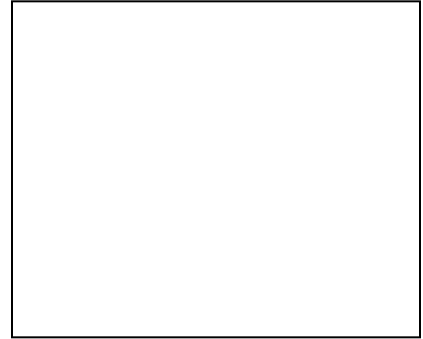


**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
March 3, 2025**



Present

Brian Wotton, Commissioner
Robert Hobson, Commissioner
Anne Morton Smith, Commissioner
Daniel Lopes, Commissioner
Hillary Rotondo, Commissioner
Vincent Furtado, BPW Superintendent
Rebecca Vento, Office Manager
Joshua Crabb, Highway Superintendent
Paul Moran, Tighe & Bond
Ian Catlow, Tighe & Bond
Jeff Osuch
John Hobill
Anne Carreiro, Town Account / Asst. Town Administrator
Steven Riley, 6 Leeward Way
Sarah Freshman, iStroll Southcoast
Ken Blanchard, 126 Adams Street
Brian Messier, 82 Pleasant Street
Anne Bizarro, VP Southcoast Girls Softball

I. Call to Order

Mr. Wotton called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

II. Routine Matters

A. Signing of Departmental Bills

III. Approval of Minutes

A. February 10, 2025

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve the minutes of February 10, 2025. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

B. February 25, 2025

Ms. Smith motioned to approve the minutes of February 25, 2025. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous

C. February 25, 2025 – Executive Session A

Mr. Lopes motioned to approve the minutes of February 25, 2025 – Executive Session A. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous

IV. Appointments

A. Tighe & Bond, Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan

Mr. Moran and Mr. Catlow presented the fourth and final section of the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan(Attachment A).

Mr. Osuch – It was important to complete this study so we can submit it to DEP and receive their approval and ultimately save on the revolving loan program for the intent of trying to get a 0% loan for the 70 Million dollars that we have to borrow. The biggest thing that this Board needs to look at is the rate structure, because next year at this time we will be paying the \$70,000,000 loan back to the state at hopefully zero percent if not the interest rate would be either 2% or 2.4%.

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
March 3, 2025**

Mr. Hobill – It’s good to see a precise plan that you can follow fairly easily. I can open up and in about 15-20 min understand where it’s going. I appreciate the time and effort you put into this to produce a coherent plan. Earlier you talked about the infill and you have 90 homes, does that include properties that would be vacant and have access to sewer too or is that only existing homes?

Mr. Moran - The 90 septic systems with access to sewer are existing homes. Our assumption is that there are many more that are available for development. Most of the 20 year build out is within that sewer shed area. Our assumption is that those will all be connected to sewer, and we’ve accounted for that, as far as the sewer flows.

Mr. Hobill – When you talk about the low pressure systems you always plan for the worst. You should also have a contingency plan for long term power outages that we hope don't happen, whether it be having the homeowner have a generator, because once those things fill up, you're not going to be able to do much in the house. I think the Town of Dartmouth may have a generator on a pickup truck and they have a transfer switch on the outside of the house, and they go around after a storm or after a power outage and power up the low pressure pump and/or the grinder pump to evacuate the tank. Do you have any thoughts on that or how you're going to plan with a contingency plan for power outages?

Mr. Moran – That is a good question and I do not have anything in the plan about that.

Mr. Hobill – That would either be owner required or municipality required. You will have to look at what you want to do for that, and you might want to even consider talking with the folks in Dartmouth. It's always good to prepare for the future. Just a general comment on shell fishing, I work with marine fisheries quite a bit, and the FDA put further restrictions on which I don't think they had the data to prove under CSO or SSO conditions, but just under general conditions. They clamped down on the approval of what was formally approved but they extended the radius outside of an outfall for what they consider to be an at risk area. Also, I would add a section, it doesn't have to be a very big section but something that educates the public particularly on fats, oils, greases, and the so-called flushable wipes because you know that all of those things cause sewer backups in the lines, extra grease at the plant, and the wipes that clog up the plant and get wrapped around pump shafts. I recommend that you take a look at the education that the Town of Plymouth put out to their residents through their Board of Health. Really, it's in the Board of Health's hands to educate on what to flush and what not to flush down the sewers, and that also includes having the Board of Health enforce the grease trap rules and regulations and make sure they get pumped on a regular basis and are maintained so you're not getting excess grease at the plant. Again, I want to thank you for the nice coherent plan that's easy to read. I appreciate that very much. Once I receive your plan I will go over it and I hope to get a letter out to you folks approving the plan by the end of the month. If I have any other issues, I'll bring them up along the way.

The Board took a short recess at 6:56 p.m.

