



**WAQUOIT BAY NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE**

**AGENDA  
AT A  
GLANCE**

**JUNE 18, 2024  
9:00AM - 5:30PM**

**The Emerald  
Resort & Conference Center  
35 Scudder Ave., Hyannis, MA**

**PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS**

Waquoit Bay  
National Estuarine Research Reserve

MA Department of Conservation  
and Recreation

National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
Administration

Waquoit Bay Reserve Foundation

**CAPE COASTAL CONFERENCE**

**Collaborating for Solutions:  
Practical Sessions to Achieve Watershed Plans**

8:00AM **Sign-in and morning refreshments**

9:00AM **Opening Remarks**  
Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

9:15AM **Keynote Presentation**

**Plenary Session 1: Ways to Collaboratively Manage Watersheds on Cape Cod & Islands**  
*Erin Perry, Cape Cod Commission and Andrew Gottlieb, Association to Preserve Cape Cod* will discuss regional perspectives on watershed management including, the value of collaborative watershed management, challenges, and potential strategies.

*Lealdon Langley, Director, Division of Watershed Management, MassDEP and Gerard Martin, Southeast Regional Director, MassDEP* will provide an overview of the Watershed Permit Program and updates on the Best Available Nitrogen Reducing Technology (BANRT).

11:05AM-11:30AM **Networking Break with Exhibitors**

**Plenary Session 2: Better Understanding the Watershed Planning Process Through Local Case Studies**  
Members of the Pleasant Bay Alliance will present on key components of the Pleasant Bay's Watershed Permit Project focusing on elements that are readily transferrable to towns forming their own collaborations. The talk will highlight both the lessons learned and questions that remain after adaptively managing the watershed permit for six years.

12:30PM-1:30PM **Lunch (provided) and Networking with Exhibitors**

**Plenary Session 2 Continued: Better Understanding the Watershed Planning Process Through Local Case Studies**

*Scott Horsley, Water Resources Consultant, Horsley Witten Group* will present about the hybrid watershed plans integrating traditional and alternative nitrogen removal strategies created for the towns of Wellfleet and Tisbury. The talk will highlight the collaborative process working with towns and MassDEP and strategies to balance affordable housing and nitrogen reduction in watersheds.

**Watershed Planning Round Table Discussions to Collaboratively Advance Nitrogen Removal Strategies on the Cape & Islands**

*Facilitated discussion with all conference attendees:* Facilitators at each table will prompt groups to discuss their approaches for watershed planning & exchange knowledge around the challenges related to watershed planning.

3:15PM-3:30PM **Coffee Break**

**Afternoon Concurrent Breakout Sessions**

Learning from case studies to better understand alternative methods for removing nitrogen in waterways and to better plan for water quality improvements through collaborative funding.

AGENDA  
AT A  
GLANCE  
CONTINUED

JUNE 18, 2024  
9:00AM - 6:00PM

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3:30PM-5:00PM

Concurrent Breakout Sessions

**Session One - Onsite Denitrification systems (enhanced I&A): Lessons Learned from implementation and practical support for towns.**

*Sara Wigginton, Massachusetts Alternative Septic System Test Center (MASSTC)* will discuss the effectiveness and lessons learned from I&A systems using monitoring data collected from installed systems.

*David Iorio Izzo, MASSTC* will discuss how the Barnstable County Septic Utility Program (SUP) supports towns with I&A systems (e.g., monitoring, maintenance).

*Zee Crocker, Barnstable Clean Water Coalition* will discuss the effectiveness of I&A systems to reduce nitrogen in groundwater and Shubael Pond.

**Session Two - Urine Diversion: Lessons learned from implementation in Falmouth and larger scale implementation in Vermont.**

*Hilda Maingay & Earle Barnhart, The Green Center* will discuss the importance of urine diversion in reducing nitrogen in waterways and will focus on community interest and inspiration for the pilot project in Falmouth.

*Bryan Horsley, MASSTC* will discuss the effectiveness of ecosanitation and urine diversion using the Falmouth pilot project data. The talk will highlight potential implications for other towns and what is needed to advance urine diversion implementation.

*Abe Noe-Hays, Rich Earth Institute* will discuss their real-world implementation experience & scaling up (e.g., design, installation, maintenance) of urine diversion and composting toilet systems.

**Session Three - Regional Shellfish Efforts to Reduce Nitrogen and Challenges with Scaling-up Production on Cape Cod.**

*Josh Reitsma, WHOI Sea Grant* will present on realistic expectations for shellfish nitrogen removal, challenges, and factors to consider when scaling up production.

*Michael DeVasto, Wellfleet Selectboard member and commercial shellfish grower* will share perspectives regarding aquaculture challenges towns should address as they consider including aquaculture as part of their nitrogen removal strategies.

*Tom Duncan, Falmouth Water Quality Management Committee* and *Chuck Martinsen, Falmouth Marine & Environmental Services* will present on oyster production and nitrogen capture in Eel River, Falmouth MA.

*Ashley Fisher, Mashpee Division of Natural Resources* will present on the lessons learned from shellfish aquaculture for nitrogen removal in Mashpee and recommendations for other towns.

**Session Four - Funding Opportunities for Watershed Plans: Grant Program Overviews and Panel Discussion.**

*Padmini Das, Nonpoint Source (NPS) Management Section, MassDEP* Section 604(b) Water Quality Management Planning Grant Program, Section 319 Nonpoint Source Competitive Grants Program

*Courtney Rocha, MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs* Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program

*Kathleen Mason, Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management* Coastal Habitat and Water Quality Grants and Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program

*Tom Ardito, Southeast New England Program, SNEP*

Southeast New England Program Watershed Implementation Grants (SWIG)

Wastewater Managers Group Meeting: Identifying common challenges and shared resources for wastewater management on Cape Cod.

**Session Five - Facilitated discussions will inform topics for future wastewater managers meetings.**

Target Audience: Wastewater Planners

5:00PM

**Networking Reception with Exhibitors and Concluding Remarks  
Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve**

6:00PM

**Adjourn**