

APPENDIX C PUBLIC CONSULTATION

C.1 ROLE OF WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT STEERING COMMITTEE

The Town of Orleans began wastewater management planning activities in the year 2000 and has been steadily making progress over the intervening nine years. In 2000, the Wastewater Management Steering Committee (WMSC) was established to guide the progress of addressing the long-standing need to provide protection of the environment from any negative impacts of wastewater disposal.

The Board of Selectmen established the WMSC in July 2000 and gave it the following tasks:

- Compile a working library of wastewater-related documents;
- Investigate the experiences of other towns;
- Research new and innovative options for wastewater treatment and disposal;
- Formulate a plan for professional assistance in wastewater planning and assist in the hiring of a qualified consultant;
- Work with the consultant to complete a needs survey and develop options for wastewater management;
- Increase public awareness of wastewater issues; and
- Present a final report to the Board of Selectmen upon completion of necessary studies.

The WMSC is comprised of members of certain town boards and committees that advise municipal departments and include planning, health, water, finance and conservation. In addition to these five areas, one member of the Board of Selection sits on the WMSC. The Director of Planning serves as the town staff liaison. Committee members are appointed for several-year terms and the Committee maintains continuity through a permanent connection with the Planning Department. The six volunteer committee members serve as the first mechanism for soliciting public consultation. Each member brings regular reports back to his or her respective board or committee so that many groups receive up-to-date briefings from, and in-turn report feedback to the WMSC. This is the first step in disseminating information to active and involved residents about wastewater planning.

Copies of all reports and work products created during the CWMP process (including the many letters and memos discussed at WMSC meetings) are available for review in the Planning Department.

The past three years of WMSC effort (since September 2005) have included the most intensive work that has focused on developing the CWMP. Since the inception of the WMSC, meetings have been held on the first and third Thursdays of each month. The meetings are open to the public, and since the opening of the new Town Hall (2006), have also been televised on Channel 18. More than 500 hours of public discussion on the topic of wastewater has occurred during regular meetings. The members of the WMSC should be commended for volunteering the many additional hours that went into reading material and preparing for discussion at those meetings.

C.2 PUBLIC MEETINGS ON INTERIM REPORTS

In addition to regular meetings, the WMSC has held well-advertized public meetings to present the most recent information at key milestones in the CWMP process. While Channel 18 has allowed residents unable to attend daytime meetings to catch up on events in the evening, public meetings were held during the evening, and in many cases also during the day, to assist in reaching as many residents as possible wishing to attend. Notices of public meetings were posted in Town Hall, on the Town website and advertised in the local newspapers. All public meetings were televised and replayed on Channel 18. DVD's are available at Town Hall.

Public meetings were held to present the following key reports:

Needs Assessment, draft February 2006

Snow Library 6:00 pm on February 26, 2006

Identification and Screening of Alternatives, draft December 2006

Snow Library 1:00 and 6:00 pm on January 17, 2007

Evaluation of Alternatives, draft May 2008

Snow Library 1:00 pm, Elementary School 6:00 pm, on May 22, 2008

Each public meeting was attended by more than 100 residents.

Public consultation was at the forefront of each public meeting, where as much time was devoted to questions and comments from the attendees as was spent in the presentations by the WMSC and consultant. At the end of each public meeting, attendees were asked to fill out surveys that would provide feedback on the material presented. The results of the public surveys are included in Tables C-1 and C-2 (Identification of Alternatives Report) and C-3 (Evaluation of Alternatives Report).

C.3 PRESENTATION TO SELECTMEN BY WMSC

One member of the Board of Selectmen (BOS) serves on the WMSC and participates in its activities. Month-to-month, WMSC members read, review and discuss significant amounts of information. Even with the BOS member reporting back to the full BOS at its weekly meetings, selectmen receive copies of each report for review, prior to that information being presented at a public meeting. The WMSC also makes periodic presentations at regular BOS meetings so that individual selectmen have additional opportunity to discuss and comment on the latest phase of the evaluation and to offer direction. BOS meetings are all televised, offering additional dissemination of current wastewater planning, and all BOS meetings offer a public comment period. The BOS was briefed on major milestones at regular meetings throughout the development of the CWMP.

C.4 PUBLIC WORKSHOPS TO PRESENT THE BEST ALTERNATIVES

Once the Evaluation of Alternatives was complete, a series of public workshops was held during July and August of 2008. These workshops were designed to present the best wastewater

management alternatives to small groups of residents, so lengthy question and answer sessions could be accommodated. One member of the WMSC and one member of the CAC made a joint presentation that was supported by a series of posters on display around the room. After the presentation, attendees had the chance to walk around the room and view the details of each poster, and participate in a question-and-answer session.

The schedule focused on inviting individual neighborhoods (the town was divided into six neighborhoods) to aid in addressing questions and concerns that might be a theme to a specific area. Although the WMSC urged residents to attend with their neighborhood, all workshops were open to any resident. A seventh workshop was open to all residents that did not focus on a specific neighborhood, but followed the same format as the first six.

In total seven workshops were attended by 414 residents. Two of those workshops were televised and replayed on Channel 18. Workshops were advertized in Town Hall, on the Town website and in the local newspapers. The presentation posters were on display in the Skaket Room for the duration of the workshop series. Handouts were available for a self-guided tour any time the room was not in use for meetings.