Mr. Wotton reconvened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

B. Sarah Freshman, iStroll Southcoast, Cushman Park for Parents Fitness Group from April to October

Ms. Freshman – We had our parents fitness group last year at Cushman Park and we are requesting to do it again this year 4 times a week from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Ms. Rotondo motioned to approve iStroll Southcoast’s request to use Cushman Park Track Area for a Parents Fitness Group from April to October on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday’s from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

V. Item for Action

**A. Sign Notice of Award for Spring Street Water Main Replacement Project, Dig It Construction
\$1,262,126.87**

Ms. Smith – This bid is so much lower than the other bids.

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
March 3, 2025**

Mr. Furtado – That’s why we had them vetted by our Engineer.

Mr. Hobson motioned to Award the Spring Street Water Main Replacement Project to Dig It Construction in the amount of \$1,262,126.87. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

B. Trash Fee Review

Mr. Furtado – Last year on March 4, 2024 the Board of Public Works was asked to institute a trash fee. At that time, they motioned to approve the fee for one year and also voted to revisit it in a year. We put this on the agenda tonight for the Board to talk it out preliminarily, whether you vote tonight or not. It's something that has to be considered one way or the other for the upcoming FY26 budget. We have collected \$685,000 give or take a penny. When Mr. Samia, the Interim Town Administrator, presented the budget originally, he made it clear the budget was changing over time. All of the general fund budgets that we had to submit, and I believe everyone else was also asked to use the FY25 Budget minus 2%. This morning Mr. Wotton and I had a meeting with Mr. Samia and he told us that the Town had a deficit of \$1,400,000.00 and the trash fee has brought the deficit down roughly to half of that. So instead of \$1,400,000 million it's \$700,000. He assumed that the trash fee was set in stone and we made it clear to him that it wasn't.

Mr. Wotton - It was pretty clear that if we voted to remove the trash fee, then we'd be removing another \$700,000 from the existing budget that would come out across the board from everybody.

Mr. Furtado – We asked Ms. Carreiro to come tonight to answer any questions since there is nobody that knows more about the budget than her.

Mr. Hobson – I am the one that made the motion last year. We are now into the second year plus we gave the town back money last year and this year.

Mr. Furtado – Yes, we gave back \$300,000 last year and \$200,000 this year of roadwork money.

Mr. Wotton - So a half a million dollars in 2 years that we've cut from the Highway Department budget here at the BPW.

Mr. Hobson - Almost a million dollars between the road work and the trash fee.

Mr. Wotton – Well over a million dollars.

Mr. Hobson - I know we're under the gun and I am not sure how the other Board members feel but I think we have to approve the trash fee for another year. I do not want to make it permanent.

Mr. Lopes - Just a comment, when this was implemented and we assessed this the first time around, my main concern was that we went from a service that was always captured in the general fund to adding an additional fee to the taxpayers. I've watched every single SelectBoard meeting and Finance Committee meeting leading up to this and I have talked to quite a bit of people and I just want to always be conscious that we increase fees as a last result to the taxpayers. I'm open to continuing this, but I agree with Mr. Hobson not to have it be a permanent thing and to be reevaluated every year.

Ms. Rotondo – I agree with that as well.

Mr. Wotton - I had a decent conversation with Mr. Samia, who I met today for the first time. He is a very smart individual, and said he could wipe the town's deficit out with just a couple strokes of the keys. The problem is we don't want to face what's on the other side of that, and what's on the other side of somebody looking at an excel spreadsheet is actual people and people are what matter and are very important to this town. I'm talking about our personnel and our 1st responders. I am not in favor of implementing this trash fee again and I definitely won't vote in favor for this another year. The BPW cannot continue to operate below budget. We went from \$500,000 a year to \$200,000 for Roadwork. Me personally I'm tired of this department having to cut our services. I don't think that any one department is more important than the other, unless it's for life saving. I think everybody needs to work together as a team in this town and work together to diminish the last \$700,000 of the budget deficit for the following year. Today they talked about even eliminating trash and recycle pickup from our tax fees altogether

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
March 3, 2025**

and putting it directly on the resident. It costs the Town over \$1,600,000 million dollars a year to pick up trash and recyclables, and we've already removed the bulky items. Next, we're going to have to remove the leaf pickup because they're not going to pay for it. It's not that we don't want to offer it, it's just there's no money in the checkbook to pay for the bills and that's a big problem. So, I'm completely against any fee, especially one that they call a trash fee when we know what it's really for.

