ponds, beaches, coastal conservation areas, etc. What is your biggest management challenge? How have management procedures changed? Is there a way to quantify this information?

Dr. Duncanson said everyone has seen an increase in use of natural resources since March 2020 and the subcommittee would like to get a sense of how it has impacted operations in each town, particularly with freshwater ponds, beaches, and coastal conservation areas. He said there is a question of how to quantify an increase in use for areas that do not charge a fee.

Each town was given the opportunity to comment.

Nina Coleman from Barnstable said everything has ramped up and they can quantify by off road vehicle permits at Sandy Neck and shellfish permit sales, which have almost doubled. Anecdotally, hiking on the beaches, dogs off leash, illegal trail building, and ATV use could be quantified by enforcement efforts. She said they are struggling with staffing and the pool of applicants for seasonal work is down. Ms. Coleman said it is exciting to see people learning and enjoying the open spaces. She added it is new for many and some have gotten into trouble with kayaking, paddle boarding and hiking too far. Ms. Coleman said there have been some combative people. She said this year will be challenging at Sandy Neck and she has concerns with the conservation areas.

Sam Haines from Bourne asked if there was a way to quantify by month and by season. He said the winter in Bourne was as busy as the summer and he asked if there is way to assess the population of the towns over the winter as that would help quantify impact on natural resources.

Chris Miller from Brewster said they are experiencing the same things. He said a lot of neighborhoods with seasonal rentals used to close down in the winter but that was not the case this year. Mr. Miller said last year they tried to work on social distancing on the beaches and brought in beach monitors to make sure people understood the rules. He said some of the quieter trails and parks have been discovered and there are now issues with parking and noise complaints. Mr. Miller said people are taking their ATVs & trucks on the conservation areas and making their own trails. He said they have one area where people are hauling in pallets every week for bonfires. Mr. Miller said they have received a lot more complaints about dogs and there has been an increase of dog waste on the trails. He said his staff is just putting out fires and he needs additional staff to address all the problems.

Dr. Duncanson said Chatham has seen an increase in population, too. He said they have been looking at water use data as it usually drops off in December through March/April but they did not see that this year. Instead, usage has been up since March 2020. Dr. Duncanson said they have also been looking at the amount of trash being hauled off Cape. He said it was increasing last March and grew higher during the summer and has not dropped off. Dr. Duncanson said they have seen an uptick in the use of conservation areas but not to the point that others have described with the negative impacts. He said a lot of the areas are managed by the Chatham Conservation Foundation and they are doing a good job policing their areas. Dr. Duncanson said he only has one staff person in the wintertime and the conservation agent left this winter. He said he looked at permit sales for shellfish and the number for resident permits was about the same between 2019 and 2020. He said there was a dip in 2020 for non-resident permits and attributed that to the town no longer mailing applications to previous permit holders. He said they discontinued that due to the expense and now people have to make the effort to go online for their permit. Dr. Duncanson said they saw an increase in ORV use on North Beach from 488 permits in 2019 to 555 permits in 2020. He said they received reports from realtors that all rentals are booked for the summer.

Karen Johnson said Dennis has experienced pretty much all of the same issues and added an increase in inexperienced boaters. She said the harbor master mentioned problems at the public boat ramps and in the harbor. Ms. Johnson said when the ORV beach (Crowes Pasture) was closed people were beaching small boats in order to have a private beach area. She said they had to move some staff to address the issue. Ms. Johnson said a big issue has been unleashed dogs on public beaches and conservation areas and people not picking up waste. She said they also had some issues with signs being damaged. Ms. Johnson said they have had some parking issues at the ORV beach as people found out they do not charge for parking. She said staffing is an issue for this summer and will possibly impact plover monitoring.

Jennifer Lincoln from Falmouth said they experienced illegal trails being cut in the conservation lands and the land run by the 300 Committee, a non-profit land trust. She said they had a significant increase in public beach use and the board of selectman tried to facilitate social distancing by

limiting the parking at the heavier used beaches. Ms. Lincoln said this was a concern for many of the residents. She said they ran into different neighborhood associations trying to restrict public access and the police had to intervene on occasion and educate the neighborhood security guards. Ms. Lincoln concurred with the dog issues the other towns are experiencing as well as staffing concerns for this summer.

