



# **NEWEA – Watershed Management**

A Unique Approach to Implementation:  
Watershed Nitrogen Management Planning-  
Town of Mashpee, MA

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# **Planning** aspects that influenced implementation

Towns on the Cape have taken innovative approaches to wastewater and nutrient management planning and implementation.

Mashpee has put their own unique spin on planning and implementation:

- Watershed based approach
- Contracting with School for Marine Science and Technology (SMAST) predating Massachusetts Estuaries Project (MEP)
- Decentralized approach from the onset
- Incorporation of shellfish into the program with traditional “Plan B”
- Targeting a possible regional facility at Joint Base Cape Cod (JBCC)

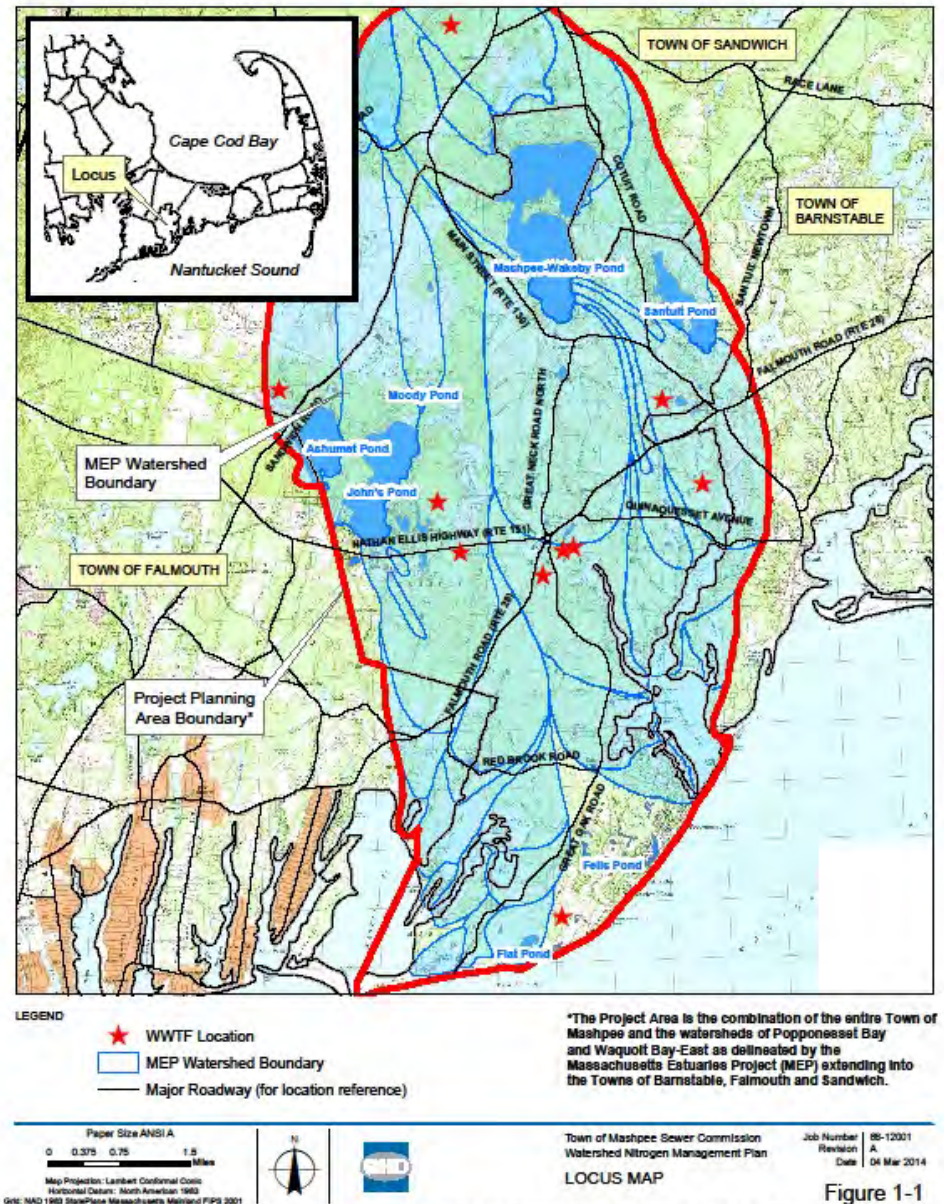
# Introduction

- Project background and chronology
- Plan development
- Recommended Plan
- Implementation schedule
- Initial implementation summary
  - Watershed permit
  - Quashnet/Moonakis River
  - WWTF evaluation and SewerCAD
  - Shellfish

# Background

## Project planning area

- Town of Mashpee
- Waquoit Bay East Watershed
  - Including parts of Sandwich and Falmouth
- Popponesset Bay Watershed
  - Including parts of Sandwich and Barnstable



# Chronology

- 1999-2006
  - Project Contract and initial ENF Filing
  - Project Start and 3 years of MEP Sampling
  - Issuance of MEP Reports and TMDLs
- 2006-2013
  - Needs Assessment/Technology Screening and Alternatives Development
  - Additional TMDLs/Model Runs and Data Validation
- 2013-2015
  - Completion of Alternatives Analysis and Draft and Final Recommended Plan and Environmental Impact Reports
  - Final MEPA Certificate (July 2015)
  - CCC Consistency Letter (October 2015)
- 2016-Present
  - Implementation
  - CCC DRI Approval (in process)

# Plan development

- Needs Assessment and Technology Screening
- Evaluation of Alternatives
- “No Action Alternative”
- Targeted Evaluations
  - Centralized vs. New Cluster Area Treatment Facilities
  - Regional Solutions (Joint Base Cape Cod - JBCC)
  - Existing Wastewater Treatment Facilities (WWTFs)
  - Traditional and Hybrid Solutions
    - Shellfish aquaculture
    - PRBs
    - Bog / Wetland restoration
    - Onsite systems



