

Date: **August 16, 2022**

Project No.: **20985**

To: **Orleans Wastewater Management Advisory Committee (WMAC)**

From: **Mike Giggey**

Subject: **Orleans Nutrient Management Planning
Topics to be Addressed by WMAC**

At the August 11 meeting of the WMAC, we discussed a wide range of topics that this new committee might address. Some topics were included in the meeting agenda, and each committee member weighed in on the issues of importance to the board or committee he or she represents. The purpose of this memorandum is to compile a list these topics and to provide some preliminary thoughts on priorities.

Topics to be Addressed

Based on the WMAC charge, committee member comments on August 11, and Wright-Pierce understanding of the current issues, the WMAC should be prepared to address these topics:

1. Establishing priorities for the eight prospective sewer extensions and setting forth a process for dealing for further extension requests.
2. Identifying Orleans' responsibilities under the Pleasant Bay Watershed Permit and establishing a plan to fulfill those responsibilities.
3. Preparing for watershed permits with Eastham for the Nauset Harbor and Rock Harbor watersheds.
4. Documenting the Town's progress on nitrogen removal by watershed.
5. Providing recommendations on where and when permeable reactive barriers (PRBs) will be implemented.
6. Providing input to a town-wide build-out analysis and determining how growth will impact wastewater management activities.
7. Documenting reserve capacity at the new wastewater treatment facility, as it pertains to prioritizing new sewer extensions.
8. Suggesting policy on how growth will be accommodated in all wastewater/nutrient management activities.
9. Making recommendations to the Water Department on the development of a water consumption database to facilitate nitrogen load estimates by watershed.
10. Coordinating with the Board of Health on how its programs should dovetail with wastewater management activities.
11. Providing input to the Select Board on matters related to the Capital Improvement Plan and Town Meeting actions.
12. Providing guidance on how and when the CWMP should be updated.
13. Interfacing with MassDEP on implementation of its new nitrogen control strategy.
14. Determining the need to update prior Massachusetts Estuaries Project (MEP) reports on Nauset Harbor and Rock Harbor.
15. Updating and strengthening the Town's approach to freshwater pond protection and phosphorus management.
16. Explore nitrogen trading opportunities.

17. Reviewing background information to increase the Committee's awareness of past Orleans planning activities, DEP policies and program, and activities of other towns in the region, including experiences with innovative/alternative (I/A) septic systems.
18. Orchestrating a public information program on current and upcoming activities.
19. Providing input to other town boards and committees on how their actions may directly or indirectly impact (or be impacted by) wastewater management activities.

This list may not be complete, or it may contain tasks that should not be within the WMAC's charge. Either way, this memo is intended to provide a framework for discussion of what the WMAC might do.

Priorities

Once the WMAC agrees on the topics that will be addressed, it will be important to identify those topics that should be tackled first. A formal prioritization should come after the WMAC has reviewed and amended this list of topics. Nonetheless, we suggest that early actions focus on:

- Priorities for the proposed sewer extensions
- Responsibilities under the Pleasant Bay watershed permit
- PRB implementation

As part of the prioritization, it will be important to set forth milestone dates, many of which may be dictated by others. We will address scheduling in a separate memo.