Heinz Proft from Harwich said they have had the same problems with beaches and the waterfront. He said boat owners using their boats more and transient moorings were at the maximum. Mr. Proft said they are already getting calls and filling mooring spots for this summer. He said they have an increase in ramp passes and shellfish permits from last year. He concurred with all the previous comments regarding more people at home looking for outdoor activities at beaches and golf courses, the increase in inexperienced boaters, and not having adequate staff.

Jeff Smith, Harbormaster from Mashpee, said there has been an increase in fresh water and saltwater boat traffic. He said control measures were put in place to limit access for non-residents in parking areas to help control the number of people on the water. He said they also increased the "no wake" areas by 75% and that helped decrease traffic.

Tim Famulare said Provincetown saw an increase in the number of people but since most of the beaches and trails are Cape Cod National Seashore there has not been a strain put on town staff. He said they experienced second homeowners spending more time in the area, some moving permanently. Mr. Famulare said the pandemic allowed people to get to know lesser-known conservation areas and it has been a boon to the open space advocates with people exploring areas other than the National Seashore.

Dave Deconto from Sandwich said they have seen a huge increase in all areas. He said they restricted freshwater beaches to residents only because of smaller parking lots. Mr. Deconto said this put more pressure on the saltwater beaches. He said there was an increase in calls for their department and police due to issues with people at the beach. Mr. Deconto said they completed improvements to parking and infrastructure on major conservation lands prior to COVID. He said their issue this summer is going to be maintaining those improvements as they lost a third of their budget to the parks and recreation department.

Emily Beebe said 70% of Truro is owned by Cape Cod National Seashore. She said Head of the Meadow beach is adjacent to the National Parks Services (NPS) beach and federal government did not have an articulated policy about COVID mitigation. She said Cape Cod National Seashore tried to follow MA state required mitigations. She said NPS did not have enough staff and basically left beaches open without a gate attendant. This resulted in full parking lots with overflow on Truro beaches and their staff having to respond. She said her staff was overwhelmed responding to people on the beaches and the DPW was overwhelmed maintaining beaches, including an uptick in vandalism to regulation signage. She agreed there is a need to quantify the experiences for ongoing management of the increase in people.

Hilary Lemos said Wellfleet has experienced all the same issues that have been mentioned. She said they have not seen the need to increase staff as a large portion is managed by Cape Cod National Seashore.

Karl Von Hone said Yarmouth has had same issues with an increase in activity all year. He said they have had an uptick in vandalism and creation of dirt bike and mountain bike trails in the conservation areas. Mr. Von Hone said staffing is a significant challenge as well as keeping up with maintenance. He said they need additional financial support with the increase in activity.

Dr. Duncanson said the two main themes seem to be staffing and expenses. He said FY22 budgets are probably already set but they need to rethink staffing levels and expense levels going forward as it appears the Cape is turning into a year-round community.

Sam Haines brought up the impact the year-round population will have on septic systems and what affect it will have on algae blooms and other existing problem. Dr. Duncanson said it is possible that impact will not be seen for a couple of years or longer. He stressed the importance of long-term data for this reason.

Erinn from Friends of Bass River said on the positive side, they have seen a 20%- 25% uptick in donations and membership during COVID. Dr. Duncanson asked Andrew Gottlieb if APCC has seen the same uptick. Mr. Gottlieb responded supporters have been very generous and he has heard that it has been a common theme for non-profits during this time.

### **Updates from coastal and marine County programs**

a. County Dredge Program – Ken Cirillo, Barnstable County Dredge Director, provided an update on the dredge program. He said to date they have dredged 102,187 cubic yards and completed 9 dredge projects. He said the smallest project this year has been Mill Creek in Yarmouth and the largest Dead Neck, Sampson Island in Barnstable, with the longest run of pipe from Stage Harbor to Cockle Cove in Chatham. Mr. Cirillo reviewed the current dredge schedule and said they are 75% complete. He said Popponesset Chanel and Aunt Lydia's Cove are in progress and after they are completed the dredge will go to Allen Harbor and Saquatucket Harbor. Mr. Cirillo said the *Cod Fish II* will then head to Falmouth to dredge three coastal ponds. He reviewed the cubic yards and cost totals for each project. Mr. Cirillo reviewed a list of pre-dredge tasks that take place before dredging can begin and showed two photos of Stage Harbor prior to and near dredge completion. He also showed a picture of the Popponesset Approach Channel Project that had hard stop on April 17<sup>th</sup> due to plovers but received an extension to April 26<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Cirillo shared two additional photos of the pipe cross-over removal and the new pipe run from the *Cod Fish II* to the discharge location. He reviewed in detail the *Cod Fish II* breakdown and repair at the beginning of April, which resulted in the *Sand Shifter* needing to fill in during the repair time. Lastly, Mr. Cirillo provided an update on the dredge subcommittee. He said they had their first meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup> and focused on financials and a four-year projection of revenue capital expenses and repairs. He said they have had three meetings so far. Mr. Cirillo said a vote was taken at the last meeting to approve rate increases and



they are waiting for the Assembly of Delegates to review the Rate Change Ordinance with two-tiered rate increases for FY22 & FY23.

