

Minutes of the Water Quality Management Committee, February 21, 2019

Members Present: Ron Zweig, Steve Leighton, Virginia Valiela, Eric Turkington, John Waterbury, Matt Charette, Tom Duncan.

To view video of full meeting, see the following link:

<http://www.fctv.org/v3/vod/water-quality-management-committee-february-21-2019>

1. Review and vote on edits on draft Chapter 3 of the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP) Update

Virginia Valiela opened the discussion on the background and planned process for addressing the edits for Chapter 3 of the CWMP Update. Kristen Rathjen presented the members' suggested edits and addressed minor comments. Editorial changes can be made in real time with the immediate approval of the committee.

One key point that was raised was whether Chapter 3 should include comparative data presented from other towns on the Cape and other regions or whether the chapter should focus solely on the efforts made by the Town of Falmouth. Members agreed that Chapter 3 should contain the summary of the initiatives undertaken by Falmouth alone and remove references to other towns and regions from the text.

Ron Zweig made a presentation summarizing calculations of proposed number of oysters needed at harvest and corresponding potential nitrogen removal impacts for individual estuaries. Chairman Turkington emphasized that the scope of the CWMP Update is for the South-facing estuaries only and that options for shellfish in those estuaries may be limited or unnecessary due to shellfish closure areas and plans for/implementation of sewerage in several of those areas.

John Waterbury presented a suggestion for an alternate outline for Section 3 of Chapter 3 pertaining to shellfish aquaculture. He stated that the section as currently written seemed to be missing several key elements such as upwellers and basic nitrogen removal projections for relay capabilities and thought the section should be reorganized. Members agreed that the suggested outline was a reasonable approach to reorganizing the section. Virginia Valiela proposed to assign a temporary working group to revise the shellfish aquaculture section. All members were in favor of the working group: John Waterbury, Tom Duncan and Ron Zweig, with the assistance of Eric Karplus and Chuck Martinsen.

Edits to Chapter 3 were approved by consensus. Some edits required additional research and will be addressed at a future meeting.

2. Reports of members and staff

Virginia Valiela reported that the March 7th meeting will have a presentation on the first-year results of the Coonamessett River project by the Woods Hole Research Center and a presentation on the results of the Bourne Pond study by SMAST. She indicated that the draft report for the Bourne Pond study would be distributed to the members prior to the presentation. Due to having two presentations, she made a request to begin the meeting at 2:30 pm. She also reported that the following meeting on March 21st would have the second presentation by GHD and requested that meeting also begin at 2:30 pm. Members agreed to begin both March meetings at 2:30 pm.

3. Vote minutes of prior meetings (02.07.19)

Several corrections and amendments were made to the minutes. Matt Charette moved the minutes as amended. Steve Leighton seconded. So voted.

4. Motion to Adjourn – 4:49pm. Unanimous.

Minutes submitted by Kristen Rathjen.

List of Documents

- Draft CWMP Update – Chapter 3 Summary of Pilot Projects
- Draft minutes of the 02-07-2019 WQMC meeting