# Matrix evaluation and summary of findings

- Development of evaluation matrix
- Each of the categories were assigned points
- most points, highest need

|                             |   |    |     |
|-----------------------------|---|----|-----|
| WASTEWATER GENERATION       | Percent of flow existing vs. at future (weight)   | 5  | 30  |
|                             | Est. Census Occupancy by planning area (% year round) (weight)                                | 5  |     |
|                             | Existing Gal/Ac (Weight)  | 5  |     |
|                             | Future Gal/Ac (weight)  | 5  |     |
|                             | Est. Existing Attenuated load (kg/y per acre) (weight)  | 5  |     |
|                             | Est. Future attenuated load (kg/y per acre) (weight)  | 5  |     |
| DRINKING WATER              | Percent of Subarea in Zone II (weight)  | 5  | 20  |
|                             | Percent of Subarea in USGS Well Recharge Area (weight)  | 10 |     |
|                             | Estimated Percent on Private Wells (weight)   | 5  |     |
| WATERSHED                   | Watershed Attenuation (weight)  | 10 | 30  |
|                             | In Subwatershed to Shellfish Propagation (weight)   | 5  |     |
|                             | Embayment Habitat Quality (weight)  | 10 |     |
|                             | Number of upgradient properties within 300ft Fresh Water (P) (weight)                         | 5  |     |
| PROXIMITY TO INFRASTRUCTURE | Proximity to JBCC (weight)  | 3  | 20  |
|                             | Proximity to "Closest" Existing WWTF (weight)   | 4  |     |
|                             | Proximity to "Closest" Potential New WWTF (weight)  | 3  |     |
|                             | Proximity to Potential Recharge - New Seabury (weight)  | 3  |     |
|                             | Proximity to Potential New Recharge - Back Road (weight)                                      | 2  |     |
|                             | Proximity to Potential New Recharge - Site 4 (weight)   | 2  |     |
|                             | Proximity to Potential New Recharge - Site 6 WWTF (weight)                                    | 1  |     |
|                             | Proximity to Potential New Recharge Willowbend (weight)                                       | 2  |     |
| BONUS                       | Subarea includes: Summerwood Condos, Sea Oaks Condos, Lake Side Estates, or South Cape Resort | +5 | +10 |
|                             | Subarea within Mashpee River Watershed  | +5 |     |

# Matrix evaluation and summary of findings (cont.)

- Excerpt of the Matrix Evaluation Table

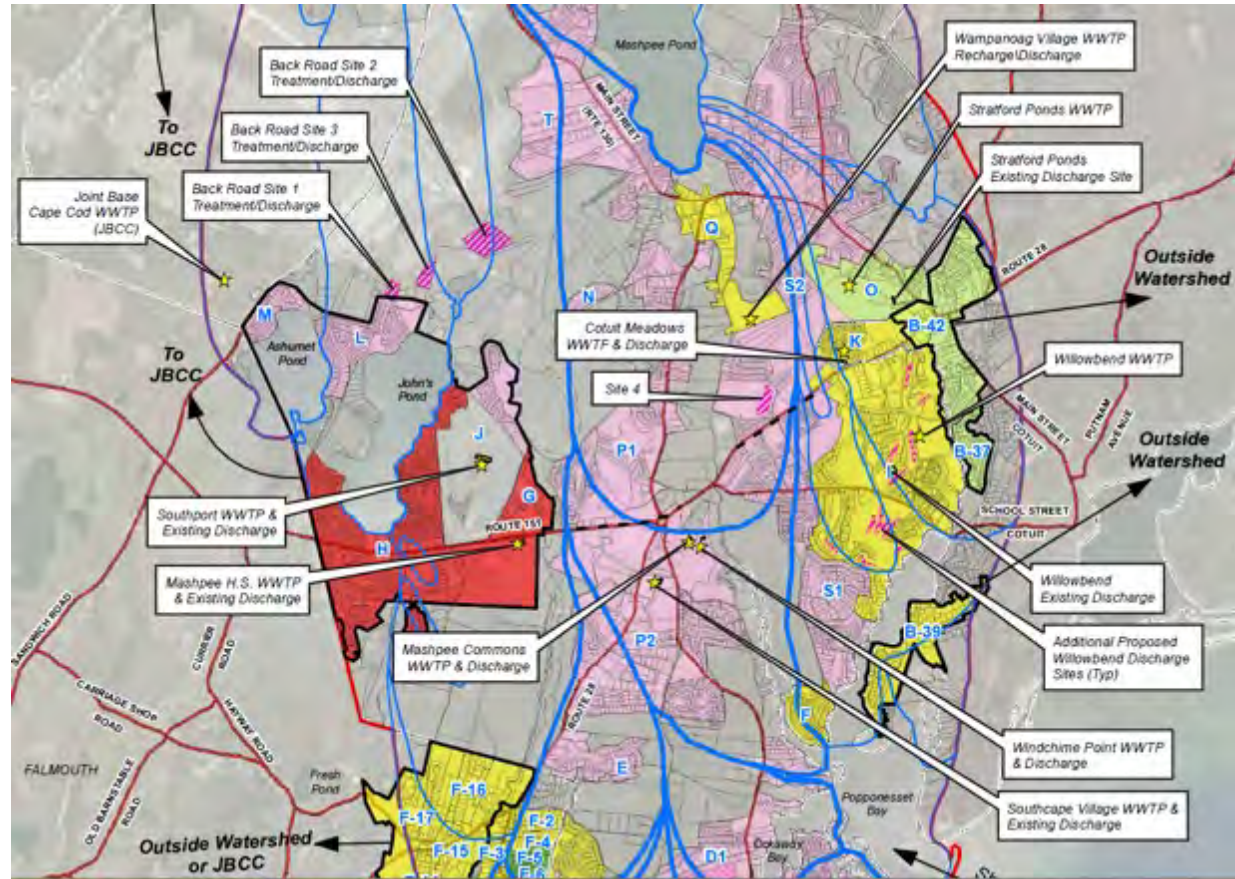
TABLE 4-22: MATRIX RANKING (ROUNDED)