Dr. Duncanson said it is good to see the rate increases being phased in since many budgets were already confirmed last fall. Mr. Cirillo said there has not been a rate increase since 2005 and they need the increase to ensure adequate repairs.

Mr. Gottlieb asked Mr. Cirillo if he expects the Assembly to support the rate increase suggestions. Mr. Cirillo said he does not anticipate any issues.

Ms. McCarty asked if there is an updated schedule for next year for Yarmouth since it looks like many of their projects have been postponed. She asked specifically about Bass River. Mr. Cirillo said due to time of year restrictions, they were not able to complete the Bass River project. He said they were able to complete Barker River & Mill Creek and Bass River will be slotted in early on.

Ms. Beebe asked through chat how much the dredge pipe in Yarmouth cost. Mr. Cirillo confirmed \$54,000. He said the price of pipe fluctuates with fuel prices. Dr. Duncanson said they did it through the County bid system.

b. Cape Cod Commission – Ms. Hulst read a prepared summary from Heather McElroy, Natural Resources Program Manager at the Cape Cod Commission. The summary highlighted the Climate Action Plan which some BCCRS members participated in as stake holders. In total, there were over 250 stake holders representing municipal staff and committees, climate action networks and other advocates. Some organizations that provided feedback included APCC, HAC, Cape & Islands Association of Realtors, and the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce. The Climate Action Plan includes economic and greenhouse gas emission analysis as well as adaptation and mitigation strategies. It was sent out to stakeholders last Friday for review and will be reviewed at the Commissioner's meeting tomorrow at 3pm. It will be ready for public review and comments by next week.

Ms. McElroy's update continued with the Commission's planning initiative on freshwater ponds that will include an update of the Freshwater Ponds and Lakes Atlas and an online map-based tool for viewing ponds and various watershed information. There will be a summary of everything learned about pond health since the atlas was last published in 2003. Ms. McElroy said the Commission is submitting grant requests for funds to submit additional work on ponds, including economic analysis. The Commission is also completing a user interface water quality monitoring database with data from various water monitoring groups around the Cape and should be available in a couple of weeks.

There were no questions or comments.

c. Cape Cod Cooperative Extension Marine Program – Abigail Archer said she, Harriett Booth and Josh Reitsma spent the winter trying to funnel different relief programs for shellfish aquaculture. She said they worked with Sea Grant and purchased 75,000 oysters from 76 different growers to donate 790 pounds of shucked oysters to soup kitchens and food banks. Ms. Archer said because of the success, Mass Aquaculture Association received funding and repeated the program. She said they worked with them to get more of the product to Barnstable County food banks and were able



to get 1300 pounds of shucked oysters to 24 different organizations. Ms. Archer said they worked with the nutrition team to provide oyster recipes.

Ms. Archer said they had a webinar on river herring monitoring and the volunteer counting programs. She said many did not count last year due to COVID and the webinar focused on how to count this year while keeping everyone safe. Ms. Archer said some groups have decided to not count again this year. She said others are putting data loggers in the water to monitor temperature and have changed some of the data reporting practices to electronic instead paper.

Ms. Archer continued her update with two field projects this summer. She said they are continuing with the butter clam, or juvenile surf clam, experiment. Ms. Archer said there is a northern and southern subspecies that are both native to the Cape and they are trying to see which one grows better since the high summer temperatures have killed some of the northern subspecies.

In addition they are doing a study on coastal and ocean acidification. Ms. Archer said they are working with Jenny Ruben, a researcher at WHOI, and growing oysters in a partnership with the Town of Barnstable and the Barnstable Clean Water Coalition. She said they are going to take advantage of naturally low PH areas to grow shellfish and monitor the water chemistry in detail. Ms. Archer said they will also look at ocean acidification metrics and the impact on shellfish. She said they should have a report in two years.

