

MINUTES

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Work Session: Wednesday, January 20, 2016 at 3:00PM

Location: Earle Mountain Room

Present: Elizabeth Gawron, Chair; Linda Burt, Clerk; Wallace Adams; William O'Shea; Jacqui Beebe,
Assistant Town Administrator

Not Present: John Knight, Vice Chair; Sheila Vanderhoef

Elizabeth Gawron, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:00PM

Water Quality/Wastewater Workshop

Nauset Estuary Water Quality Issues – Liz Moran, EcoLogic, LLC & Jane Crowley, Health Agent

Jane Crowley reviewed the objectives of the meeting which will be presented in 2 parts at 2 meetings.

This meeting will focus on the following objectives:

- Define water quality problem in Nauset Estuary
- Discuss 208 Regional Planning Approach

In February, the objectives will be:

- Review Wastewater Technical Reports
- Develop targeted watershed plans

Jane Crowley then reviewed the history and current regulatory requirements. Eastham does have a problem with water quality and Eastham must decide how to solve the problem. The next steps are:

- Develop a targeted watershed wastewater management report in the next 6 months
- Submit Watershed Report
- If we choose not to... the risk is court appointed actions
- Coordinate efforts with the watershed to reduce costs and achieve the best outcome

A copy of Ms. Crowley's presentation is attached to the minutes for additional information.

Liz Moran presented information regarding water quality and reviewed the Technical Memorandum provided to the Board in their packet. Some key points were:

- Objective is to have swimmable and fishable water for everyone
- Implications to Eastham is Salt Pond Water Quality and Habitat Trends
- Nitrogen is the main chemical that impacts the water quality in estuaries
- A watershed approach is needed to move forward
- Adaptive management is outlined in the regulations set forward under the Clean Water Act
- Restoration goal is to expand Eelgrass beds by reducing nitrogen levels to 0.45 mg/L
- Hypoxia (low concentrations of Dissolved Oxygen, DO) - when Oxygen levels go below 6 mg/L, it is considered a violation of the regulation – Trend Report of Salt Pond since 2004 shows the DO is lower than 6 mg/L
- Reduce Benthic Flux, release of nitrogen that occurs with surface runoff

208 Process and the Town's Responsibilities – Patty Daley, Cape Cod Commission

Patty Daley, reviewed the 208 planning approach. Some key points to note are as follows:

- The Cape has 53 watersheds and two thirds of them are shared between Towns
- The 208 Approach has asked all 15 Towns to provide watershed reports by June 2016 to include the following:
 - Collection Scenario
 - Non-Collection Scenario
 - Hybrid Scenario
- Regulatory Streamlining, strategies to successfully implement established water quality goals:
 - Targeted Watershed Plans reduce upfront planning time, lower cost and focus attention where most needed
 - Reduction Credits – reductions in fertilizer use and storm water runoff, supported by

- performance monitoring, should lower nitrogen reduction targets
- Watershed Permit – WMAs allocate nitrogen loads on a watershed basis. The watershed permit lists technology options
- The process to implement adaptive management was reviewed along with the stakeholder process

Jane Crowley outlined her schedule to present the plan for Eastham and beyond to the Board for review. On February 1, 2016, the technical report will be presented and the hybrid plans will follow at a future meeting. Other points:

- Towns have asked about dredging to help with Benthic Flux
- DEP has legal authority to issue watershed permits
- SRF funding now has 25% interest forgiveness

Administrative Matters

Plan Future Agendas

The Board would like to put on future workshop agendas a review of the following policies:

- Signature Authorization which provides who, limits, per item (contracts, purchase orders, etc.)
- Selectmen Communications
- Posting Policy of Meetings and Agenda
- Town Counsel communications

Jacqui Beebe confirmed that she will schedule the reviews on future workshops.

Review and Approve Minutes

January 4, 2016 – Regular Session

Linda Burt made a motion to approve the minutes with an edit

Wallace Adams seconded the motion

VOTE: Yes 4, No 0, Abstain 0

January 6, 2016 – Work Session

Linda Burt made a motion to approve the minutes with edits

Wallace Adams seconded the motion

VOTE: Yes 4, No 0, Abstain 0

October 28, 2015 – Joint Session with Orleans Board of Selectmen

Wallace Adams made a motion to approve the minutes

Linda Burt seconded the motion

VOTE: Yes 5, No 0, Abstain 0

Adjournment

Wallace Adams made a motion at 4:17PM to adjourn

Linda Burt seconded the motion

VOTE: Yes 4, No 0

Respectfully submitted,



Laurie Gillespie-Lee

Eastham Wastewater Management Plan

January 20, 2016

Jane Crowley, Health Agent

Objectives

Part 1

- Define water quality problem in Nauset Estuary
- Discuss 208 Regional Planning Approach

Part 2

- Review Wastewater Technical Reports(February 1)
- Develop targeted watershed plans

History

- Federal Water Pollution Control Act 1948 was the first major law to address Water Pollution
- Amended in 1972, commonly known as “Clean Water Act” gave EPA authority to implement pollution control programs and set water quality standards
- Amended further in 1977, 1981 and 1987
Reemphasized the ambitious goal of attaining fishable and swimmable waters throughout the nation

Current Regulatory Requirement

- CCC and Towns are obligated under settlement agreement between Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) and EPA to designate Waste Treatment Management Agencies to perform duties defined in the Clean Water Act. Eastham is a designated WMA.
- CCC has submitted Section 208 Cape Cod area wide water quality management Plan update (208 Plan Update) signed by Governor Barker in June and submitted to EPA

Where do we start?

Define the problem-declining water quality in estuary.

 Estuary place of transition from land to sea and from freshwater to saltwater, influenced by tides but protected from full force of ocean waves, wind and storms

Where are we going?

- Provide Overview of water quality conditions in Nauset Estuary past and present
- Review findings in MEP Report for Nauset Estuary that establish water quality standards that will result in TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Limits)
- Discuss 208 approach to Watershed Planning
- What are we required to do under the current Section 208 Regional Wastewater Plan submitted to the EPA? What is required to be done in the next 6 months/
- What are our wastewater plans going forward-Technical Reports GHD define the problem (February 1 2016)
- Watershed collaboration

We have a problem...



How do we solve the problem?



Next Steps

- Develop a targeted watershed wastewater management report in the next 6 months
- Submit Watershed Report
- If we choose not to ... risk court appointed actions
- Coordinate efforts within the watershed to reduce costs and achieve the best outcome

Questions?

