

Minutes

Section 208 Area-Wide Water Quality Advisory Board Meeting

August 20, 2013

1pm

Cape Cod Commission Conference Room

3225 Main Street, Barnstable, MA

Present: Robin Wilkins, Virginia Valiela, Sheila Vanderhoef, Bob Churchill, Bob Ciolek, Paul Niedzwiecki, Andrew Gottlieb, Nate Keenan, Tom Cambareri

Absent: Wendy Northcross, Bob Lawton

Executive Director Update

Completed first set of subregional meetings following the last advisory board meeting in July.

In response we updated the meeting schedule – first stakeholder meetings in each watershed group to take place in September, second in October, and third in December.

Affordability and financing meetings – next week (Aug 26-29th):

- August 26th at the Council on Aging in Wellfleet
- August 27th at the Mashpee Public Library
- August 28th at the Barnstable Town Hall
- August 29th at the Chatham Town Hall Annex

Developed baseline information for each watershed group

Finishing up the town meetings – since last meeting we have met with Yarmouth, Falmouth and will meet with Harwich tomorrow

Community PlanIt Update – first game ended Monday. Over 400 people registered. Over 4000 comments. Awards and Recognition Event tonight at 6pm at the Cape and Islands Assoc of Realtors Conference Room.

Causes: Wildcare of CC, Childrens Cove, Cape Cod Volunteers

Next game begins in September

Finance Committee met – Bob Ciolek is here today to discuss this in more detail

Technologies matrix – provided to DEP, EPA, and TAC. Comments have been received from DEP, expect comments from EPA this week, and TAC has met twice on this and will likely meet again, but have already provided useful input

Panel on Technologies – will be convening soon

Feedback on Technologies Matrix

TAC - focus more on management and financial implications of the use of each technology, oversight implications might be large, administrative cost implications

Will review fact sheets

Ivan Valiela, Marine Biological Laboratory
Chris Neill, Marine Biological Laboratory
Eric Davidson, Woods Hole Research Center
Sarah Slaughter, Built Environment Coalition
Anamarija Frankic, UMASS Boston
Patrick Lucey, Aquatex

Meet 4 times in Sept and Oct - reviewing technologies matrix, process for evaluating watersheds, siting

Planning process, not engineering project - finance regionally, plan and implement locally

Affordability and financing - Bob, Chair of Finance Subcommittee

Mission: Establish a factual basis for discussing issues of affordability, financing, and resources

Not forcing any particular approaches, but evaluating all options

Estimates - concluded that cost of project will be between 5.2-6.5 million, with only 215,000 people to pay for it. More expensive than Boston harbor cleanup

Some towns on the cape have made progress thinking through how they will pay for this on a municipal level

Include finance committee discussion points with agenda

Virginia - estimate includes betterments, existing facility costs?
Bob - does not address operating or non project costs

Sheila - number is for standard known technologies and doesn't include innovative technologies?

Bob - assumes a certain percentage if I/A onsite techs, but generally, no it does not include alternative strategies

EPA - above 2% median household income is not affordable - community given more time to implement project

Sheila - no provision for allowing for downsizing of projects?

Bob - no

Bob suggests advisory board should circulate their thoughts on affordability.

Sheila - will there be universal access?

Bob - that hasn't been resolved

Andrew - there may not be a line to connect to

Bob - everyone benefits from protecting the aquifer, meeting regulatory standards, having clean estuaries and ponds

Current means of communities to collect money for most expensive project they have to deal with. Survey what the appropriate vehicles are for individual towns to raise the money necessary. Who does financing? Traditionally, the SRF. But some communities have been able to get money from USDA.

Virginia - resources, are we talking about loans or grants for new ideas?

Bob - both, perhaps SRF could lend money to our towns at 0%

What criteria should be used for external funding? Should go for a lot of money - politics will be the same for small vs large amount of money. To have big impact, state and federal governments need to provide \$20 million per year each toward capital costs.

Nate Keenan - SRF - 30% of total IUP is available for each individual project. Has 2019 sunset - could be changed.

Extending timeframe of project will help make project more affordable.

Next meeting - Sept 17th at 1pm - preview of baseline info, update on finance committee, update on technologies matrix and panel on techs

Sheila - Wellfleet and Truro - signed MOU over 208 process. Wellfleet is seeking same MOU with Eastham, who is concerned about county role. Sheila will send MOU to us when she gets it.

Paul - projects will be judged against the plan, which they should participate in developing

Robin - influx of tourists, we say we are 215,000 people, but so many more visit. Especially given the destruction in new york and new jersey. We are economic engine to state and we receive little state aid. To sustain viability, state needs to support us to develop our infrastructure. Support toll or other means of generating revenue from off cape individuals.

Bob - WWTF at chamber is considering this issue, range of decisions need to be made, but it should be on menu of options. 40-41% of travel is from non-Cape people. What would you want for average toll and what would discount be to cape residents?

Paul - we would have to avoid having DOT send money to general funds. Thinking about how you can utilize these funds for other infrastructure that is not related to transportation.

Robin - You mentioned the roads, we are dealing with all the state agencies, needs to be conduit for integrated approach to what happens to our highways. Connecting road in Harwich, they will tear up whole road this year when they did an adjacent road last year. Need to integrate approach with other infrastructure, etc.

Paul - we could work with towns to develop a joint capital planning program - towns, state, utilities. Combined savings could be substantial. Allocate resources based on priority, phase work. Could be suggested recommendation of 208 plan.