| GENERAL INFORMATION |   |                          |                      |              |            |                         |                             |   | WASTEWATER GENERATION                            |  |                          |                        |  |  | DRINKING WATER SUPPLY                 |  |   | WATERSHED                      |   |                                    |   | PROXIMITY TO INFRASTRUCTURE |   |  |  |  |   |  |   | OTHER  |             |    |
|---------------------|---|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------|------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---|--|--|--------------------------|------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|--|--|--|---|--|---|--|-------------|----|
| Subarea ID          | Subarea Description   | Primary MIEP Watershed   | Subarea Size (acres) | Existing gpd | Future gpd | Total number of parcels | Number "existing" developed | Number of developed / developable parcels | Percent of flow existing vs. all future (weight) | Est. Census Occupancy by planning area (% year round) (weight) | Existing Gas/Ac (Weight) | Future Gas/Ac (weight) | Est. Existing Attenuated load (kg/y per acre) (weight) | Est. Future attenuated load (kg/y per acre) (weight) | Percent of Subarea in Zone B (weight) | Percent of Subarea in USGS Well Recharge Area (weight) | Estimated Percent on Private Wells (weight) | Watershed Attenuation (weight) | In Subwatershed to Shellfish Propagation (weight) | Embayment Habitat Quality (weight) | Number of upgradient properties within 100ft Fresh Water (P) (weight) | Proximity to BCC (weight)   | Proximity to "Closest" Existing WWTF (weight) | Proximity to "Closest" Potential New WWTF (weight) | Proximity to Potential Recharge - New Seabury (weight) | Proximity to Potential New Recharge - Back Road (weight) | Proximity to Potential New Recharge - Site 4 (weight) | Proximity to Potential New Recharge - Site 5 WWTF (weight) | Proximity to Potential New Recharge - W. Blawie Rd (weight) | BONUS (Within Mashpee River Watershed up to +5, Summerwood Corridor, etc +5) | VALUE TOTAL |    |
| Points per Category |   |                          |                      |              |            |                         |                             |   | 5  | 5  | 5                        | 5                      | 5  | 5  | 5                                     | 10   | 5   | 10                             | 5   | 10                                 | 5   | 3                           | 4   | 3  | 3  | 2  | 2   | 1  | 2   | up to 10+  | 100         |    |
| GENERAL INFORMATION |   |                          |                      |              |            |                         |                             |   | WASTEWATER GENERATION                            |  |                          |                        |  |  | WATER SUPPLY                          |  |   | WATERSHED                      |   |                                    |   | INFRASTRUCTURE              |   |  |  |  |   |  |   | OTHER  |             |    |
| {alpha#}            | (Desc.)   | (Poppy / Waquoit / Both) | (#)                  | (#)          | (#)        | (#)                     | (#)                         | (#)                                       | WEIGHT   |  |                          |                        |  |  | WEIGHT                                |  |   | WEIGHT                         |   |                                    |   | WEIGHT                      |   |  |  |  |   |  |   | WEIGHT   | RANK        |    |
| H-Only              | H, Without HS or MC or I/A  | Waquoit                  | 350                  | 71,000       | 120,000    | 570                     | 450                         | 530                                       | 3  | 5  | 2                        | 3                      | 2  | 2  | 5                                     | 1  | 1   | 10                             | 5   | 10                                 | 1   | 2                           | 4   | 3  | 0  | 1  | 1   | 0  | 0   | 5  | 66          | 1  |
| G                   | G, Mashpee Village  | Waquoit                  | 30                   | 13,000       | 20,000     | 0                       | 0                           | 0   | 4  | 5  | 3                        | 4                      | 3  | 5  | 2                                     | 0  | 0   | 10                             | 5   | 10                                 | 0   | 2                           | 4   | 2  | 0  | 1  | 1   | 0  | 1   | 0  | 62          | 2  |
| H                   | H, Areas south of John's Pond including the High School                               | Waquoit                  | 540                  | 73,000       | 140,000    | 580                     | 450                         | 540                                       | 3  | 5  | 1                        | 2                      | 0  | 0  | 5                                     | 1  | 1   | 10                             | 5   | 10                                 | 1   | 2                           | 4   | 3  | 0  | 1  | 1   | 0  | 0   | 5  | 60          | 3  |
| S                   | S, West of Santuit Pond (south picking up neighborhoods west and south of Willowbend) | Popponessett             | 1,260                | 200,000      | 260,000    | 1,900                   | 1,400                       | 1,700                                     | 4  | 5  | 2                        | 2                      | 1  | 2  | 3                                     | 1  | 1   | 8                              | 0   | 7                                  | 1   | 1                           | 4   | 3  | 0  | 0  | 2   | 0  | 1   | 6  | 54          | 4  |
| P-Only              | P Without Mashpee Commons/South Cape/Windchime Point/I/A                              | Both                     | 840                  | 130,000      | 220,000    | 700                     | 480                         | 650                                       | 3  | 4  | 2                        | 2                      | 2  | 2  | 2                                     | 0  | 1   | 10                             | 0   | 8                                  | 0   | 2                           | 4   | 3  | 1  | 1  | 1   | 1  | 1   | 4  | 54          | 4  |
| P1                  | Subset of P (north of Nathan Ellis)   | Popponessett             | 420                  | 72,100       | 110,000    | 330                     | 220                         | 320                                       | 4  | 4  | 2                        | 2                      | 2  | 2  | 1                                     | 0  | 1   | 9                              | 0   | 9                                  | 0   | 1                           | 4   | 3  | 0  | 1  | 2   | 0  | 1   | 5  | 33          | 6  |
| J-Only              | J, Without Southport  | Waquoit                  | 80                   | 140          | 50,000     | 10                      | 0                           | 10  | 1  | 3  | 1                        | 5                      | 1  | 5  | 0                                     | 0  | 0   | 10                             | 5   | 10                                 | 0   | 2                           | 4   | 3  | 0  | 2  | 1   | 0  | 0   | 0  | 33          | 6  |
| S1                  | Subset of S (south of Falmouth Rd)  | Popponessett             | 400                  | 67,000       | 89,000     | 630                     | 430                         | 540                                       | 4  | 4  | 2                        | 2                      | 2  | 2  | 1                                     | 0  | 1   | 10                             | 0   | 7                                  | 0   | 0                           | 3   | 3  | 1  | 0  | 2   | 0  | 2   | 6  | 52          | 8  |
| N                   | N, Steeplechase   | Popponessett             | 20                   | 4,200        | 4,100      | 30                      | 30                          | 30  | 5  | 5  | 2                        | 2                      | 2  | 2  | 4                                     | 0  | 0   | 7                              | 0   | 9                                  | 0   | 2                           | 2   | 2  | 0  | 1  | 1   | 0  | 1   | 5  | 52          | 8  |
| P                   | P, Area around Mashpee Rotary north along Great Neck Road                             | Both                     | 1,130                | 190,000      | 370,000    | 730                     | 490                         | 670                                       | 3  | 3  | 2                        | 3                      | 0  | 0  | 2                                     | 0  | 1   | 10                             | 0   | 8                                  | 0   | 2                           | 4   | 3  | 1  | 1  | 1   | 1  | 1   | 4  | 50          | 10 |
|                     |   |                          |                      |              |            |                         |                             |   |  |  |                          |                        |  |  |                                       |  |   |                                |   |                                    |   |                             |   |  |  |  |   |  |   |  |             |    |



## Matrix evaluation and summary of findings (cont.)

- Matrix Evaluations:
  - High Priority Areas in **RED** and **PINK**
  - Medium Priority Areas in **YELLOW**
  - Lower Priority Areas in Greens (**LIGHT** and **DARK**)
- With and without shellfish