There were no questions or comments.

d. Cape Cod Cooperative Extension Coastal Processes Program – Ms. Hulst provided an update for her work and for recent work completed by Greg Berman, Coastal Processes Specialist. She said Mr. Berman issued a Marine Extension Bulletin on when to use Christmas trees for erosion control and has helped track storm damage from February for the state. Ms. Hulst said Mr. Berman has had a lot of site visits and virtual presentations over the past six months. She said he continues to support the bi-monthly conservation agents meeting. Ms. Hulst said they asked for an updated coastal plant list and Mr. Berman is working with Russ Norton, the Cooperative Extension's horticulturist, to update the list and distribute to the conservation agents. In addition, Mr. Berman has been working with Woods Hole Sea Grant on CoastSnap. CoastSnap is a platform for a smartphone to take a picture and upload to the Extension for monitoring purposes. Ms. Hulst said the first version of the CoastSnap sign was stolen within three weeks of being put up. The pilot station is in Sandwich, and they are working on another one on the Vineyard.

Ms. Hulst said she has been working with all the towns on the update of the new State Floodplain Bylaw. She said every town has to pass a new floodplain bylaw within the next year. Ms. Hulst said she is working with the Commission on developing higher standards within zoning and conservation. She said Wellfleet and Chatham have 5-year recertifications for Community Rating Systems (CRS) and several towns are going through annual CRS recertifications which are due next Friday. Ms. Hulst reminded members the CRS program is a federal program that nine of the fifteen towns participate in to get discounts on flood insurance. She said every year the CRS program gives an Award of Excellence and the Cape region received the award this year. She said it was presented in December by FEMA at a virtual Commissioner's meeting. Ms. Hulst concluded her update by

informing members this afternoon there will be a public forum on three federal buyout programs for the floodplain.

Dr. Duncanson requested sending out the link to the Christmas tree information.

Mr. Deconto commented that CoastSnap has been very popular. He said they wrote it into their GIS story map for the coastal resiliency story on the town website.

Mr. Miller said Brewster is looking into CoastSnap in a cooperative effort with the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History.

There were no additional questions or comments.

**Barnstable County staff** will provide an update on activities of the Barnstable County Coastal Management Committee (BCCMC) including an overview of the 1/27/21 BCCMC meeting.

Ms. Hulst read a summary provided by Ms. McElroy of the January 27, 2021 BCCMC meeting. She said the meeting included a dredge update by Mr. Cirillo, including the start of the dredge subcommittee. Ms. Hulst provided an update on the Cooperative Extension, including the Storm Tide Pathways project and said she will be reaching out to all the towns for public outreach. She said anyone involved with flooding, including harbor masters, will be included and it will be tied into the national weather service flood predictions. Ms. McElroy said there was discussion on town accessing the MVP grant funds for the increase in pressure on natural resources and that Courtney Rocha, the regional MVP representative, provided tips to share for the next grant round. Ms. McElroy gave a presentation on the Commission's Climate initiative as well as the Climate Action Plan. The meeting concluded with an update from Steve McKenna on the Coastal Zone Management and Regulatory Resiliency Grant activities.

Ms. Coleman asked for a CZM Resiliency Grant status. Ms. Hulst said she will look into a status update.

There were no additional comments or questions.

**Cape Cod Conservation District** staff will provide an update on projects funded by the Cape Cod Water Resources Restoration Project (CCWRRP)

Donald Liptack and Rick DiVirgilio were not present at the meeting to provide an update. April Wobst from APCC offered to provide a brief update with the work they have been doing with CCWRRP. She said APCC did a desktop assessment of potential salt marsh projects to be funded by CCWRRP grant funding. Ms. Wobst said they worked with the towns last fall and winter to get information on salt marsh and fish passage projects. She said that list was shared with CCWRRP and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Ms. Wobst said the Department of Marine Fisheries (DMF) has

reviewed the fish passage projects and working on a priority project list. She said they are working with Mass Division of Ecological Restoration on the salt marsh projects.