Survey forms were distributed at each workshop. The feedback from surveys is summarized in Table C-4. Overall, the majority of input supported the selection of Plan 2. Based on that feedback, the WMSC created a modified plan that supported many of the Plan 2 attributes but also incorporated other favorably-rated components of Plans 1 and 3 such as cluster systems, potential for wastewater reuse and flexibility to work with neighboring communities in regional endeavors.

C.5 WASTEWATER FIELD TRIP

The WMSC, in conjunction with the Friends of Areys Pond (FOAP), sponsored a field trip for viewing wastewater treatment facilities on Cape Cod. After an introductory presentation by Wright-Pierce, a chartered bus transported 40 interested citizens to nine local wastewater facilities, giving all participants a first-hand view of many of the treatment and disposal options available to Orleans.

C.6 PUBLIC MEETING ON DRAFT CWMP

There was a public meeting on October 2, 2008 to present the draft CWMP to interested citizens. This meeting was jointly sponsored by the BOS and the WMSC. It allowed the Town to gain important public feedback on the overall progress to date.

C.7 SPECIAL TOWN MEETING ENDORSEMENT

While the CWMP is not scheduled for completion until mid 2009, the Town held a Special Town Meeting to seek voter endorsement of the draft CWMP on October 27, 2008. Over 700 citizens were in attendance and gave a positive majority vote which solidified feedback to the BOS and WMSC that the planning process is on the right track as it enters its final phase.

**Table C-1
December 2006 Public Meeting
Results of Component Preference Survey**

Do you feel sufficiently informed to answer the questions below?			
No	Yes	Maybe	Not Yet / No Answer
6	46	1	2 / 8
If yes:			
Would you favor a decentralized over a centralized plan?			
No	Yes	Don't know	No Answer
19	16	22	4
Would you support regionalization (developing joint wastewater facilities with Brewster and/or Eastham)?			
No	Yes	Don't know	No Answer
6	43	7	5
Would you support a project including the reuse of highly treated wastewater for activities like irrigation of public parks or toilet flushing in public buildings?			
No	Yes	Don't know	No Answer
2	52	2	5

**Table C-2
December 2006 Public Meeting
Importance of Evaluative Criteria**

Evaluative Criteria	Very Important	Important	Less Important	No Answer
Uses Proven Treatment and Disposal Technology	38	19	5	1
Is Readily Accepted by Regulatory Agencies	25	25	10	2
Has Low Environmental Impact	46	14	1	1
Uses Energy Efficient Components	33	23	4	2
Is Easy to Operate	20	30	10	3
Is Readily Expandable	27	26	6	3
Does Not Rely on Town Purchase of Private Land	15	20	25	3
Has Overall Public Acceptability	29	26	6	1
Has the Least Overall Cost	23	24	13	3

**Table C-3
May 2008 Public Meeting
Comments on Plans 1, 2 and 3**

	Plan 1 Decentralized (4 Plants)	Plan 2 Centralized (Tri-Town)	Plan 3 Centralized (So Orleans)
Based on information provided today, which Plan is			
Most favorable (check one)	3	99	20
Least favorable (check one)	107	5	9
What features of each Plan do you find most attractive?			
Plan 1: Flexibility in Implementation			
Plan 2: Cost (capital and operation), Energy Use			
Plan 3: Reuse of Wastewater, "Greenest"			
What features of each Plan do you find least attractive?			
Plan 1: Cost, Land Acquisition			
Plan 2: Less Expandability			
Plan 3: Highest Energy Cost, Greatest Implementation Hurdles			
Consider such factors as:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost • Energy use • Treatment facility siting • Need for land purchase • Potential for water reuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental impacts • Ease in implementation • Expandability • Flexibility in phasing • Regulatory acceptability 		
On what street do you live?			
6	Village Center and Business District		
28	Northeast Orleans (Town Cove, Nauset Heights)		
25	East Orleans (Pochet and Barley Neck)		
9	West Orleans (Skaket and Rock Harbor)		
36	South Orleans (North of Quanset Rd and Route 39)		
16	South Orleans (South of Quanset Rd and Route 39)		
10	Un-specific about neighborhood		

**Table C-4
Summer 2008 Workshops
Summary of Attendee Feedback**

Number of attendees at workshop presentations:	368		
Number of surveys submitted,			
at end of evening:	117		
at end of week:	28		
Number of walk-in surveys picked-up:	32		
Number of walk-in surveys turned-in:	6		
<u># Responding</u>		<u>Neighborhood</u>	
6		Village Center and Business District	
47		Northeast Orleans (Town Cove, Nauset Heights)	
28		East Orleans (Pochet and Barley Neck)	
23		West Orleans (Skaket and Rock Harbor)	
24		South Orleans (North of Quanset Rd and Route 39)	
17		South Orleans (South of Quanset Rd and Route 39)	
3		Un-specific about neighborhood	
3		Other	
Based on the presentation and question and answer period, attendees found:		Plan 1 Decentralized (4 facilities)	Plan 2 Decentralized (Tri-Town)
			Plan 3 Centralized (So. Orleans)
Most Favorable	12	104	31
Least Favorable	100	21	19
Most attractive features of:			
Plan 1	Quickest restoration of environment		
Plan 2	Least expensive		
Plan 3	Reuse and regionalization		
Least attractive features of:			
Plan 1	Most expensive, numerous locations		
Plan 2	Slowest cleanup		
Plan 3	More work in multi-town implementation		