Mr. Riley – I was on the Board of Public Works for 10 years and I appreciate your service. I will disclose that this is my first year on the Finance Committee and I am an employee of the Town, I work for the Marine Resources Committee. I appreciate what you guys are going through, it's not easy to juggle this \$700,000 figure plus or minus. In reality it's not a trash fee. It's a tax, a tax without representation. If the Town wants to raise the taxes, they need to go for an override. This is all happening because the year before the Town rejected a \$400,000 override. This Town needs to start standing on what it takes in and what its expenses are like any other business. For the last 4 years in a row there has been a deficit, and nobody on the SelectBoard wants to look at the core. I understand nobody wants to lay anybody off and we can raise fees. But the nut is, you're in a deficit of 2 ½%. If the Town does some massaging of what they do and try to go for an override. At some point in time this town has to stand on its merits. Implementing a trash fee just circumventing everything. Some further information is the average age in for the Town of Fairhaven is 49 years old, the medium income is \$65,700 and the poverty rate is 7.6% so you have to take all into consideration.

Ms. Carreiro – If you talk to Dartmouth, Wareham and Carver they all call it a Trash Fee.

Mr. Furtado – There are 10 communities in the Commonwealth that do not have a trash fee.

Mr. Blanchard – There are a lot of great points being made tonight. The trash fee has been instituted for a year now, and this may not be the right terminology, but people have grown accustomed to paying it. I think that what we need to consider is that two things are going to change dramatically in the Town in the coming year, the face of the Selectboard and the Town Administrator are both going to change. I think to get through this year to reduce or eliminate the fee and to increase the deficit back to 1.5 million is not fair for the new Town Administrator and for the new SelectBoard to come in and have to deal with. I think that maintaining the trash fee for one more year, revisit it next year and give the new SelectBoard and the new Town Administrator an opportunity to see if they can close the budget deficit next year, 2 ½% plus new growth.

Ms. Carreiro – We are looking for different revenues. We live in a waterfront town, and we don't capitalize on any of the waterfront. The Town needs additional revenue. How many cuts can each department take?

Mr. Hobson motioned to implement the \$100 trash fee for one year and reevaluate in a year. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote 4-1 with Mr. Wotton opposed.

C. Livesey & Cushman Park Bathroom Keys

Mr. Wotton – Any organizations that rent the park and are looking for keys to the bathrooms are going to have to pay the park application fee and then pay a security fee for the key to the bathrooms. These fees are going to have to be substantial to make sure that they are taking care of them. If the BPW has to clean the bathrooms, if they are inspected and found in shambles or if we receive a call during off hours and have to send an employee to assess a situation than they would not be eligible to get their deposit back.

Mr. Hobson – So the Pickleball Association would have to put up a deposit for the key?

Mr. Furtado – No, we have a current agreement with them. They have been taking care of the bathrooms and the supplies, which is helping us out a great deal.

Ms. Smith – I agree that there needs to be a security deposit. The Pickleball Association will be using it on Saturday's along with the open air market. We already have an agreement with the Pickleball Association and I suspect that there will be crossover. If there is an issue how do we know who is responsible? I think that it would be helpful if we had a list of people who have the key.

Ms. Rotondo – There are two bathrooms. Maybe make them both unisex and one of the bathrooms would be for pickleball, softball and football and the other for events.

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
March 3, 2025**

Mr. Crabb – At the current CBA a foreman would cost approximately \$165.00 for a callout.

Ms. Rotondo – They should have to bring their own supplies.

Ms. Smith – Is it the same price for the season and the same price for a single event. What if something does happen.

Mr. Wotton – Yes, the same deposit for everyone and if there is an issue than we revoke their key to use the bathroom and their security deposit is forfeited. They would also need to bring their own supplies, the Town will not supply anything, we do not have the money in the budget.

Mr. Messier – I heard a lot of conversation about this but did anyone confirm with the Highway Superintendent on how much it would cost to send someone there if there is an issue?

Mr. Crabb – For a foreman and an employee it would cost around \$350

Ms. Bizarro – I am the Vice President of Southcoast Girls Softball, we have been using the field for many years and we consider ourselves caretakers for the fields. We know that there are some groups that hand out the key to anyone that needs to use the bathroom but when someone in our group needs to use it we physically walk over with the person and open it up.

Mr. Wotton – You would have a dedicated bathroom. We already have an agreement with Pickleball, Softball and Football. It would be people that request it for one-time events.

Ms. Smith – I didn't realize that we were not going to charge for athletics.

Mr. Wotton – We waive the fees for them because they help us take care of the park, they paint the building and take care of the fields. Mr. Crabb & Ms. Vento can figure out who uses what side.

Ms. Smith motioned to set a security deposit fee of \$350 for Cushman & Livesey Park bathroom key for all non-youth athletics. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

D. Dagle Electrical Construction Complete Streets Invoice #2 \$8,645.00

Mr. Wotton – We are going to skip over this tonight.

E. Sign Contract Agreement, The Engineering Corp (TEC) – Traffic Regulation Study \$218,500.00

Mr. Furtado – We are looking for the Board to approve this pending Town Counsels approval.

Mr. Lopes motioned to Sign Contract Agreement with TEC in the amount of \$218,500 for Traffic Regulation Study. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous.