*Mr. Liptack said he had some technical difficulties but was now available to provide an update.*

Mr. Liptack provided an update for each town, starting with Barnstable and said they had a feasibility study done at Marston's Mill River to redirect the flow to its natural water course. He continued with Bourne and said they are in the design phase for Monks Park Valley Bars stormwater project. In Sandwich, they are in the design phase for Jones Road salt marsh project and John Parkers Road Bridge in Falmouth has been completed. Mr. Liptack continued with Mashpee and said the Sampsons Mill Santuit River fish passage is complete and they are in the design process for the Johns Pond fish passage. He said Parkers River project in Yarmouth is finishing up and Baxter Mill fish passage is also complete. Mr. Liptack said they have an agreement with the Town of Dennis on Follins Pond stormwater project which is under survey right now. He said they are also working with the Department of Transportation for Route 6A crossings on Sesuit into Scargo Lake. Mr. Liptack said in Harwich they are working on a feasibility study for Cole Brook for fish passages. In Chatham they are working with the Department of Transportation on Ryders Cove estuary as it has state road crossings. He said in Brewster they are in the closing phases of the Crosby Lane salt marsh project and they have an agreement for design at the Stoney Brook fish passage. Mr. Liptack said in Eastham they have a construction agreement for the Depot Great Pond watershed area for a fish passage. In Orleans there are four stormwater agreements that were recently signed. He said Orleans was one of only a few towns with the 25% town financial commitment available to sign the contracts. Mr. Liptack said Herring River in Wellfleet is in the permit process and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is paying for an assessment on a sediment study. In Truro there is a feasibility agreement on Center Road and Mill Pond salt marsh area and permitting is underway at the Eagle Neck salt marsh project. Mr. Liptack said there is no update for Provincetown as they were not able to provide the 25% town financial commitment.

Mr. Liptack said members can email him questions or comments about the projects. He added they completed a storm water inventory and are hoping to submit it to the national headquarters in May or June with a funding request. He said they received feedback that this region has good follow through with implementing plans and there is a good chance they will receive funding. He said tomorrow he is speaking with the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) because the district is co-sharing a two-year position with the shellfish division of DMF to help scrutinize and refine a monitoring program on bacterial removal directly below the outfalls.

There were no questions or comments.

## **Member Reports**

Sam Haines said in 2020 the Town of Bourne worked with SNEP for a coastal resilience finance assessment and in 2021 the town was chosen as a priority town to continue with the process. He said the hope is to have a long-term capital plan for funding resilience.

Dr. Duncanson said Chatham has been working with SNEP for a couple of years and will probably consider another stormwater project. He said they were working with them on stormwater financing options and the report should be ready later this year. He said the next step is putting together a stormwater management plan for the Pleasant Bay watershed. He said the four towns have to work together to project Pleasant Bay.

Nina Coleman from Barnstable said after 5 years the town council approved the design and permitting to relocate the Sandy Neck parking lot. She said she will be looking to CZM for funding. Ms. Hulst said she included grant deadlines and links in the chat. Dr. Duncanson asked for the new location. Ms. Coleman said in 2016 there was an analysis that included a shoreline change, so they are going to push the lot back behind the bathhouse to higher ground. She said they understand someday they will have to do another move.

Erinn McCarty said the Friends of Bass River received SNEP grant funds in 2020 for the Upper Bass River restoration project to restore 57 acres of old cranberry bogs to help ameliorate the nitrogen problem. Also, they submitted their Letter of Interest (LOI) for the 2021 grant and they will be reaching out for letters of support. Ms. McCarty said they are looking to apply for DER funds and they have also been working with the town for a couple of culverts that need to be replaced.

Ms. Hulst said Jo Ann Muramoto from APCC sent an update and she will put a link in the chat. Ms. Hulst also reminded the committee they have a webpage on the Cape Cod Commission website and all of the information shared at the meeting today will be on the webpage.

### **New Business:**

There was no new business.

### **Next Meeting:**

The next BCCRS meeting is scheduled for July 21, 2021

### **Adjourn**

Upon a motion by Chris Miller, seconded by Sam Haines, the meeting adjourned at 10:59 am with a roll call vote.

### **Roll Call Vote**

Nina Coleman	Yes
Sam Haines	Yes

Chris Miller	Yes
Robert Duncanson	Yes
Karen Johnson	Yes
Jennifer Lincoln	left at 10:50 am
Heinz Proft	Yes
Tim Famulare	Yes
David Deconto	left at 10:50 am
Emily Beebe	Yes
Hilary Lemos	Yes
Karl Von Hone	Yes

## List of Materials Used/Presented

- <https://seagrant.whoi.edu/regional-topics/aquaculture-fisheries/shucked-oyster-rapid-response-program/>
- Dredge PowerPoint presentation
- <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=F1JHhCO020i3Zu1Lu-p08Yv33hjr19NMtPW6c1K83gtUNEQ2T0E3WFBPTEI4QjZEM1RYU1ZBMDZNOC4u>
- <http://www.capecodextension.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Marine-Extension-Bulletin-Christmas-Trees-and-Dune-Stabilization.pdf>
- <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/coastal-resilience-grant-program>
- <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/coastal-pollutant-remediation-cpr-grant-program>  
<https://www.capecodcommission.org/our-work/barnstable-county-coastal-resources-subcommittee/>

