



# Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan

## Town of Tisbury, MA

### Frequently Asked Questions

Update: 06/10/2021

#### What is a CWMP and why does Tisbury need one?

Nitrogen is a primary pollutant affecting coastal water quality. Wastewater is the largest source of pollutants that impair water quality in the Vineyard's fragile coastal ponds.<sup>1</sup> The Town's Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP) looks at ways to reduce nitrogen pollution and improve water quality in Lagoon Pond and Lake Tashmoo.

A CWMP allows the Town to access favorable public funding programs, like the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Cape Cod and Islands Water Protection Fund, which offer reduced cost financing for water quality infrastructure projects.

#### Who will be making decisions in the CWMP process?

The citizens of Tisbury. Improving water quality is a critical issue for the Town of Tisbury and the number one goal of the CWMP. The CWMP will chart the balance between future growth and the health of our ponds. It is a planning process that benefits from resident and stakeholder input and there will be public meetings throughout the process that will shape the final recommendations. Your participation is vital for a successful CWMP.

#### What is the process to complete a CWMP?

Typically, the process takes three to four years to complete, following steps required by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection<sup>2</sup>:

- 1. Needs Assessment:** Identifies current levels of nitrogen in Lake Tashmoo and Lagoon Pond. Counts existing septic systems and nitrogen sources, and estimates future nitrogen sources.
- 2. Identification of Alternatives:** Reviews all ways to reduce pollution and compiles reasonable, cost-effective projects.
- 3. Recommended Plan:** Combines the best projects into a final plan, for the Town to put into action over the next twenty-years.

#### When will the first public meeting be?

The first informational meeting will be held on **Wednesday, June 30th at 6pm** at the Town Emergency Services Building. Visit the Town Website for details. Remote participation may be available.

For questions, comments, and concerns, please contact:

[cwmp@tisburyma.gov](mailto:cwmp@tisburyma.gov)



Photo: Lagoon Pond, Credit: Vineyard Gazette

#### References:

1: "Island Plan: Charting the Future of the Vineyard" Martha's Vineyard Commission. 2010. Web. <https://www.mvcommission.org/sites/default/files/docs/islandplanwebversion.pdf>

2: "Guide to Comprehensive Wastewater Management Planning" Department of Environmental Protection. January 1996. Web. <https://www.mass.gov/doc/wastewater-facility-planning-guidance/download>