VI. Table Matters

A. n/a

VII. Public Comments / Open Forum

VIII. Old Business / New Business

A. Superintendent

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
March 3, 2025**

Superintendent Report for March 3, 2025

- POTW upgrade Change Order Meeting
- Highway Union negotiations
- Chair BBAC Monthly meeting
- Sewer Force Main upgrade meeting - work is scheduled to commence this week
- Continue Labor Counsel matter
- Interview Sewer Department Candidate
- Interviews scheduled for Water Dept Admin
- Continue with CWMP Review
- BPW will present at Fincom on March 6
- Work on Press Release for Water Plant upgrade
- CDBG Engineer selected

Mr. Furtado answered any questions that the Board had regarding the Superintendent Report.

A. Board Members

Mr. Hobson – Are they all done with the Sconticut Neck Project?

Mr. Crabb – They will be back in April to do the sidewalks.

C. Marine Resources Committee – BPW Related Matters

Mr. Hobson – The Marine Resource Committee has not met since our last meeting.

D. Community Preservation Committee – BPW Relate Matters

IX. Set Date for the Next Meeting

Ms. Rotondo motioned to set the date for the next meeting on March 17, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Wotton seconded. Vote unanimous.

X. Adjourn

Mr. Wotton motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. and to enter into executive session to discuss Sewer Department Personnel & Highway Superintendent and not to reconvene in open session. Rollcall Vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Ms. Smith, Mr. Lopes and Ms. Rotondo in favor. Vote unanimous.

XI. Executive Session

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
March 3, 2025**

- A. Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3) To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares (Sewer Department Personnel)**

- B. Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(2) "To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel": (Highway Superintendent)**

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca L. Vento

Rebecca Vento
Business Manager

Minutes approved on March 17, 2025.



Fairhaven CWMP: Recommended Plan

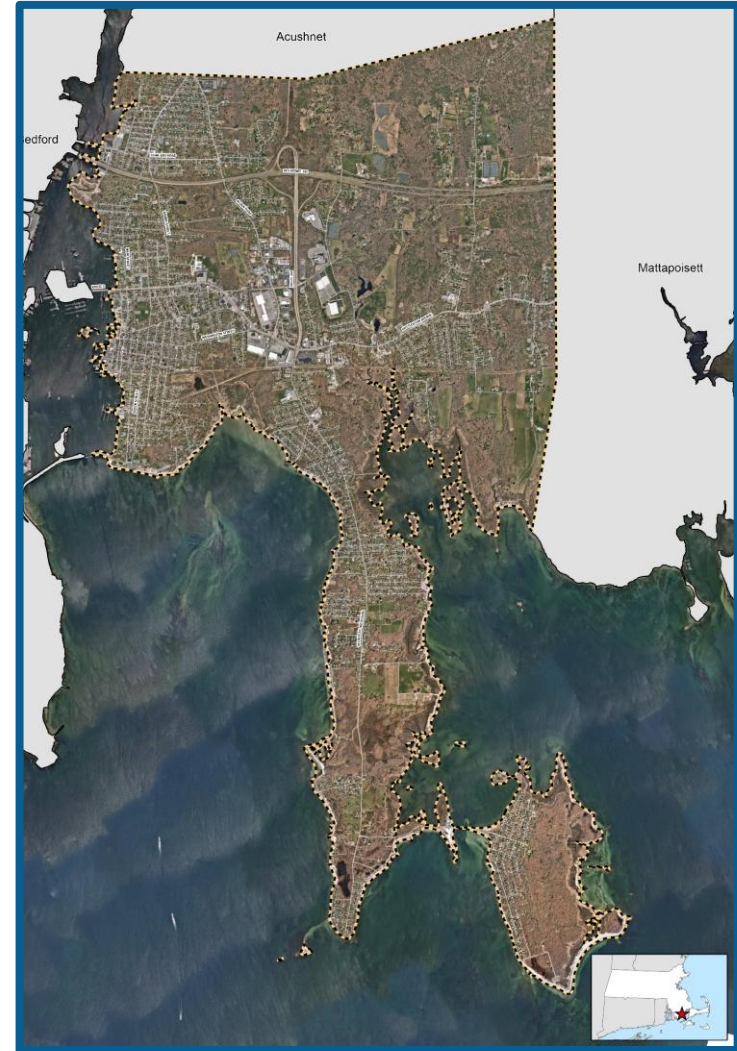
March 3, 2025

Project Director: Ian Catlow, PE
Project Manager: Paul Moran, PE

AGENDA

Scope/Report Contents:

