



Truro's Comprehensive Water Management Plan Newsletter



What is a "Comprehensive Water Management Plan"?

A Comprehensive Water Management Plan ("CWMP") is a long-term plan that addresses the impact of human activity on our ground and surface waters. In Truro, the primary focus will be on septic systems and storm water runoff and their impact on our drinking water and embayments. This is likely to be a multi-year effort that will result in recommendations for more proactive management of septic and storm water runoff.

The overall approach will be to identify management strategies that will not be an economic burden, but at the same time, will work to protect the water resources of Truro for future generations.

This work is important because:

- Truro's ground water is the sole source of drinking water for Truro and Provincetown
- Our embayments are very sensitive to nutrients, especially nitrogen from septic systems and fertilizers
- Environmental activists and state regulators have been pressuring municipalities to perform this analysis and take action.

Who is Creating the Plan?

The Water Resources Oversight Committee (WROC), Assistant Town Administrator/Planner, and our Health Agent are managing the process.

WROC Members

Kevin Kuechler, Chair	Shannon Corea
Mark Peters	Amanda Reed
Peter Romanelli	Bill Worthington

Staff

Patricia Pajaron, Health/Conservation Agent
Charleen Greenhalgh, Assistant Town Administrator/Planner

About this Newsletter

We created this newsletter to "get the word out" by providing ongoing information and gathering feedback. This newsletter will be distributed to various boards and committees and organizations. Copies will also be available at Town Hall, the Library, and Truro's web site: www.truro-ma.gov

The History of the CWMP

Managing septic and storm water runoff have been recognized as challenges on the Cape for decades. At this time, every town on the Cape has responded by initiating development of a CWMP. Over the past several years, activist groups like the Conservation Law Foundation have initiated lawsuits at the regional level to accelerate development and implementation of these plans. Towns are striving to retain control over their CWMP planning and decision making.

Here in Truro, the foundation for a CWMP has been built for years:

1. Ground water quality testing is required upon transfer of all real estate since 2006. These data are maintained by our Board of Health.
2. The WROC has collected nitrate data from residential wells for four years. About 50 percent of all households have participated in this voluntary program.
3. The quality of the water in our embayments (incl. Pamet Harbor and East Harbor) was measured over a three year period (2007-2009) through a grant by the Massachusetts Estuaries Project (MEP.) Many volunteers from Truro aided in the collection of these water samples.

These and other efforts have generated a substantial database that will enable us to generate effective management strategies.



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CWMP Phase I: Progress to Date and Planned Activities

In 2011, Town Meeting approved \$125,000 to fund the Phase I for development of a CWMP. The CWMP committee chose Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc. to work with us to develop Phase I. The work kicked off in January, 2012 and has included:

1. Creation of a Geographic Information System (GIS) that will enable us to evaluate and model land use data at the individual parcel level.
2. Evaluation of historic information regarding septic systems and storm water runoff.
3. Identification of key areas for further analysis and characterization.

This summer you will see Field crews from Weston & Sampson evaluating road runoff patterns, storm water infrastructure and conducting various other field mapping efforts in order to further the analysis and base the planning effort on sound science.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

July 19, 2012 WROC meeting and CWMP workshop

July 21, 2012 *Losing Cape Cod: Our Wastewater Challenge*, Paul Niedzwiecki, Executive Director, Cape Cod Commission
10 am Truro Public Library

August 16, 2012 WROC meeting and CWMP workshop

September, 2012 Presentation to Board of Selectmen

Questions regarding the CWMP process should be directed to:

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Or write us at: Kevin Kuechler, Chair
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