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CAPE COD  
COMMISSION

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Minutes  
Outer Cape  
208 Workshop- Waste Management Agencies  
Tuesday, May 5, 2015 1:00 p.m.  
Truro Community Center  
Truro, MA

Paul Niedzwiecki, Executive Director of the Cape Cod Commission welcomed everyone to the meeting. He said the goal of the first meeting was to establish principles of nitrogen allocation. Today's meeting, the second WMA workshop, is about watershed scenarios and he will step through some basic scenarios at a subembayment level. Mr. Niedzwiecki said the WMA designations need to be submitted to MassDEP on June 1, 2015 and MassDEP will send the plan to US EPA on June 15, 2015. US EPA has until September 15, 2015 to approve the plan. He said there would be a third meeting in June or July to talk about organization and institutional structures and next steps.

Mr. Niedzwiecki reviewed the principles that were discussed at the first meeting. He said the Commission is looking for feedback. The principles are:

1. Assign responsibility of the subembayment level
2. Start with unattenuated load and apply attenuation when available
3. Calculate existing responsibility from existing attenuated nitrogen load
4. Calculate future responsibility from unattenuated potential nitrogen load
5. Data updates every five years with option and process for local modification

Mr. Niedzwiecki said interactive maps would be used to look at the scenarios.

The first scenario presented was Wellfleet Harbor that includes Eastham, Truro and Wellfleet. The existing unattenuated load for the subembayment is 33,032 kg of nitrogen of which Eastham is responsible for 3,497 kg, Truro for 523 kg and Wellfleet for 29,012. The threshold for the subembayment is 24,774 kg. The Nitrogen removal target is 8,258 kg. Eastham is responsible for 11% (874 kg), Truro for 2% (131 kg) and Wellfleet for 88% (7,253 kg). Two scenarios were presented. Scenario A (included in presentation) showed the town working separately with a cost of \$8,341,125 for Eastham, \$1,246,375 for Truro and \$21,060,764 for Wellfleet. Scenario B (included in presentation) showed the towns working together, the cost reduced to \$2,640,364 for Eastham, \$480,066 for Truro and \$21,122,916 for Wellfleet.

Erin Perry, Special Projects Coordinator, showed the different scenarios on the Commission's map viewer.



An attendee asked about the feasibility of ecotoilets in private homes. Mr. Niedzwiecki said the ecotoilet project in Falmouth was not successful but that may not be the same experience on the Outer Cape. He said it is not easy to determine if I/A systems would be more acceptable than ecotoilets to homeowners. An attendee asked if the change over to I/A would be voluntary. Mr. Niedzwiecki said that voluntary changeover is possible. He said there could potentially be resources available to install I/A systems at a watershed level as a pilot project. He said there are opportunities on the Outer Cape for subembayment pilot projects.

Charlene Greenhalgh, Truro Assistant Town Administrator, said I/A systems work best year round and Truro's population declines in the winter. She suggested that ecotoilets seem like a better decision. Mr. Niedzwiecki said that these are decisions the local communities can make based on their communities' characteristics.

Ed Dewitt, Executive Director of the Association to Preserve Cape Cod, said that these scenarios are a good example of the reason why towns need to discuss all the options to look at what would benefit a town's bottom line and community values.

Mr. Niedzwiecki said the Commission had developed three criteria for prioritizing water bodies. The first is level of degradation; the worst embayments need to be fixed first. The second is community support, without support plans will not be implemented. The third is shared watersheds. He said these are the three major criteria and that there are most likely more. He said at the Lower Cape meeting there was a suggestion to add coordinating with other capital planning projects.

An attendee asked what the qualifications are for a WMA. Mr. Niedziwecki said in part, the entity needs the ability to raise revenue and that is why it makes sense for towns to be designated. He said most towns have already begun planning and should remain the planning entity.

Mr. Niedzwiecki said that the WMA designations would be submitted to MassDEP on June 1, 2015. On June 15, 2015 MassDEP would submit the plan to US EPA who has until September 15, 2015 to approve the plan. He said from June 2015-June 2016 the Commission will work with towns to develop scenarios. The Commission has watershed reports, which provides an initial analysis and potential scenarios and that the Commission would meet with towns to obtain feedback.

Mr. Niedzwiecki thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting ended at 1:45.