1. *Intro*
2. *Review of Planning Efforts*
3. *Existing Conditions*
4. *Needs Analysis*
5. *Future Conditions*
6. *Wastewater Management Alternatives*
7. *Alternatives Analysis*
- 8. Recommended Plan**
 - A. WPCF Upgrade
 - B. Mattapoissett Flow
 - C. Sewer Infill
 - D. Pump Station Upgrades
 - E. I/I Mitigation
 - F. Recommended Projects
 - G. Environmental Impacts
- 9. Schedule & Adaptive Management**
 - A. Monitoring CWMP Implementation
 - B. Adaptive Management Options



RECOMMENDED PLAN: COMPLETED ACTIONS

- **Fairhaven WPCF**
 - Upgrade underway
 - TN Removal to 3 mg/L
 - Inner Harbor TN reduced by ~200 lb/day
 - Complies With TMDL
- **Mattapoissett Sewer Extensions**
 - Mattapoissett's CWMP Completed in 2010
 - Requested 0.3 MGD additional capacity
 - IMA Update Completed in 2014
 - Significant Benefit to Mattapoissett Harbor (once sewer extensions are complete)



RECOMMENDED PLAN: STAY THE COURSE

- **Sewer Infill**

- 90 septic systems with access to sewer

- **Pump Station Upgrades**

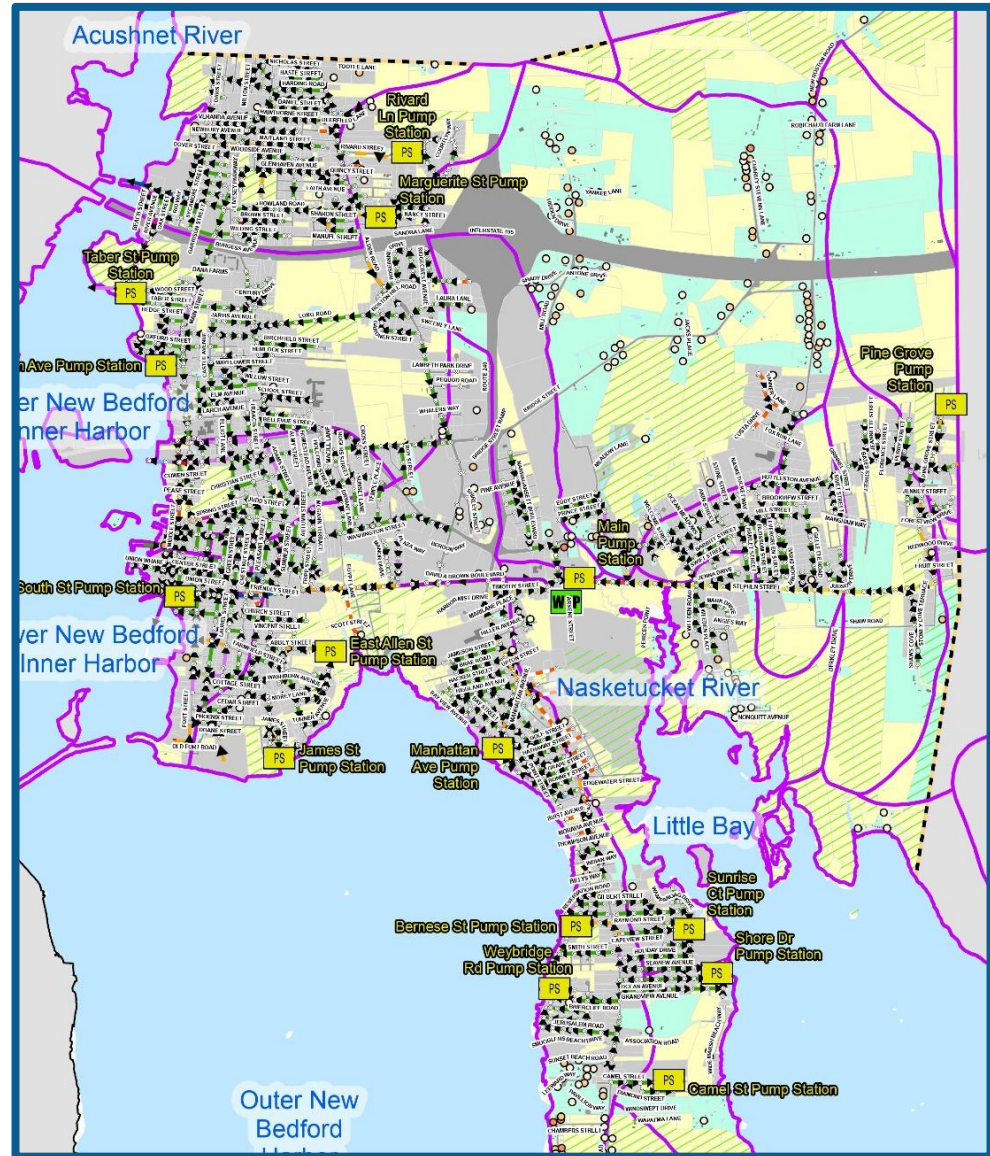
- Average 1 upgrade every 1.2 years
- \$0.75 to \$1.0 million every year

