

## **Resolution of the Towns Sharing the Watershed of Pleasant Bay**

**Whereas**, The Towns of Brewster, Chatham, Harwich and Orleans share the watershed of Pleasant Bay and, by intermunicipal agreement, have formed a Pleasant Bay Alliance to coordinate resource management of Pleasant Bay among the member towns;

**Whereas**, Pleasant Bay is a state-designated Area of Critical Environmental Concern;

**Whereas**, A Resource Management Plan for Pleasant Bay developed by the Alliance and approved by Town Meetings of the four member towns identifies excessive nitrogen loading from watershed land uses as a primary threat to the health and sustainability of Pleasant Bay;

**Whereas**, The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, in conformance with the Federal Clean Water Act, established 19 Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for Nitrogen in Pleasant Bay, which require substantial reductions in the amount of nitrogen flowing into Pleasant Bay from watershed sources;

**Whereas**, the Cape Cod Commission has developed an approved Section 208 Areawide Water Quality Management Plan Update, which designates the Towns as Waste Management Agencies (WMAs) responsible for meeting TMDLs, and which sets forth resources and assistance available to WMAs to facilitate compliance on a watershed basis;

**Whereas**, Each of the member towns of the Pleasant Bay Alliance has developed a plan to address its share of responsibility for reducing the amount of nitrogen flowing into Pleasant Bay from watershed sources;

**Whereas**, the Pleasant Bay Alliance has analyzed the combined effect of the four town plans on a watershed basis; and

**Whereas**, the composite analysis presents in a uniform way the attenuated nitrogen loads and load removal requirements already contained in individual town plans;

**Therefore, Be it resolved** that the Board of Selectmen of Harwich, pursuant to its authority under the Town Charter, hereby vote to take the following actions:

1. Endorse the **PLEASANT BAY COMPOSITE NITROGEN MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS** (March 2017) as an accurate representation of (a) the Town's share of current attenuated nitrogen load and of (b) the Town's responsibility to remove nitrogen in each subwatershed of Pleasant Bay.
2. The Town as a Waste Management Treatment Agency (WMA) Agrees to work with other member towns/WMAs in collaboration with the Alliance and with

the Cape Cod Commission and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to:

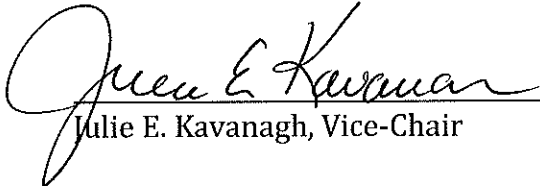
- A. Fully explore the opportunities for efficiency and cost savings identified in the **PLEASANT BAY COMPOSITE NITROGEN MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**.
- B. Support development of a Targeted Watershed Management Plan consistent with the requirements of the approved Section 208 Areawide Water Quality Management Plan Update.
- C. Participate in a watershed permit pilot project in order to explore additional potential costs savings and efficiencies and determine the advantages and disadvantages to the Town.
- D. Support other projects, studies or agreements as may be necessary to advance the foregoing activities pending the Board of Selectmen's review and authorization of any required funding.
- E. The concept of nitrogen trading shall be subject to further review and analysis before any commitments can be considered.

Signed:

Voted: June 22, 2017

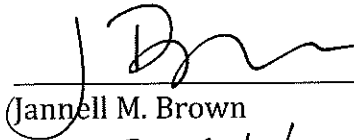


Michael D. MacAskill, Chair

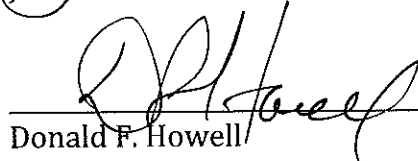


Julie E. Kavanagh, Vice-Chair

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Larry G. Ballantine, Clerk



Jannell M. Brown



Donald F. Howell

Harwich Board of Selectmen