

BayNews

Pleasant Bay Resource Management

Alliance

Summer 1999

P.O. Box 1584 Harwich MA 02645

Baywide Citizen Water Quality Monitoring Program Moves Ahead

The Alliance is putting the finishing touches on the design of a baywide water quality monitoring program that will build on monitoring efforts in Orleans, Chatham and Harwich. Last March the Alliance received a \$10,000 grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs to continue existing levels of testing in 1999 and to develop a comprehensive baywide program to be implemented in future years. "The new program will generate comprehensive and consistent information on water quality conditions throughout the bay," said Dr. Robert Duncanson, Chairman of the Alliance Technical Resource Committee. "Reliable water quality data is fundamental to many of the actions recommended in the resource management plan," Dr. Duncanson said.

A draft Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP), which outlines the details of the monitoring program, has been submitted to the state EOE for comment. The draft QAPP identifies seventeen locations from Meeting House Pond to Chatham Harbor Inlet that will be monitored monthly from May through October. Additional volunteers will be trained to collect samples. "We look forward to building on the tremendous

successes we have had with our volunteer participation," said Dr. Robert Wineman of the Orleans Marine Water Quality Task Force. The Task Force, along with the Chatham Water Watchers and Harwich Shellfish and Marine Water Quality Committee will coordinate volunteers for the monitoring program. Representatives from the Technical Resource Committee and local monitoring groups are working with water quality scientists from the National Park Service, Cape Cod Commission, and Waquoit Bay Estuarine Research Reserve to develop and implement the baywide program.

Become a Water Quality Expert!

The Pleasant Bay Citizen Water Quality Monitoring Program is seeking volunteers for water sampling, laboratory work, transportation, and data management. A technical/scientific background is not necessary. Training is provided. Anyone interested should contact Bob Duncanson at 945-5188 or Bob Wineman at 255-3491.



Watershed Management Demonstration Project to Focus on Arey's Pond

The 1,884 acres of land that drain into Arey's Pond may be the focus of a watershed management demonstration project to be undertaken by the Alliance. The project will be supported by a \$5,000 grant to the Alliance (See *Watershed*, p.2)

(*Watershed*, from p.1)
from the Cape Cod Commission.

The Arey's Pond subwatershed is being considered as the focus of the demonstration project because of its prototypical features: land use is almost exclusively residential; roughly 75 per cent of the land in the area is developed; and there are no industrial land uses. Thirteen- acre Arey's Pond is a heavily used recreational area. The project is being explored in conjunction with the newly formed Friends of Arey's Pond

"Watershed management is an issue that all towns are grappling with," said George Meservey, Chairman of the Alliance's Watershed Management Work Group. "We will be able to use the information and strategies developed through the demonstration project in other areas of the Bay's watershed," Mr. Meservey said.



Alliance Contributes to Wastewater Management Workshop

The Alliance wishes to thank the Citizens for the Protection of Waquoit Bay for conducting the *Comprehensive Onsite Wastewater Management for Cape Cod and the Islands* workshop at Eldredge public library last month. The Pleasant Bay communities were selected as one of two workshop locations due to

the resource management plan's focus on watershed management issues. The large turnout included local officials, volunteer board and commission members, and interested citizens.



Harbormasters Prepare for a Busy Boating Season on the Bay

Boaters in Pleasant Bay will benefit from new waterways management initiatives designed to increase safety and protect natural resources in the Bay. The measures were developed by the Harbormasters of Orleans, Chatham and Harwich through participation in the Alliance, and will be implemented this boating season.

- Pleasant Bay-wide Patrol. The Harbormasters are working together to ensure that one of the three towns' boats is patrolling the Bay at all times between Memorial Day and Labor Day. All three harbormasters have increased the amount of patrol time each will spend on the bay this season.. Each Harbormaster maintains the patrol of waters within his jurisdiction. Harbor patrol personnel in the three towns have been cross-deputized to enable them to pursue boating transgressors across town lines in emergency situations.
- Navigational Aids. The mooring field off of Cow Yard landing in Chatham will be a buoyed *No Wake Zone*. At the request of many boaters, the harbormasters will be placing a greater number of rock buoys, and will repaint the town marker buoy. Channel markers will be number consecutively from one end of the Bay to the other.

- Personal Watercraft (PWC) Management. Through the Alliance the Harbormasters have published the *Guide for the Safe Personal Watercraft Operation in Pleasant Bay*.

(See *Waterways* on page 3)

(*Waterways*, from p.2)

The purpose of the guide is to encourage safe and environmentally responsible operation of PWC in Pleasant Bay. The guide -- which contains a map showing restricted speed areas and resource sensitive areas, along with detail on state and local regulations -- is available through the Harbormasters, at town buildings, and at some marinas.

“Boating safety, and minimizing resource impacts from boating, are a major component of the Pleasant Bay resource management plan,” said Dawson Farber, Orleans Harbormaster. “These measures are intended to ensure that boating in the Bay remains a safe and enjoyable experience,” Mr. Farber said.



Alliance Expands Research on Bay’s Ecology

Experts from the National Park Service, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and the Alliance’s technical resource committee are working with coastal geologists from Boston University and Northeastern University to design a sediment research project for the Bay. The project will encompass detail on sediment type and location, as well as dynamic trends. Information on sediments is key to

understanding the health and productivity of the Bay’s habitats. The research will also be applied in the water quality monitoring program, aquaculture management, and regulation of shoreline structures.



Dock and Pier Guidelines Receive Scrutiny

Representatives of the Orleans, Chatham, and Harwich conservation commissions are working with experts from Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection on the development of new regulations and guidelines for docks and piers. “This is a considerable undertaking,” said Allin Thompson, Steering Committee member from Harwich, “but we have the involvement and commitment of the three town commissions.” The work group hopes to bring preliminary recommendations to the Alliance towns’ conservation commissions early next year.



Many thanks to all who have volunteered their time and expertise, attended meetings and otherwise supported the work of the Alliance.



Alliance Steering Committee

R. Bruce Hammatt, Jr., Chairman, Orleans
Allin P. Thompson, Jr., Vice Chairman, Harwich
Richard N. Miller, Secretary/Treasurer, Chatham

Alliance Technical Resource Committee

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Michael Whatley, National Seashore
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Coming soon...

www.pleasantbay.org

- resource management plan
- news updates
- media releases
- meeting schedules & more

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