

Tisbury Water Resources Committee Meeting
Zoom Meeting
Thursday March 30, 2023
Meeting Minutes

Committee Members: Ben Robinson, Chris Scott, Nancy Gilfoy, Dr. Michael Loberg, Sheri Caseau, John Best, Gerard Hokanson

Town Administrator: Jay Grande

Wastewater Staff: Jared Meader, Melinda Byers, Mike Alberice, Eric Alexander

Board of Health: Maura Valley

Environmental Partners Group: Robert Rafferty, Kate Roosa

Consultant: Scott Horsley

Guest: Mac Schilcher, Lynn Fraker

Ben Robinson: Calls the meeting to order at 3:36pm

Introduction

Kate Roosa begins the meeting by giving a brief overview of the basis of the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP) for the Town of Tisbury and its goals of meeting the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) limits set for the Lagoon Pond and Lake Tashmoo watershed set by the Massachusetts Estuaries Program established by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP).

- Lagoon Pond Nitrogen TMDL removal goal, 13,000 pounds per year (34.6% / 50%)
- Lake Tashmoo Nitrogen TMDL removal goal, 6,500 pounds per year (31.9% / 42.5%)

The town needs to use multiple technologies or solutions in order to achieve these goals. Once the plan is put together and approved by the Select Board, it will go into regulatory review.

Regulatory monitoring of the plan implementation will be conducted by the Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC) and the MassDEP.

Macaleer Schilcher:

Asked Kate Roosa, if the numbers being presented were from the 2017 TMDL and if the numbers are the same in 2023. Kate clarified that the Lake Tashmoo numbers are from the 2017 TMDL and the Lagoon Pond numbers are from the 2015 TMDL and that the total pounds needed to be removed as of 2023 are the same.

Technology Review

Kate Roosa explains that the technologies presented today break down into one of three (3) categories (*Source Reduction, Remediation and Restoration*).

Source Reduction Technologies – Home solutions that require home or business owners to buy into and effectively use to work. The following systems were discussed:

On-site Septic (Title 5)

Urine Diversion System

Composting Toilet

Incinerating Toilets

Enhanced Innovative Alternative System (EIA)

- Contaminants of Emerging Concerns (CECs) can be deactivated with additional stages of treatment.
- Very few system types can eliminate PFAS as of today

Decentralized Systems (Cluster Systems)

On-site Gray Water Treatment Processes

- More suited for commercial use
- Laundry and car wash types of businesses

Phyto Irrigation / Hydroponic Treatment

- Requires specific placement

Constructed Wetlands

Fertilizer Management

- Tisbury is part of the MVC District of Critical Planning concern
- The Boards of Health have received a grant through the Department of Public Health (DPH) to hire a shared services inspector for the island.
- Example of a policy-based watershed source reduction
- Education Programs

Restorative Technologies

Innovative Resource Management Technologies

- Aquaculture
- Fertigation Wells
- Phytoremediation
 - Macrophytes
 - Permeable Reactive Barrier (PRBs) – Lagoon Pond Road Study

System Alterations

- Floating Constructed Wetlands
- Pond and Estuary Circulators & Dredging
- Inlet / Culvert Widening
- Coastal Habitat Restoration

- Chemical Treatment Ponds

Non-Structural Technologies

- Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Kate Roosa requested Water Resources Committee (WRC) members to reflect on reviewed technologies, evaluate criteria's and send feedback to the WRC Chair, Ben Robinson. Kate also suggested holding a public meeting in April or pay to obtain feedback from the community.

Ben Robinson: Adjourns meeting 4:34pm

Post meeting notes submitted by Dr. Michael Loberg:

Support for Timely Submission of a Tashmoo Watershed Management Plan

1. Adaptive Management, one readily responsive to changing conditions and goals. (Without this we cannot learn from our efforts and respond.)
2. Cost low cost per pound of nitrogen removed; (limiting factor in governing the extent and rate of denitrification. Possibly aided by access to revolving funds and grants
3. Timeliness: Performance data available in support of October TWMP and SRF applications.
4. Favorable impact on Islander Public health as well as the changing health and needs of our estuaries.
5. Favorable impact on Island Job creation, workforce needs and new industries; more "nice to have" than "must have".