



Meeting Minutes - Chilmark Conservation Commission and Board of Health Joint Meeting
December 20, 2023 at 5:30pm in the Select Board Room

Commissioners present: Board of Health – Katie Carroll (chair), Jan Buhrman, Matt Poole; Conservation Commission - Candy Shweder, Sandy Broyard, Stephen Kass

Staff: Anna McCaffrey (Board of Health), Carolyn Stoeber (Conservation Commission)

Public in attendance: Sheri Caseau (MVC), Daniel Greenman, Bob Nixon, Adam Turner (MVC)

Online presenter: Racheal Sorrentino

The joint portion of the public meeting was called to order at 5:45pm by Katie Carroll.

Adam Turner from the MV Commission presented background information regarding the special status of the 3 Up-Island towns and the state providing MVC with funds to develop a 208-equivalent plan, which was started 2 years ago. First, an existing conditions report was produced. The next report is a potential solutions report that details all the ways that could get Chilmark's nitrogen levels down to acceptable levels. Mr. Turner then introduced Rachel Sorrentino's presentation that will take the potential solutions report and apply metrics to the conditions and produce scenarios to clean up the ponds.

In the absence of any action on the part of the Cape and Islands, DEP has gone to federal court to force some movement toward reducing nitrogen levels and cleaning up the ponds. MVC has argued that MV has begun working on this project and should be allowed to propose its own solutions. To that end, MVC is helping to encourage policy discussions and the resulting regulations, is committed to finding money to help implement solutions, and will be instrumental in creating a regional management entity to ensure compliance in all six Island towns.

Ms. Sorrentino began her presentation with the 208 Project/Watershed Management Goals and the Watershed Planning Process, of which there are 3 steps. Step 2 includes the Potential Solutions Report, Updated nitrogen load estimates and reduction goals, and the current portion of the project: production of a "Solutions Matrix" indicating the estimated impact of each solution. The Implementation plan is the third step in the planning process. There are 3 potential solution target areas:

- Reduction (nutrients addressed at the source)
 - Manage and/or Limit Development
 - Manage Household Waste
 - Manage Other Waste
- Remediation (groundwater nutrients)
 - Stormwater Management
 - Permeable Reactive Barrier
 - Green Infrastructure
- Restoration (surface water nutrients)
 - Aquaculture
 - Habitat Alteration and Restoration



The next steps are focused on linking of the existing conditions and potential solutions reports using the solutions matrix to build if/then scenarios in January 2024 that will inform implementation, identifying funding sources for the cost of implementations, engaging town officials in the implementations, and encouraging public outreach and engagement. A Responsible Management Entity will be developed with ongoing monitoring and evaluation plans.

Ms. Carroll suggested that everyone review all the information presented while the solutions matrix is being built and meet again after digesting the information and formulating relevant questions. A tentative date for further discussion is scheduled during the regularly scheduled Board of Health meeting on February 7, 2024.

Documents provided related to the presentation:

Chilmark Board of Health Watershed Planning slides from 12/20/23 presentation
Potential Solutions Report

The joint meeting portion was adjourned at 6:34 pm and the Board of Health meeting continued.

Respectfully Submitted by Carolyn Stoeber
Minutes to be approved at the 1/4/24 Conservation Commission Meeting