

MEETING MINUTES

GROUNDWATER WASTEWATER DISCHARGE CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2025

ROPEWALK ROOM

26 COURT ST • PLYMOUTH, MA 02360

Meeting Called to Order: 6:00 PM

Members Present: Josh Bows, Mark Champagne, Martin Enos, Rose Forbes (Clerk), David Golden (Chair), Hampton Watkins (Vice Chair)

Members Absent: Bill Doyle

Others in Attendance: Doug Pinard (Department of Public Works [DPW]), Neal Price (Horsley Witten), and members of the public including Tom Fugazzi, Mary Gatslick, Janice Goodman, and Mark Philips.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No initial public comments.

MEETING MINUTES

Mr. David Golden asked the CAC if there were any comments on the April 28, 2025 meeting minutes. Ms. Rose Forbes noted the next meeting date of May 26, 2025 included in the minutes was incorrect since the meeting was postponed to June 23rd due to the Memorial Day holiday. Mr. Golden asked for a motion to accept the minutes as amended with the correct meeting date. Mr. Hampton Watkins made a motion to accept the minutes as amended and Mr. Marty Enos seconded the motion. The motion passed six in favor, none against, and one not present.

Substance		Approve April 28, 2025 Meeting Minutes				
Last Name	First Name	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote	Not Present
Bows	Josh	X				
Champagne	Mark	X				
Doyle	Bill					X
Enos	Martin	X				
Forbes	Rose	X				
Watkins	Hampton	X				
Golden	David	X				
TOTALS		6	0	0	0	1

HORSLEY WITTEN GROUP PRESENTATION – MR. NEAL PRICE

Mr. David Golden noted he sent the Draft Environmental Impact Review (EIR) document to the CAC members this morning. Mr. Neal Price shared the Draft EIR and Mr. Enos asked what the review process is for the document. Mr. Golden explained Mr. Price will present the contents of the Draft EIR and CAC member comments on the document are due by August 1, 2025 with the CAC recommendation expected at a future committee meeting, after which the CAC will be disbanded.

Mr. Watkins asked if the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) will review the document and if there will be a public comment period. Mr. Price stated the Draft EIR will be placed in the Massachusetts Environmental Protection Agency (MEPA) Monitor for Public Comment and will be reviewed by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA). EEA will then send the document to MassDEP to issue the permit.

Mr. Watkins requested clarification on the CAC recommendation language. Mr. Golden stated he will work with Mr. Price on the proposed motion language and that the CAC recommendation will be given to the Selectboard for their consideration. This will be done before the public outreach meetings.

Mr. Josh Bows asked what the CAC's goal/deliverable is and said he asked the same question at the first meeting. Ms. Rose Forbes reviewed the minutes from the August 26, 2024 meeting and stated the CAC's goal is to make a recommendation to the Selectboard for the change in the existing permit (i.e. whether to file the permit or not). Mr. Golden stated he would discuss with the Selectboard.

Ms. Forbes asked if the CAC can change its recommendation based on input from the public. Mr. Golden replied he does not think the CAC recommendation can be changed. Mr. Doug Pinard stated all information has been provided to the CAC for the committee to make their recommendation.

Ms. Forbes suggested all the CAC members provide comments on the Draft EIR in a consistent format. Mr. Golden asked Ms. Forbes to draft up a comment form for his review.

Mr. Enos asked if the August 26 recommendation date is set in stone. Mr. Golden replied in the affirmative. Mr. Enos believes there is still much ground to cover and he still has many questions. Mr. Golden replied that at some point we have to stop. Mr. Josh Bowes stated it is a good idea to have an endpoint.

Mr. Price began to review the Draft EIR. Mr. Enos asked about the rationale for the alternate sites, noting that if the proximity of some of the alternate sites to water features makes them unacceptable then why is the wastewater treatment plant infiltration beds, which are close to the Eel River watershed, considered acceptable. Mr. Price responded that alternate sites are considered new locations and therefore have issues, as opposed to the existing infiltration bed location. Mr. Enos reiterated that if the discharge location is changed from the ocean outfall to the land disposal at the infiltration beds, why is this acceptable given the proximity to the surface water. Mr. Price stated the other sites are not considered more acceptable than the existing site at the wastewater treatment plant.

Mr. Enos pointed out there are no monitoring wells between the wastewater treatment plant and Warren Wells Brook. Mr. Price stated the plan is to install the monitoring wells if the discharge is moved to the infiltration beds.

Mr. Price reviewed Alternative 4.5, tertiary treatment for nitrogen reduction, and explained that if the discharge remains at the ocean outfall then a different form of tertiary treatment should be evaluated. He further stated that whatever level of nitrogen treatment the wastewater treatment plant is currently doing, the amount of nitrogen will be less in the groundwater than in the ocean outfall.

Ms. Forbes noted concerns with phosphorus already in the subsurface soil at and downgradient of the infiltration beds since treated wastewater has been, and is currently, discharged to the infiltration beds. Mr. Price stated he would consult with the United States Geological Survey regarding the equilibrium of the phosphorus in the subsurface and how it could be affected by the increased discharge rate in the infiltration beds.

Mr. Watkins asked if the Eel River water will make it to the Forges Field public water supply well since the cone of depression is steeper at the well. If a mound is created at the infiltration beds, does that have an impact on the well? Mr. Price said it could but he was not sure.

Mr. Enos asked if any percolation studies have been done in the infiltration beds and how many gallons of treated wastewater were discharged into the beds in May. Mr. Price stated a percolation test was conducted during the design of the infiltration beds and indicated they could handle three to five gallons per day per square foot.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Janice Goodman asked if private well owners will be notified if the treated wastewater discharge location is changed to the infiltration beds. Mr. Price stated they will be notified.

Ms. Mary Gatslick asked if the draft EIR will be available to the public or just the CAC. Mr. Golden stated the document is publicly available.

Ms. Gatslick asked when the monitoring wells will be installed. Mr. Price stated the plan is to install the monitoring wells but he is not sure of the timeframe.

Mr. Fugazzi asked if any local Town agency will be involved, such as for issuing an Order of Conditions. Mr. Price stated the project does not require local Conservation Commission approval.

ACTION ITEMS

Mr. Golden asked if there were any action items. Ms. Forbes replied she didn't have them available but Mr. Pinard stated they were completed; however, Ms. Forbes has not verified that statement.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None

MEETING SCHEDULE

The next meeting is scheduled for July 28, 2025 in the Rope Walk Room.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 7:19 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rose Forbes, Clerk