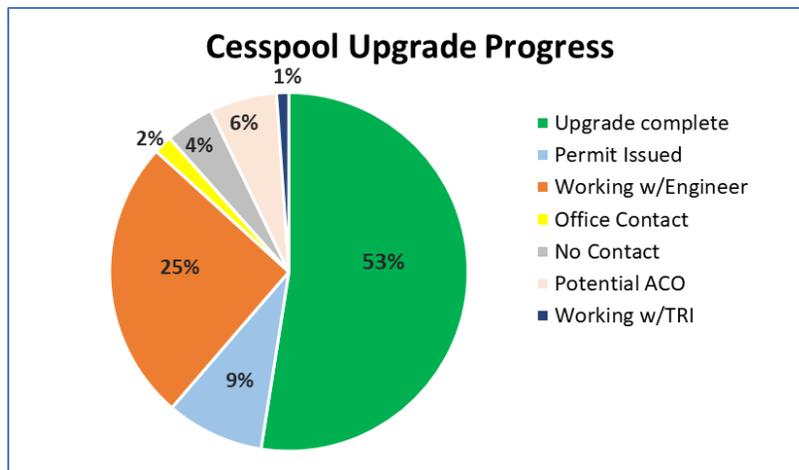


Memo to: Truro Board of Health
 From: Emily Beebe, Truro Health & Conservation Agent
 Date: March 19, 2024
 Re: **Water Resources Update March 2024**



Regarding cesspool upgrades to Title 5

To date, 62% of the properties with cesspools have either completed the upgrade process or have permits issued to do so. 26% are working with engineers. Letters have been sent to these homeowners, so they are aware of the deadline for plans and installation permits. 6% are eligible to enter into an ACO (described below). The remaining 6% of properties that have made no progress will be issued notices of violation filed with the Housing court.



Bucket	Count	Deadline
1	19	Installation by 9/1/2024 or 9 months from date of permit issuance
2	11	Completion of ACO by 6/1/2024
3	48	Plan complete by 5/1/2024, install within 9 months
4	8	12/31/2023



Regarding Administrative Consent Orders (ACOs). An ACO is the legal agreement between the Board of Health and a property owner regarding the timing of upgrades or connection to sewer facilities. Draft ACO’s must be finalized by June 1, 2024, by BoH approval of a variance to allow the agreement, using GPD value placeholder until the actual cost/gallon multiplier is determined by GHD. The Town and Engineers from GHD were scheduled to meet with the DEP on March 15, and the meeting was rescheduled by the DEP to April 4. At that time, we will review the use of the ACO process, and our Comprehensive Wastewater Management planning strategy.

Regarding stormwater management- Currently, stormwater management plans for Pond Road are at 30% of design completion. Funding to bring the plans to the bid-spec threshold of 75% will be sought at the 2024 ATM, putting us on target for implementation funding at 2025 ATM with construction planned for fall 2025. The designs will employ a variety of Best Management measures to treat stormwater.

The proposed Stormwater and Sediment control Bylaw that is on the Special Town Meeting warrant will be discussed by the Board of Health at the first meeting in April.

Regarding changes to Title 5, and TMDL NSAs – (no new update, March 2024)

Changes to Title 5 became effective on July 7, 2023 and a new include watershed permit regulations, and new Nitrogen Sensitive Areas (NSA). Watersheds on Cape Cod with an EPA-approved Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) are now designated NSAs with timeframes for compliance with approved watershed plans.

It is important to note that Truro does not have a TMDL for nitrogen so the change in regulation has minimal impact on most of Truro. However, a portion of South Truro is in the Wellfleet Harbor Watershed. In October the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), Watershed Planning Program (WPP), announced the approval of the Final Wellfleet Harbor Embayment System Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) For Total Nitrogen by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). You can find a copy of the permit at:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/final-total-nitrogen-tmdl-for-wellfleet-harbor/download>

East Harbor and the Pamet River are both impaired water bodies, but neither have a TMDL for nitrogen, however, to protect these resources the Town is working proactively, to align our planning process with the new regulations. We have contracted with the engineering firm GHD to prepare our Comprehensive wastewater management plan which will guide our wastewater management activities across town. It is likely that we will be moving into a watershed permit application process within several years.

Regarding Wastewater Management Planning/ Water Resources discussion with Provincetown:

Wastewater Management planning with Provincetown continues, with staff from both Towns, Truro's wastewater engineers GHD and John Goodrich, from Provincetown. We are awaiting a figure from Provincetown that captures the cost for connecting proposed infrastructure to the existing system. Once that has been approximated, the feasibility of connecting to the system can be expressed in costs of \$/GPD based on existing title 5 flows, which is consistent with current practice for the Provincetown Sewer system.

The 2011 Provincetown Water system IMA requires development of a Master Plan (to describe infrastructure improvements, upgrades, distribution, and expansion), and a Watershed plan, both to address the needs and concerns of both Communities. Staff from both Towns are meeting monthly to scope these plans for procurement, beginning with the Watershed plan. Up front, we need to develop a process for the planning that will help us address the immediate issues and concerns between the Towns that may impede our progress as a group.