- **W/I Mitigation**

- Investigate & Remediate
- \$250k per year

- **Facilitate Shellfishing**

- Increase licenses
- Increase aquaculture areas



RECOMMENDED PROJECTS

- **Sewer Extensions**

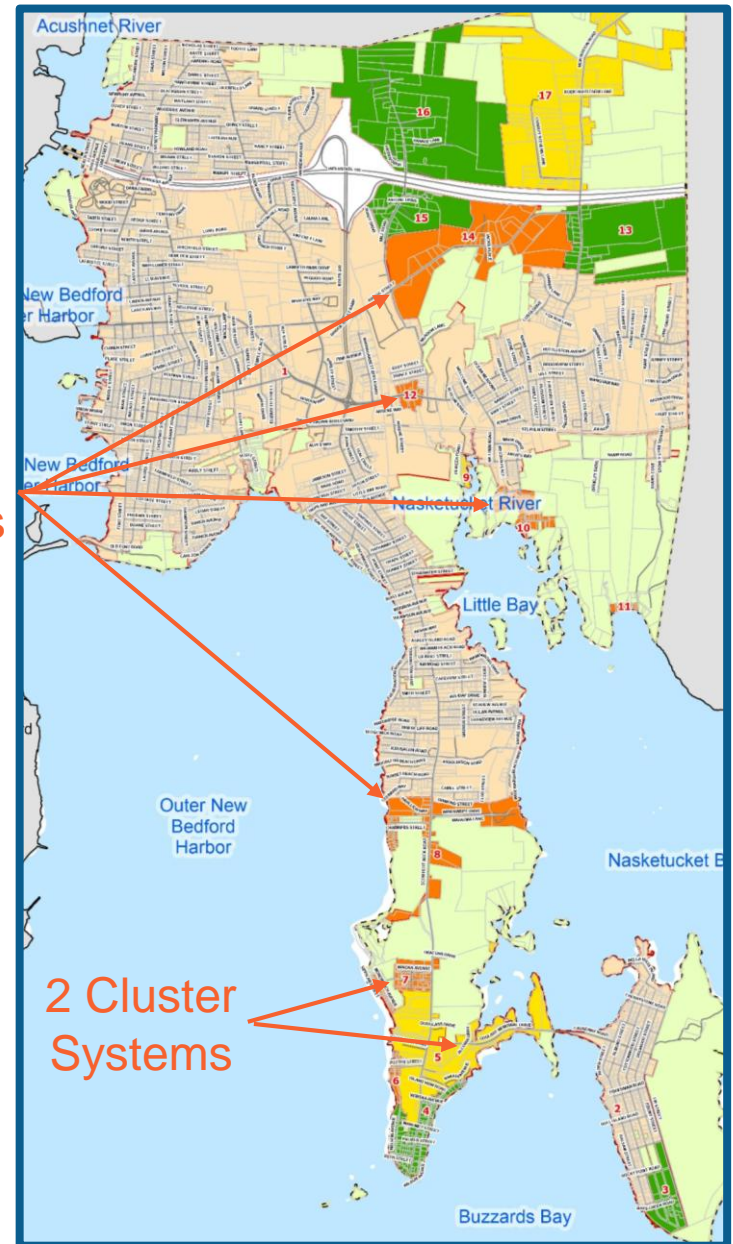
- Study Area 8
 - 38 services, \$2.1M
- Study Area 10
 - 32 services, \$1.7M
- Study Area 12
 - 11 services, \$670k
- Study Area 14 (partial)
 - 10 services, \$850k

- **Cluster Systems**

- Study Area 5 –
 - 9 to 14 services, \$720k
- Study Area 7
 - Up to 90 bedrooms, \$1.6M