**Cape Cod Cooperative Extension Summary - Town Shellfishery changes to 2020**

	Barnstable	Brewster	Bourne	Eastham	Harwich	Orleans	Provincetown	Wellfleet
Have you seen increased participation in your town recreational shellfishery since March 2020?	Yes, permits and harvest are up	Limited license sales to residents but still saw increase in activity	Increased activity	increase in the numbers of individuals we saw recreationally shellfishing this summer and again in November when we opened for harvest for oysters. There were many folks that stated they were first timers.	Yes	Yes	Yes	recreational shellfishing in 2020 as compared to 2019. This was an exponential increase as it became a way for residents and visitors to get outside and exercise, be able to social distance and bring food home for their tables without having to go into a store. This activity stretched the department's resources, both in trying to make sure ample shellfish was available for harvest and staffing to conduct propagation and enforcement with this growing number of users.
If you're OK with sharing, please include whatever data or observations you have on #s of permits, catch limits reached, people, or trips that could help illustrate the situation.	Permits up over 4%, harvest up across board. oysters 3%, quahogs 3%, soft shells 43%	oyster harvest and participation almost doubled in part with help of fall mini-grant, resident permits up 10%, weekly permits up 61%	Permit sales about the same but harvest up around 10-15% Violations also up...	I don't have the exact data to compare 2020 to 2019. I just started this season with working on a better system for documenting what we see harvested.	We had an increase 15% in shellfish permit sales = activity on Shellfish flats higher. Harwich collects data on 2020 - when people RENEW and purchase their 2021 permits. the spike occurred in March + April with people, new people going shellfishing.	Permit sales up and harvest seemed to be up	Harvest up 40%	In 2020, we sold a total of 780 recreational permits (100 less than 2019). Total revenue was \$87,405, about \$500 more than 2019, probably because some usual seasonal permit buyers bought the more expensive annual permits. There was a 36% increase in recreational shellfishing permit usage from 2019 to 2020. 271 bushels of oysters, more than 85,000, were harvested (up 11%) and 143 bushels of quahogs, more than 42,000, were harvested (up 85%).
Have you or your town taken any management actions to try to accommodate or mitigate increased use of the recreational shellfishing resource? If you're OK with sharing, please write a few sentences on what action you have taken.	Had to manage staffing to accommodate increased fishing activity and focus propagation	At some point chose to limit permits to residents only	Seed purchases up 15% to accommodate need	There was nothing different that we did during the 2020 season compared to years past. All areas except Salt Pond are open daily for harvest.	Growing shellfish in the Town Upweller, then planting the seed in many areas - I took into account the added pressure on the Pleasant Bay Shellfish flat area and seeded a little more than usual in that area. This reduced shellfish for other areas	hired an additional summer staff person	Used programs of relay shellfish and purchase from growers	The Shellfish Department has recommended that the Selectboard decide to not issue 2021 seasonal shellfishing permits just as we did not in 2020. We participated in the Barnstable County grant for an oyster buyback program to try and keep up with restocking our Indian Neck Recreational Area and spent almost \$10,000 from our Revolving Fund for Shellfish Propagation in addition to in kind staff resources and expenses. (This is addition to the \$10,000 awarded to us by the County grant.) Some farmers made donations of oysters as well, and in total, more than 45,000 oysters were relayed to the Indian Neck Recreational Area, which has seen increased fishing pressure all year.
If funding were available, would your town be interested in purchasing shellfish from a private grower or growers within your town that could be transported to recreational fishing areas within the same water body?	Barnstable does a lot of this already	This is something the Town recently did with the COVID-19 Related Rapid Response for Aquaculture Municipal Propagation Sea Grant. Both recreational harvesters and commercial aquaculturalists benefited from this program. The DNR was able to collect and transport legal size oysters to the Town's grow out area and easily track all the transactions.	Yes	Yes! Definitely. I am currently working on a proposal to be able to purchase product from local growers. I don't have a very large propagation budget so would take advantage of funding if available.	I think every town would say YES to this?	Yes	Yes	Yes, we would! In both the spring and fall as we feel farmers will need the help.