# Recommended plan components

| Source Removal  | Direct Environmental Mitigation  | Land Management Strategies   |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wastewater Management<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Regional facilities (JBCC)</li><li>• New facilities</li><li>• Improvements to existing private WWTF</li><li>• Onsite systems</li></ul></li><li>• Stormwater Management<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• BMPs</li></ul></li><li>• Fertilizer Management<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bylaws</li></ul></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shellfish Aquaculture<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Popponesset Bay (and associated embayments)</li><li>• Jehu Pond</li><li>• Hamblin Pond (including Great and Little River)</li></ul></li><li>• Other adaptive approaches</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Landuse /zoning</li><li>• Open space</li><li>• Recharge and water resource sites</li><li>• Seasonal/Year round use</li></ul> |



# Summary of Recommended Plan approach

## Plan Components

- Shellfish
- New WWTF
  - Site 4 (treatment and recharge)
- Existing WWTFs
  - Mashpee Commons and Wampanoag WWTF
  - Joint Base Cape Cod (JBCC)
- Quashnet/Moonakis River evaluation
- Long-term monitoring, modeling and reporting of water quality

### **Balance of TMDL compliance depends on shellfish performance.**

- Potential new WWTF (Site 6) and recharge sites (New Seabury/Willowbend)
- Improvements/modifications (Existing WWTFs)
- Continued Town coordination (Sandwich, Falmouth, Barnstable)
- Maintain a level of existing onsite systems
- Cape Cod Commission 208 planning and adaptive management



# Implementation schedule

The implementation is envisioned in the following three categories:

- **Short-Term Initiatives:** 2015-2016
- **Phase 1 Implementation (5 Year):** approximately 2017 to 2021
- **Long-Term Implementation and Adaptive Management:** 2022 to 2041 and beyond

Plan outlines five “major” phases



# Implementation

- Short term and start of Phase 1
  - Watershed permit(s)/ MOU/IMAs with neighbors
  - Feasibility studies
    - Quashnet/Moonakis River
    - WWTFs
  - Shellfish aquaculture/propagation/restoration



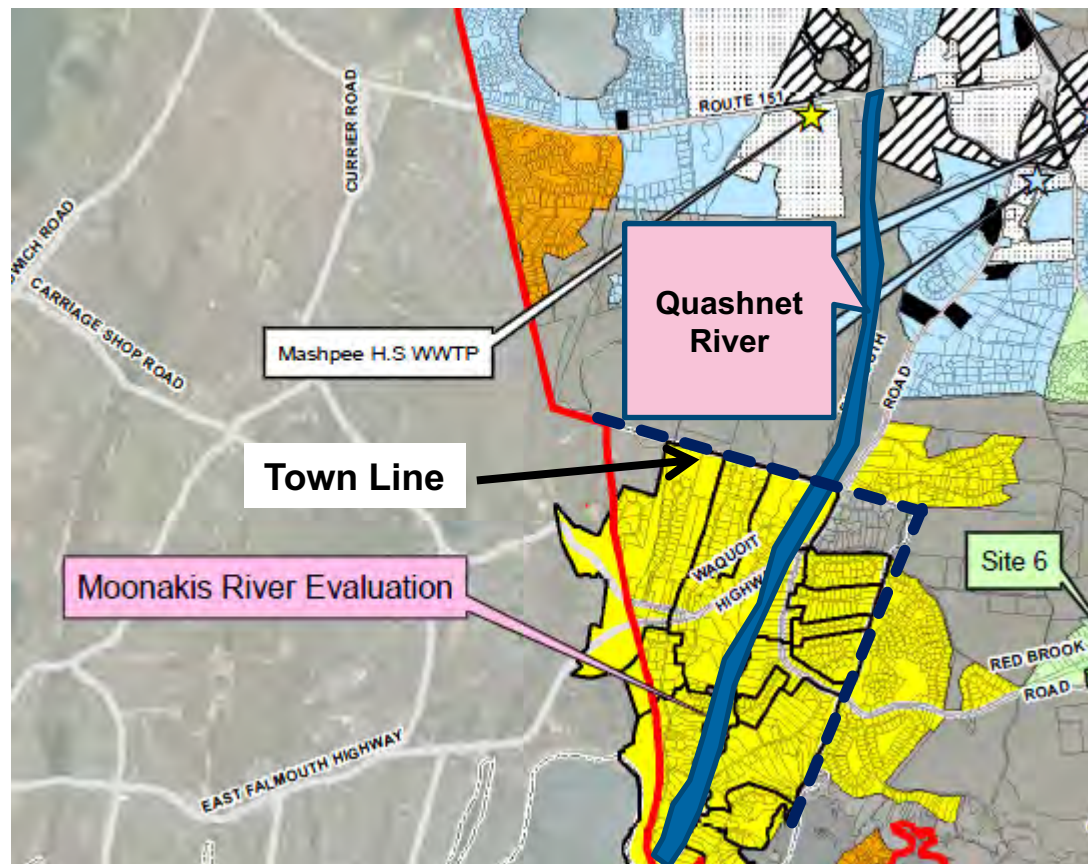
# Implementation watershed permit

- Development of draft watershed permit
  - Discussions with Sandwich and Barnstable on potential (MOUs/IMAs)
  - Nitrogen load allocation
    - Pilot Project method
    - CCC 208 method
    - WNMP method
    - Comparison of each
  - Nitrogen trading potential
  - Sharing of resources