4 Sewer Extensions

2 Cluster Systems



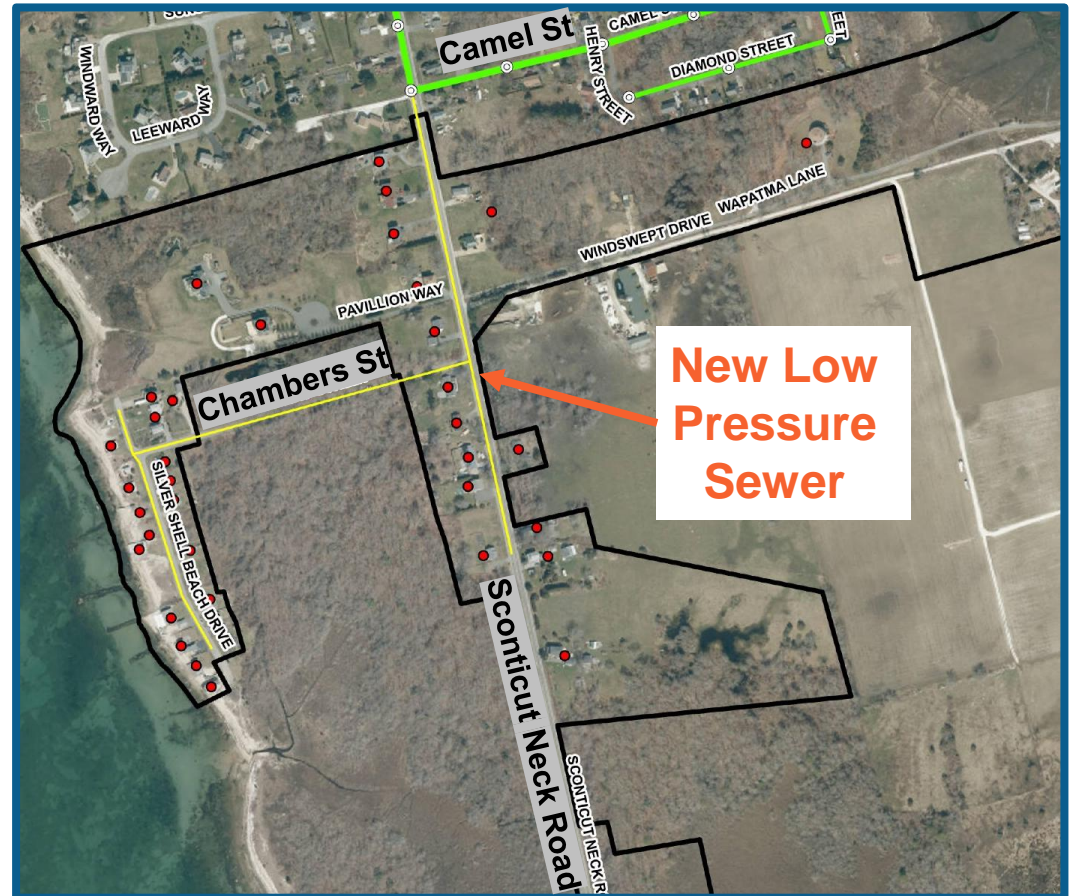
RECOMMENDED PROJECT: SEWER STUDY AREA 8

- **Reasons for Sewer**

- Poor Soils
- Adjacent to Service Area
- Low-Cost Water Quality Improvements

- **Project Scope**

- 38 services connected
- 3,500 LF Low Pressure Sewer
- 5,800 GPD Avg Flow
- \$2.1M OPCC



RECOMMENDED PROJECT: SEWER STUDY AREA 10

- **Reasons for Sewer**

- Very Poor Soils
- Adjacent to Service Area
- Low-Cost Water Quality Improvements

- **Project Scope**

- 32 services connected
- 2,900 LF Low Pressure Sewer
- 4,900 GPD Avg Flow
- \$1.7M OPCC



RECOMMENDED PROJECT: SEWER STUDY AREA 12

- **Reasons for Sewer**

- Drinking Water Protection
- Surrounded by Service Area
- Low-Cost Water Quality Improvements

- **Project Scope**

- 11 services connected
- 800 LF Gravity Sewer
- 1,700 GPD Avg Flow
- \$670K OPCC



