



# Pocasset Water Quality Coalition

## Member Newsletter – March/April 2022

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

Friends and neighbors,

Spring has sprung in Pocasset! People are out walking, chatting with neighbors. Along our walks, we have seen these “signs of spring”.



As we have mentioned in earlier newsletters, so many commonly used fertilizers enter our water environment, becoming a significant contributor to the factors that decrease our water quality. We encourage you to learn more about your options by looking on our website for more information...and to make environmentally friendly choices in your product and servicing company selections.

For more info, visit our web site:

<https://www.pocassetwaterquality.org/library/>

### PWQC focus on drivers of water quality

Research has shown that the key drivers of water quality are stormwater (that runs off our lawns and roads), wastewater (that leaches from our septic systems through the groundwater), other contaminants in groundwater, and the ability of our harbors to flush and cleanse whatever contaminants do end up there.

Solutions are complex and as the [framework](#) below shows require the work of individual homeowners and town/regional/state/federal governments.

	<b>Individual Homeowner</b>	<b>Town/Governmental</b>
<b>Flushing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>na</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage study of flushing through Pocasset Harbor/ Hen Cove</li> <li>Impact review of Wings Neck dam</li> </ul>
<b>Stormwater</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Going "green" in lawn care products/service selection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Managing Catch basins</li> <li>Raising Roads</li> </ul>
<b>Wastewater</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remediate septic/ cesspools</li> <li>Use of Innovative/ Alternative septic options</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create long term plan for wastewater Management (CWMP; WAC)</li> <li>Enact favorable regulations and funding/tax offsets for homeowner remediation</li> <li>Minimize pollutants from the MMA wastewater outfall</li> </ul>
<b>Groundwater</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide citizen feedback to Joint Base Cape Cod (JBCC) initiatives to clean up the base and reduce potential contaminants.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing testing of plumes coming off Joint Base Cape Cod (PFAS)</li> </ul>

The PWQC has been working in all of these “boxes” through:

- The spark that launched the PWQC was the belief that improved flushing within Pocasset Harbor would result in better water quality. The Town sponsored BSC study of the flushing situation was disappointing; and the PQWC made its feedback known. Several Board members recently met with Stephanie Fitch, the new Town of Bourne conservation agent to tour the site of the Wings Neck Dam to describe the history of the man-made impediments to flushing throughout Pocasset Harbor. She seemed interested in studying the impact of removing this dam upon the water flow and ultimately water quality.

For more info on impact of dams on water quality see <https://www.nps.gov/caco/learn/nature/herring-river-tidal-restoration-project.htm> [nps.gov]

- Assembling library of green options for lawncare (posted to website)
- Research and site visits into I/A septic systems, potentially eliminating 80% of the nitrogen produced.
- Contributions to the Town of Bourne Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan development through community input and making connections between the consultant and key constituents.
- Keith Barber is a member of the Wastewater Advisory Committee (WC), providing thoughtful feedback to Town planners and servicing as a critical liaison across organizations in Bourne also part of this committee.
- Creating liaisons with critical town officials and concerned citizen groups from across Bourne, introducing them to our organization, goals, and activities.
- Creating liaisons with regional leaders in the field of water quality on Cape Cod and Buzzards Bay, benefiting from their content expertise and experience in fighting for water quality.
- Research into funding opportunities through the 2021 Infrastructure Bill and its goal to “*Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure, making necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, support vital wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and to expand access to broadband internet*”.
- Board members attended webinar for SNEP grants, a program Southeast New England Program (SNEP) Watershed Grant program to help restore clean water and healthy ecosystems to Southeast New England. While not achievable in 2022, SNEP could be a fruitful avenue to fund potential innovations locally.
- Creating liaisons with key staff of JBCC initiatives to inform the community about the conditions emanating from the base and dripping into our waters.
- Board members have been prolific letter writers to the Town and the press about water quality issues.

---

### **New Town Conservation Agent**

Ms. Stephanie (Stevie) Fitch has been named as the new Town of Bourne Conservation Agent, replacing Sam Haines who has moved to the State’s Coastal Zone Management department. She had previously served as the Town’s Health Agent for a year. Ms. Fitch has a master’s degree in Public Health, and a bachelor’s degree in environmental biology.

---

### **Annual Meeting Guest Speaker:**

**Sara Molyneaux**, the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) will be the guest speaker at the PWQC Annual Meeting. The CLF is a nonprofit environmental protection agency for New England. She has a 24-year long history with the board, serving as the chair since 2012. Formerly a research chemist, she has been active in environmental issues. Currently, she is working in conjunction with the CLF to further nutrient pollution abatement in the southern embayments of Cape Cod.

Annual Meeting: Sat., Aug. 13, 10 AM, PHIA Building across from boat ramp on Circuit Ave.

PWQC 2022 Annual dues will again be \$20. Go to the Donate tab on our website [www.Pocassetwaterquality.org](http://www.Pocassetwaterquality.org) or mail a check to PWQC PO Box 852 Pocasset, MA 02559. Thank you for your continued support.

**The Pocasset Water Quality Board of Directors:** *Chris Bade, Keith Barber, Bob Dwyer, Frank Gasson, Martha Hoefler, Deanna Kardoos, Ken Pearson, Jerry Struzik, and Bill Veno.*