# Quashnet Moonakis Evaluation

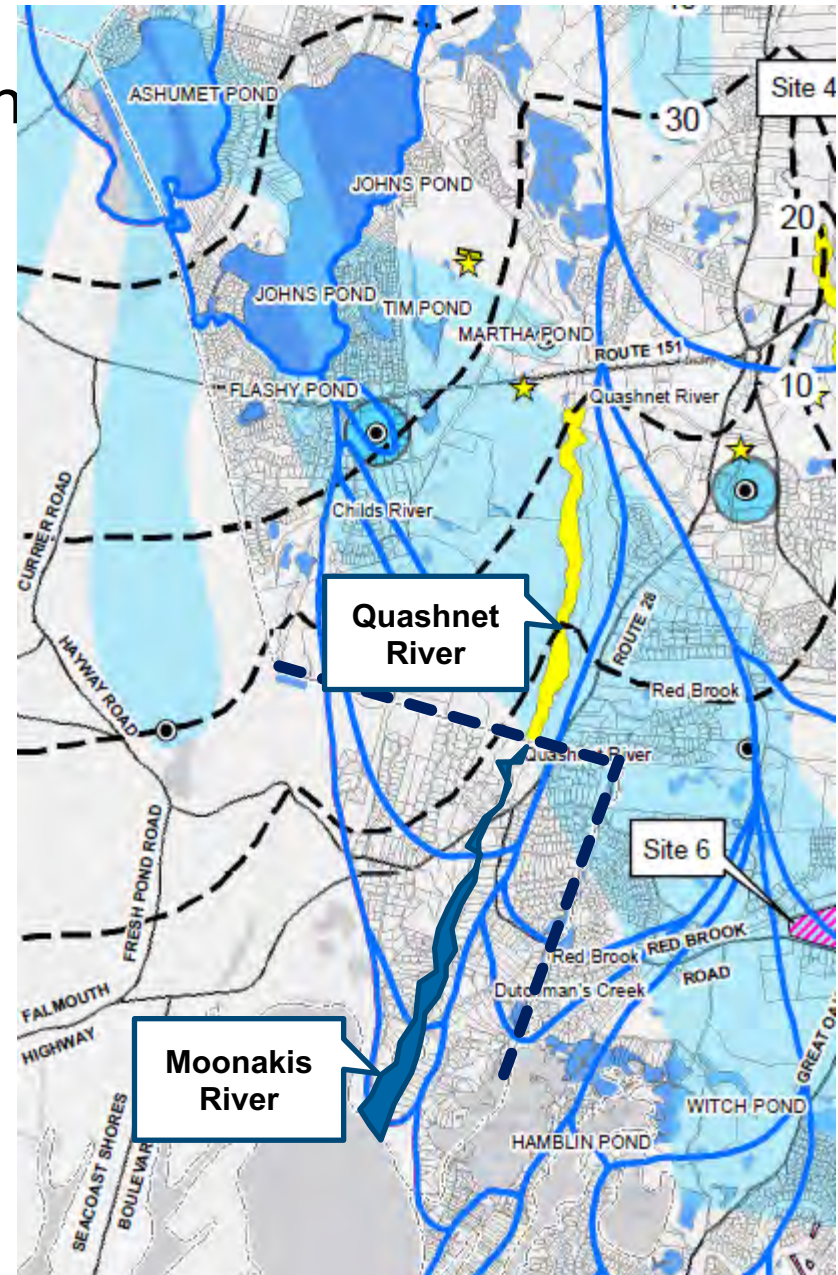
- SMAST Project
  - Joint funding (Falmouth and Mashpee)
- Quashnet/Moonakis River flushing
  - Improved flushing to reduce nitrogen
  - Parallel evaluation to consider shellfish and finfish restoration
- Data currently has been collected
- Final report anticipated Spring 2017





# Quashnet Moonakis Evaluation

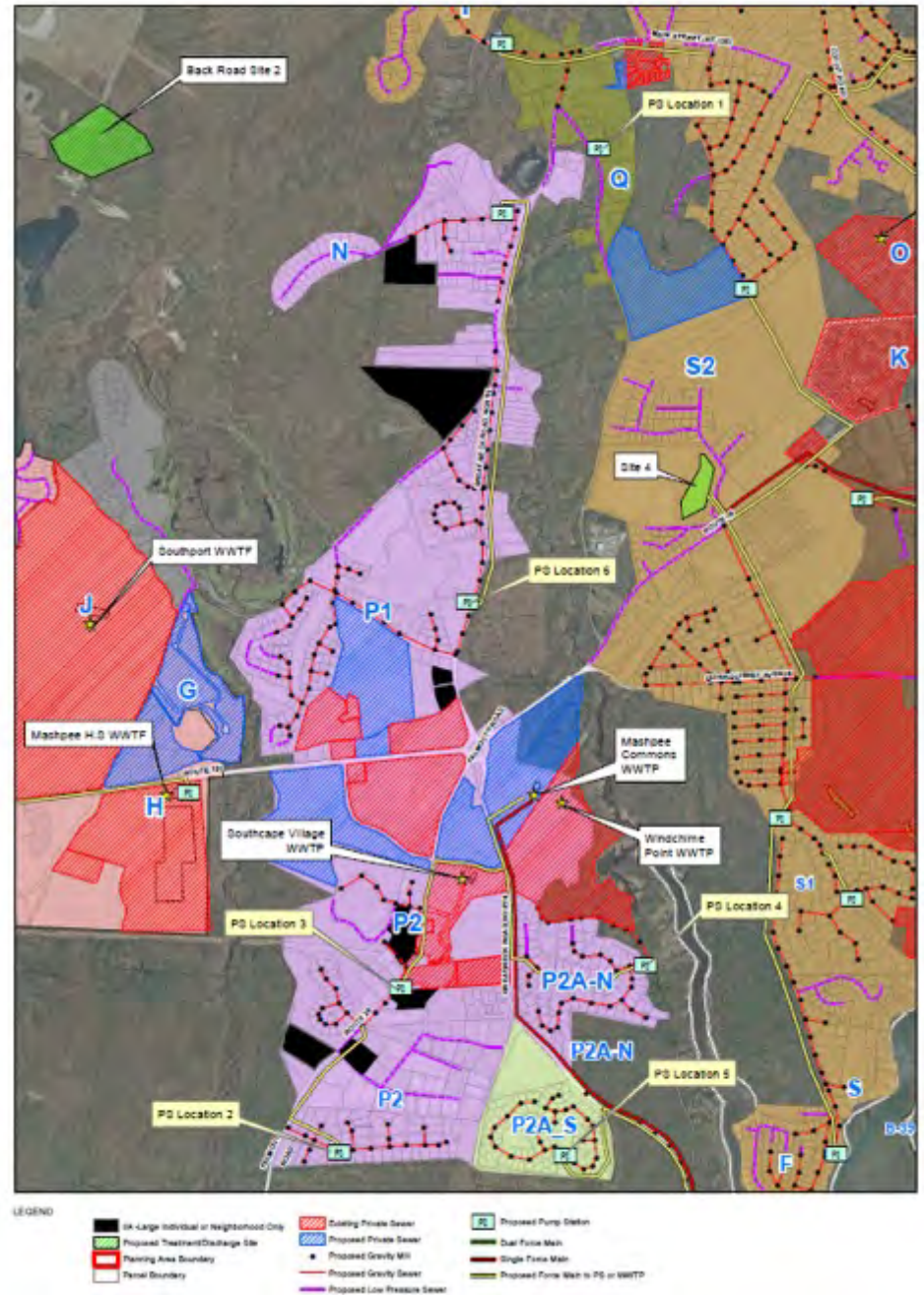
- Tide gages for volume/hydrodynamic confirmation
  - 6 gages at 4 locations
  - Lunar cycle
- Water quality sampling
  - 3 times (June, July, August)
  - Tidal nutrient flux between pond and estuary
- Tidal volume
  - 6 months (summer to fall)
- Sediment cores
  - 12 cores (summer)
- Bathymetric survey





