

Minutes

Section 208 Area-Wide Water Quality Advisory Board Meeting

March 3, 2014

3pm

Cape Cod Commission Conference Room

3225 Main Street, Barnstable, MA

Present: Robin Wilkins, Robert Lawton, Virginia Valiela, Wendy Northcross, Paul Niedzwiecki, Andrew Gottlieb, Kristy Senatori, Erin Perry

Executive Directors Update

Updated Commissioner Kimmell and other DEP/Trust staff on the 208 planning process on January 23rd.

Updated the Board of Realtors Wastewater Task Force on the planning process on January 28th.

Met with the Finance Subcommittee on February 3rd to discuss the conceptual design for the finance module, revenue module, and affordability module.

Met with EPA and DEP technical staff of February 4th to discuss the implementation of technologies from the matrix in detail.

Held the Stakeholder Summit on February 6th.

Updated the Cape Cod Water Protection Collaborative on February 12th.

Updated the Brewster Mens Club on February 13th.

Met with the Town of Falmouth on their CWMP on February 14th and 21st. The CWMP was approved by the Commission on February 27th.

Community survey was issued on February 24th and is still in the field.

Subregional meetings began on February 25th and will wrap up tomorrow, March 4th.

Continued working on development of the 3VS and TBL models.

Met with the Southeast New England Regional Watershed Restoration Program.

Wendy Northcross asked if we were invited to participate in the Southeast New England Program and Paul responded yes.

Wendy also asked if recent town meeting updates were about wastewater or Commission withdrawal petitions and Paul responded both. Wendy asked if collaboration came up at these meetings and Paul said no, but it is coming up in the sub regional stakeholder meetings.

Feedback from Stakeholder Summit

Paul said that feedback on the summit has been excellent.

Erin explained that we received some comments and questions via the comment form distributed at the summit and that we were working on responses.

Bob Lawton and Virginia Valiela said that they have received positive feedback on the structure of the sessions and the content of the sessions.

Subregional Stakeholder Workshops Review & Work Plan

We reviewed the draft work plan (attached).

Paul described the makeup of the subregional groups – the Lower Cape is the largest and there is lots of opposition and disagreement in Orleans. Lower Cape has about 30 participants and the other 3 groups have 15-20 participants.

Paul talked about how the process is looking to create a new structure that will allow alternatives to be investigated more easily, through a targeted watershed approach. We can't blame towns for having went with traditional infrastructure to this point because the regulatory process makes using alternatives more difficult. We have received some criticism for looking too closely at alternatives, but in the end it will be a local decision as to what approaches are used in each watershed.

Wendy asked if we saw this more as a menu than a plan.

Paul replied that Commissioner Kimmell asked the same question and we think that it's both.

Virginia said that this needs to be a fact based iterative discussion and that DEP has to be less rigid.

Andrew Gottlieb replied that change is coming from higher up at DEP and towns are dealing with the local office here, which sometimes has different perspectives of understanding of the changing views.

Virginia said that we cannot be too rigid on the monitoring. DEP never defines the reasonable time frame, but she feels that it is 5 years.

Draft 208 Plan Update – Online Release

Erin explained that we are releasing pieces of the narrative, via a blog type website, to the full stakeholder group, so that all 170 stakeholders who participated in the watershed working groups can continue to provide feedback. Stakeholders will have the opportunity to log in, read the blog posts, and provide feedback and/or interact with one another about the content.

We will post once a week, each Friday, between now and mid-May. Stakeholders will have one week to comment on the section and then comments will be closed when the new post is made available.

Bob Lawton asked if the video of the summit was available and Erin agreed to send the direct link to the website to the group.

Next Meeting – March 18th

Potential topics: finance model prototype, model agreements