



## Pocasset Water Quality Coalition Member Newsletter – October 2021

September and October have been busy off-season months. We want to update everyone on developments to improve Pocasset's water quality.

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Pocasset Water Quality Coalition **Sub Committees** have formed and are starting to get to work. Here are the details:

- Technology – Bob Dwyer, Bill Veno and Ken Pearson
- Town & Joint Base Liaisons – Frank Gasson, Ken Pearson, Bob Dwyer and Keith Barber
- Education & Community Outreach – Martha Hoefer, Jerry Struzik, Deanna Kardoos & Keith Barber

The PWQC developed these subcommittees to maintain focus on key issues and to provide our membership with an opportunity to contribute their interest (and passion!). It is our hope that more members of the PWQC will join these sub committees. There is no set number of people for each subcommittee. The more the members, the more we can accomplish. Meetings are remote on Zoom, so members can participate with relative ease. We welcome all, whether year round or summer residents.

The board is also looking for a person with experience/skill set in **Grant Writing**. As we have learned from our collaboration with the Barnstable Clean Water Coalition (and our annual meeting's guest speaker Zee Crocker), the projects we may want to undertake require significant funding. Annual PWQC dues of \$20 per family will not cover these larger initiatives. We need to find and apply for grants. Money is out there; we need to go after it. If any members, family or friends have experience writing grants and would be willing to consult with us, please let us know. Respond to this email or go to our website and click the Contact tab.

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You may have heard about the proposed expansion of the Mass. Maritime Academy (MMA) **septic treatment plant**? This would include extending Wareham septic pipes to the MMA. Then creating a larger outfall pipe for the effluent to go into the canal. Based on current public information about this project, the PWQC Board voted unanimously to oppose this project. This issue will be discussed at the November 15 Bourne Fall Special Town Meeting **Monday November 15 at the Bourne Middle School 7:00 PM**. PWQC will make the following statement at Town Meeting:

*"Based on our current understanding of the information that has been made publicly available, the PWQC Board of Directors unanimously opposes the Wareham Water Treatment sewerage being dumped into the canal."*

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PFAS, is the forever chemical that has been in the news recently. We are concerned about PFAS because of the fire-fighting foam used for two events involving a tanker rollover 20 years ago at the Otis Rotary. This foam is now banned. The areas of highest PFAS concentration remain near the spill site. However, testing sites west of Route 28 has shown that PFAS remnants of the foam are traveling underground into our area along the underground contours of the table. In a videoconference on October 26, Doug Karson (Community Involvement Lead, Joint Base Cape Cod) and his colleagues Rose Forbes and Mary O'Reilly reviewed the latest information on the plume including the plume maps and charts (updated from previous presentations), information on other maintenance/remediation efforts, and next steps. Doug will continue to update the PWQC on a regular basis and to conduct future presentations as new information is obtained.

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Barnstable Clean Water Coalition (BCW) is currently installing 15 **NitROE new or retrofitted wastewater treatment systems** in Marston Mills. This project is near Shubael Pond, which has been deemed severely endangered. BCW secured grant funding for these systems. The 15 residents are getting these new systems at no cost to them. Several members of the PWQC Board recently joined a tour of the site. These new systems, being installed by KleanTu Waster Water Treatment Technologies. The treatment technology includes wood chips and limestone to filter the liquid before it enters the leach field. The filtering significantly reduces the nitrogen in groundwater (with ultimate settling in the harbor). These systems would eliminate the need for municipal sewer systems and treatment plants. By the end of 2021 there will be 50 of these systems on the Cape and Islands. PWQC is looking for homeowners willing to install or retrofit a NitROE system. There is currently no funding or grants available in Pocasset. Below is a link to a video describing the NitROE system.

Below is a link to a video regarding the NitROE system being installed near Shubael Pond in Marston Mills.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kgt5TYCAhIw> [youtube.com]

Link below to tax breaks for new septic systems.

<https://www.mass.gov/guides/title-5septic-systems-financial-assistance-opportunities-for-system-owners>

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A popular question after our Annual Meeting was about lawn fertilizer. 2 documents are attached providing help with what you put on your lawn. The Falmouth fertilizer by law and a commentary from our member Chris Pine about watering your lawn. Thanks to Chris for his contributions to this newsletter.

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**Visit our web page at to keep current with the activities of the PWQC and how you can help be part of the solution!**

[www.pocassetwaterquality.org](http://www.pocassetwaterquality.org)