Minutes of the Water Quality Management Committee, April 4, 2019
Members Present: Ron Zweig, Steve Leighton, Virginia Valiela, Eric Turkington, Matt Charette, Tom Duncan.

1. **Discussion and vote on SMAST draft report ‘Preliminary Assessment of Bournes Pond Oyster Aquaculture Effects on Water Quality and Nutrient Cycling’ (February 2019)**

Chairman Turkington opened the discussion on the SMAST report on Bournes Pond oyster aquaculture. Tom Duncan suggested that the committee consider how to use this report to drive decisions for designing the experiments for this summer. Virginia Valiela commented that Brian Howes has put together a scope of work that details looking at certain aspects of the previous project in finer detail based on the results presented in the report rather than a continuance of the prior efforts unchanged.

There were several clarifications and amendments that members would like addressed in the report including moving the broad-scale discussion not specific to Bournes Pond to an appendix. Member discussions raised concerns over the high density of oysters per bag used in the experiments. Ron Zweig cautioned that the numbers presented in the report should not be used as the primary factor in making next step decisions. Members would like to work to achieve a density that is a balance between maximizing nitrogen removal benefits and optimizing growth for a marketable product. Matt Charette suggested that the shellfish working group meet with Brian Howes on a regular basis to ensure experiments are designed and carried out as envisioned by the committee.

Ron Zweig moved to accept the draft report and amend as needed. Tom Duncan seconded. Unanimously approved.

2. **Revised recommendation on expenditure of state budget earmark ($25k) and reconsideration of previous vote (2/7/19) – discussion and vote**

Chairman Turkington informed the committee that preliminary discussions with the Massachusetts Alternative Septic System Test Center indicated that the state funds would likely not be able to be spent out prior to June 30th, 2019 due to timing of contracts, permitting and installation of the I/A systems. Rather than forfeit the funds, Chairman Turkington inquired with FMES on what the funds should be spent on. FMES indicated the funds would be best spent on building the infrastructure needed to support the municipal shellfish propagation program. Virginia Valiela made a motion to direct the state funds to the Department of Marine and Environmental Services for the purchase of an overwintering container and quahog grow out cages and to rescind the previous vote to allocate funds to the test center. Virginia Valiela moved the motion with a change of

3. **Review and vote on edits on draft Chapter 2 of the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP) Update**

Edits for section 2.1 of the CWMP Update were reviewed by the members. Kristen Rathjen presented the members’ suggested edits and addressed minor comments. Editorial changes were made in real time with the immediate approval of the committee. Edits to section 2.1 were approved by consensus. Section 2.1 will now be forwarded to GHD.

4. **Proposal for WQMC participation in WHOI Southeast New England Program (SNEP) pre-proposal for PRB – discussion and vote**

Matt Charette discussed WHOI’s desire to partner with the Cape Cod Commission and WQMC to submit a modified version of the 2018 SNEP proposal to install a PRB at 0 Shorewood Drive to the 2019 SNEP pre-proposal call. The major change to the 2019 proposal is the reduction of the length of the PRB to 120’ primarily for budget considerations. The objective of the project, if funded, would be to evaluate several design parameters of a PRB injected with EVO (Emulsified Vegetable Oil) to use as a carbon source to reduce nitrogen in groundwater. One main objective is to investigate the longevity of the system during the project lifetime by injecting an estimated 1-year supply of EVO into one half of the PRB and a 2-year supply into the other half. Mr. Charette, who is employed by WHOI, recused himself and then left the meeting.

Chairman Turkington emphasized that the installation of a PRB has been part of WQMC’s charter since 2011 and that the committee has been attempting to secure funding since 2011 to install a PRB. Several minor recommendations were made to clarify the pre-proposal.

Tom Duncan moved in favor to endorse the submittal of the pre-proposal. Ron Zweig seconded. Unanimously approved.

5. **Reports of members and staff**

Chairman Turkington reported that the League of Women Voters had completed a study on the performance of the Water Quality Management Committee. The report indicated that WQMC is doing fine. Ron Zweig made an acknowledgement of Paul Dreyer’s continued attendance and support of the WQMC which he felt was missing from the report.

Chairman Turkington informed the members that the annual fertilizer bylaw letter had been issued to the respective waterfront property owners. He also indicated that in addition to the letter, MES also distributed an informational poster to be displayed at all
fertilizer retailers to aid individuals in the selection of and proper application of fertilizer according to the Town’s bylaw. It was emphasized that the bylaw affects all water bodies (both fresh and saltwater) but the mailing only goes out to saltwater abutters.

Chairman Turkington reported that the backlog emails from September thru March were distributed to the members. He indicated he will follow-up on several emails with phone calls.

Virginia Valiela reported that there are four draft sections of the CWMP Update that will be discussed at the April 18th meeting and an additional two sections planned for discussion on May 4th.

Ron Zweig discussed a potential strategy in long-term wastewater planning to focus on discharge first and then to look at the sewer expansion. Zweig stated that this strategy could have potential cost savings and thinks it should be considered.

Chairman Turkington reminded members of the invitation to the all-committee potluck on April 24th and collected RSVPs from the members.

Virginia Valiela informed the committee that she would be arguing against article 21 at the Town Meeting but not on behalf of the WQMC.

6. **Vote minutes of prior meetings (03.21.19)**

Several corrections and amendments were made to the minutes. Tom Duncan moved to accept the minutes with the suggested edits. Steve Leighton seconded. So voted.

7. **Motion to Adjourn – 4:01 pm. Unanimous.**

Minutes submitted by Kristen Rathjen.

**List of Documents**
- Draft report ‘Preliminary Assessment of Bournes Pond Oyster Aquaculture Effects on Water Quality and Nutrient Cycling’
- 2019 SNEP Grant Pre-Proposal
- Town of Falmouth Proposed Scope of Work and Budget – 2019 SNEP Grant Application
- Draft Section 2.1 of the CWMP Update
- League of Women Voters 2018-2019 Report
- Draft minutes of the 03-21-2019 WQMC meeting