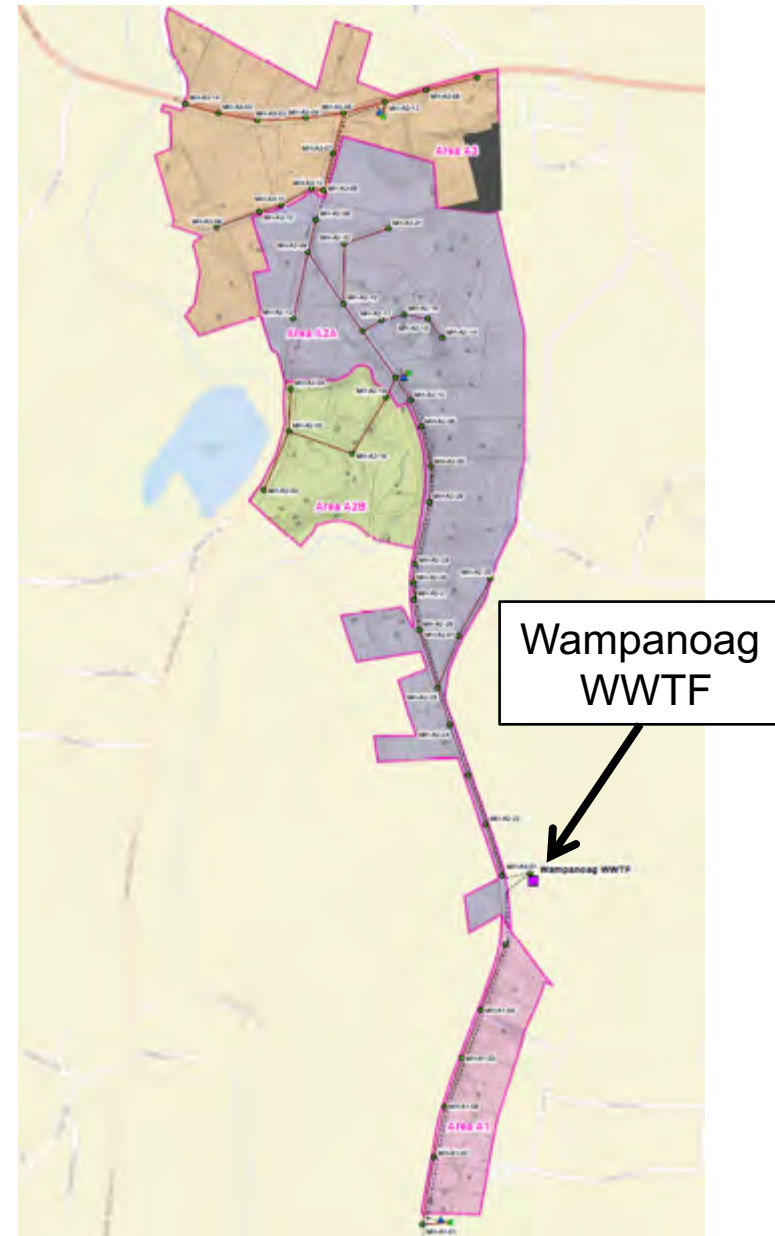
# WWTF evaluations

- Treatment capacity evaluations
  - Wampanoag WWTF
  - Mashpee Commons WWTF
- Collection system capacity and routing
- Pumping station locations
- Review of nitrogen impacts



# Wampanoag

- Private facility – constructed during ARRA program (2011)
- Initially planned for 2 phases
- Constructed full plant
- Currently no connections
- WWTF
  - 39,999 gpd design
  - RBC with denitrification
  - Subsurface leaching
  - 30/30/10 permit
  - Nitrogen offset capacity 25,000 gpd







- Private facility – recently upgraded
- Initially planned for 4 phases
- Currently serves Mashpee Commons and several Town buildings

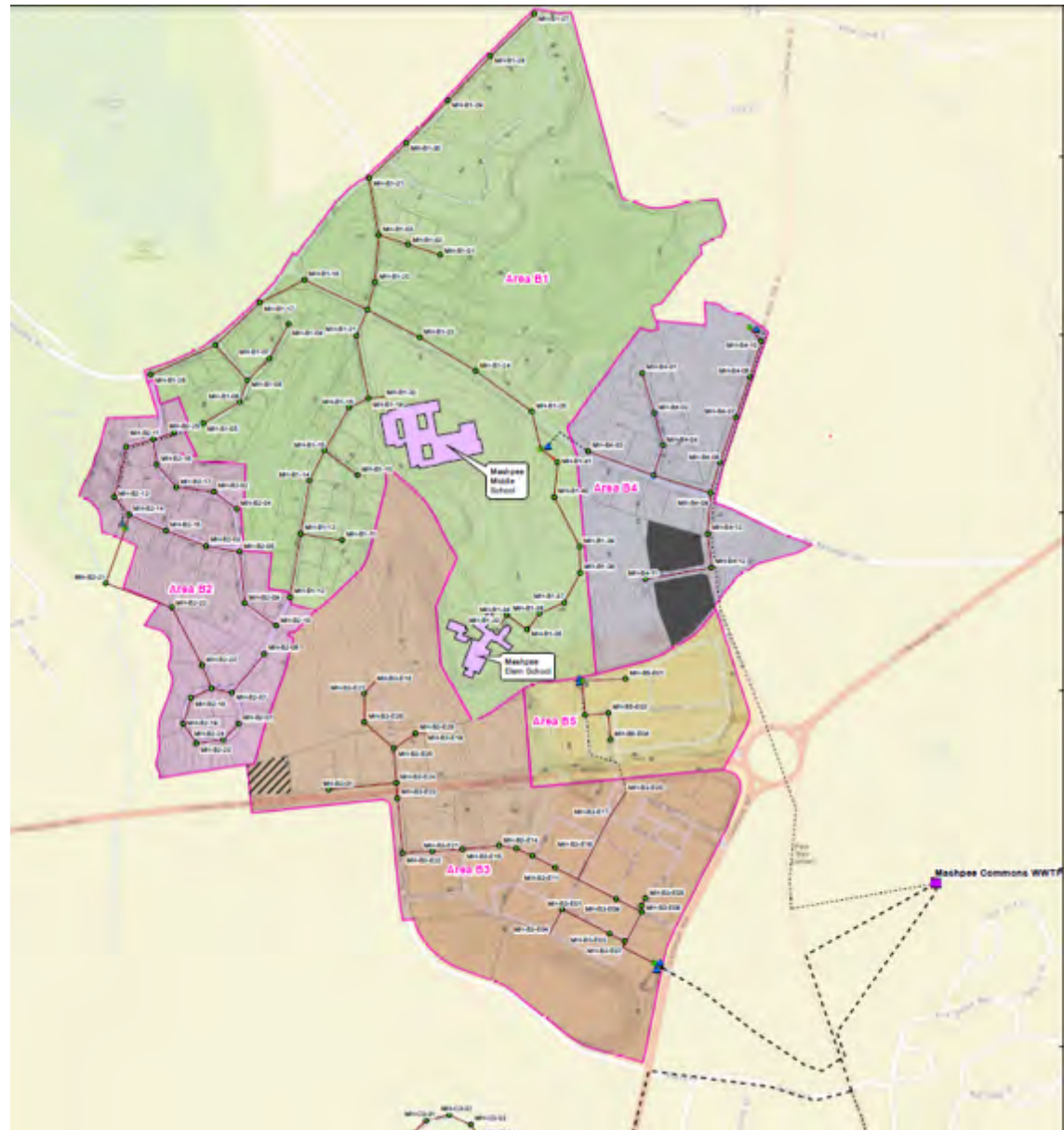
- WWTF
  - 180,000 gpd design
  - MBR with denitrification
  - open sand beds
  - 30/30/10 permit



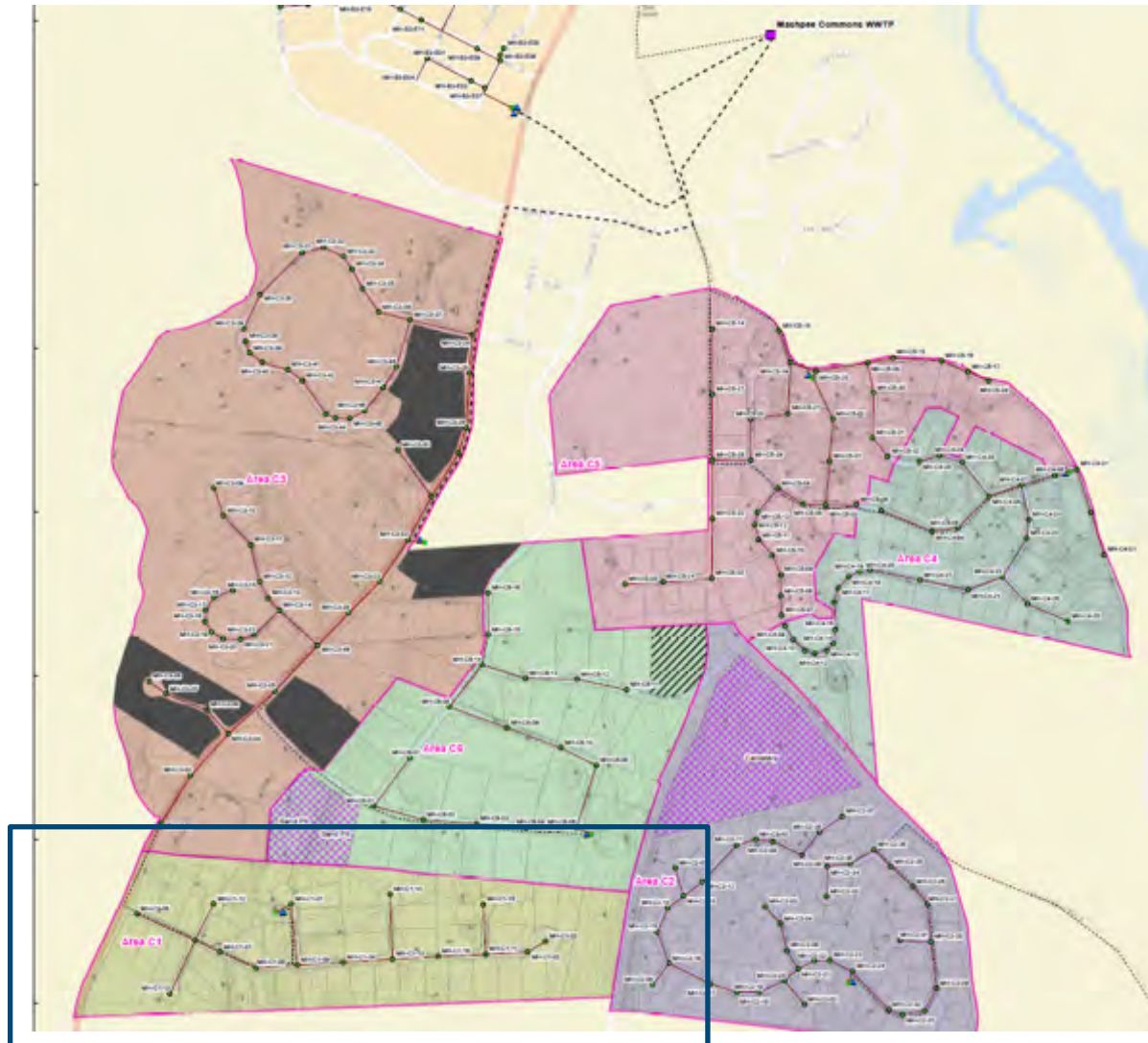


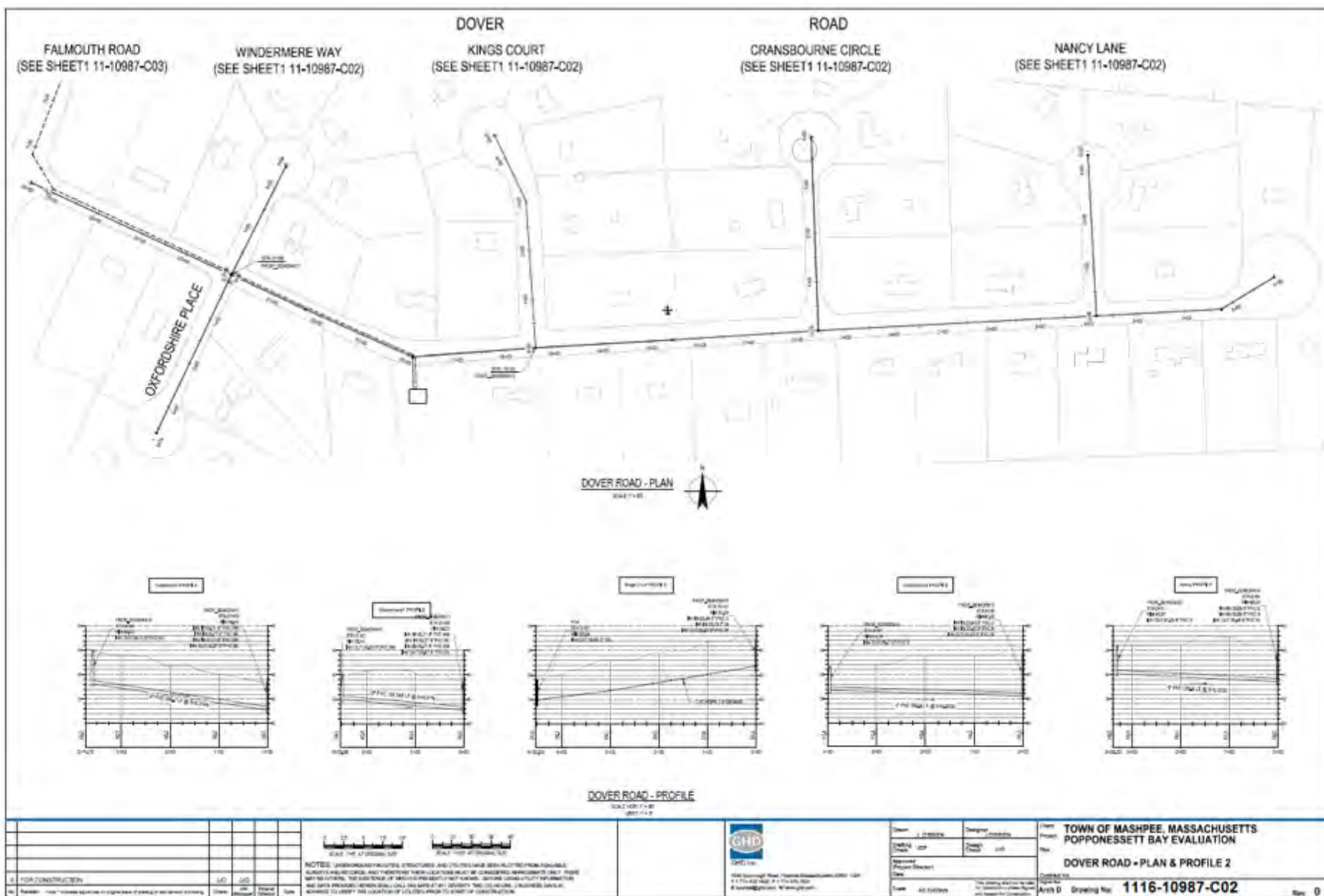
# Extensions

- Evaluating
  - Connection of 2 schools
  - Adjacent property connections
- Phased development of Mashpee Commons
  - Existing system with two pumping stations
  - Currently serving several municipal facilities



# Development of plans and profiles





# Goals

- Identification of available capacity relative existing performance
- Preliminary design of service areas
- Nitrogen loading impacts based on adjustments in collection areas
- Suggestions on maximizing use of existing facilities



# Implementation shellfish

- Oysters
  - Mashpee River
  - Shoestring Bay
- Quahogs
  - Little River/Hamblin Pond
  - Great River/Jehu Pond
  - Ockway Bay/Popponesset Bay



# Implementation shellfish – oysters

- Mashpee River/Shoestring Bay
  - ~ 4,500 bags of oyster seed ordered
  - 2,500 bags grown in trays
  - Joint funding effort Town and Tribe
- Oyster bed restoration – Shoestring Bay – 2,000 bags (Wampanoag)
- Conservation Commission approval of oyster bed restoration



## SC20 oyster propagation areas



# Implementation shellfish - quahogs

- Great River/Jehu Pond/Little River/Hamblin Pond
  - 10 million quahog seed (2mm) – transitioned to grow from smaller seed
  - Reconstruction of Little River Town Dock with seed upwellers
  - 2 upwellers
  - 1 inch growth (change from purchase to grown)
    - Avoid possible disease in Cape Cod Bay
    - Cost savings





## SC16 Quahog Restoration Areas

May 8, 2015

Number equals acres



## SC19 Quahog Restoration Areas

May 8, 2015

Number equals acres



## SC16 & SC19 quahog restoration areas



# Implementation shellfish - future

- 2017 Goals
  - Increase facilities and seeding
  - Town funding approved for 2017
  - Wampanoag USEPA funding
- 2018 Goals
  - Full implementation of program



# Implementation shellfish - staffing

- Department and Personnel
  - Reconfigured existing structure
  - New Natural Resources Department
  - Hiring new staff
    - Shellfish and water quality technician
    - Waterways assistant
    - Staff goal of 5+





# Implementation shellfish - controls

- Predators
  - Green crabs
- Area management
  - Closed area rotation
  - 3 year periods
  - Annual harvests
  - BOS approvals required





# Implementation shellfish - monitoring

- Monitoring
  - Collaborative effort with Town, Wampanoag Tribe and Umass Dartmouth/SMAST
  - Summer sampling protocols used as part of MEP
  - Deployed meters in Little River/ Mashpee River and Popponesset Bay in addition to new meter for Shoestring Bay (funded by Tribe)
  - Water samples collected monthly for lab analysis



# Additional Information

- Available at:  
[www.mashpeewaters.com](http://www.mashpeewaters.com)



## What's New

[Meetings & News](#)

## Planning Area Communities

[Town of Mashpee](#)

[Town of Barnstable](#)

[Town of Falmouth](#)

[Town of Sandwich](#)

## Links

[Mashpee Environmental Coalition](#)

[Plymouth Cod Commission](#)

[Waqoib Bay Reserve](#)

[Plymouth Cod Groundwater Guardian](#)

[Massachusetts Estuary Project](#)

[Mass DEP TMDLs](#)

## Mashpee

### Watershed Nitrogen Management Plan

Welcome to the Town of Mashpee's **Watershed Nitrogen Management Plan (WNMP)** website. As a community, we treasure Mashpee's beautiful coastal ponds and *estuaries*, yet we are responsible for their poor water quality. Excess *nutrients* – *nitrogen*, in particular – come from septic systems and wastewater treatment plants, surface runoff after rain storms or snow melt, lawn fertilizer, stormwater drainage system discharges, and other sources. Nitrogen is present in the environment naturally; however, in excess, it is considered a pollutant.

In response to long-standing concerns regarding nitrogen, Mashpee initiated the WNMP in 1997. The project will provide an environmentally and economically sound plan for nitrogen reduction through wastewater treatment. It will recommend areas appropriate for discharging treated wastewater to the ground. The project will culminate in a recommended plan to reduce the Town's nitrogen contributions - and those of its neighbors in the Popponesset Bay and Waquoit Bay *watersheds* - to coastal waters and to evaluate options for restoring these wonderful resources. By proactively addressing nutrient issues on its own, the Town hopes to avoid regulatory enforcement actions from state or county agencies or the courts.

To learn more about the problem with nutrients and how you both contribute to it and can be a part of the solution, please visit the [What's the Problem](#) page. Links are provided throughout the website to the [Documents & Resources](#) page where you can find definitions of commonly used words and acronyms.

We hope you find this website helpful and look forward to your participation in the Town's plan.

# Questions & Discussion