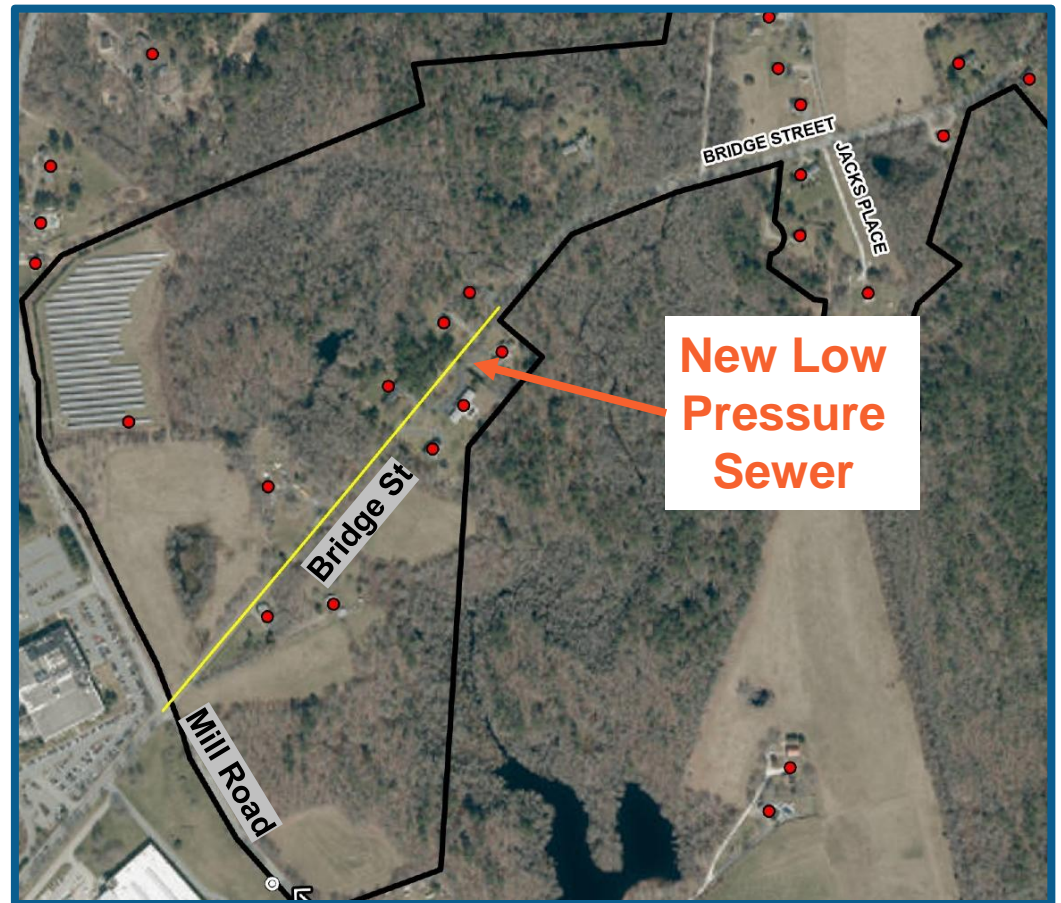
RECOMMENDED PROJECT: SEWER STUDY AREA 14

- **Reasons for Sewer**

- Drinking Water Protection
- Poor Soils
- Adjacent to Service Area

- **Project Scope**

- 10 services connected
- 1,750 LF Low Pressure Sewer
- 1,600 GPD Avg Flow
- \$850K OPCC



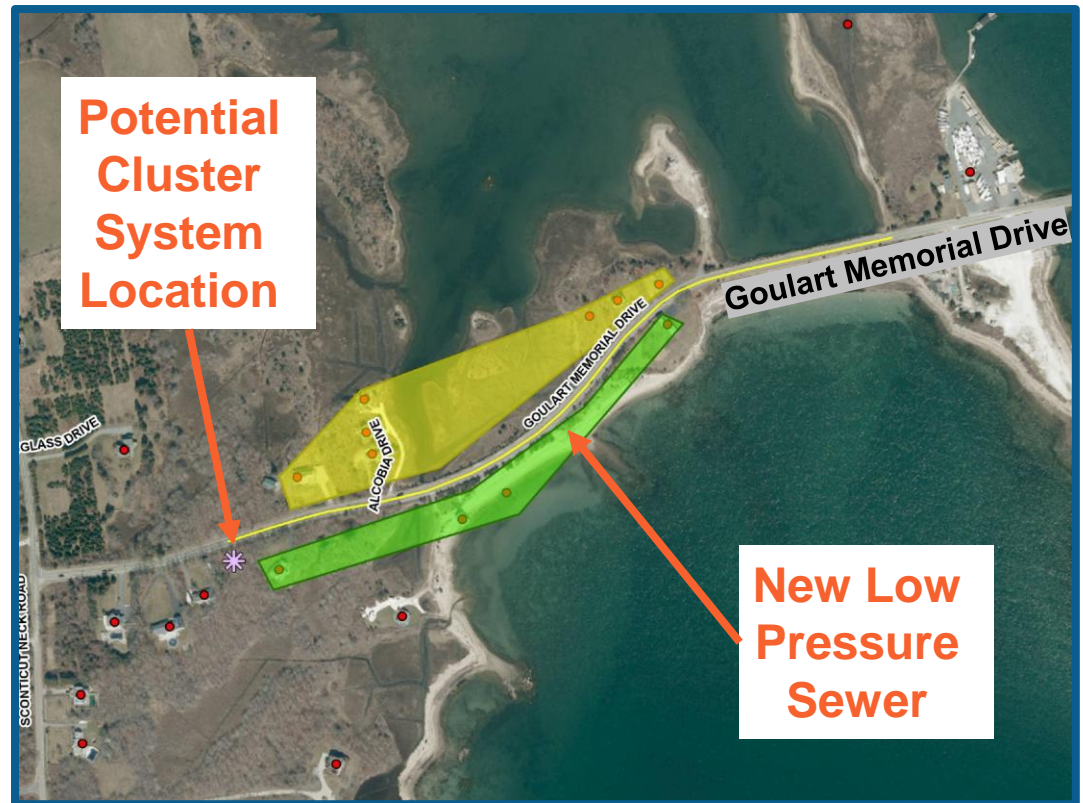
GOULART MEMORIAL DRIVE CLUSTER SYSTEM

- **Reasons for Cluster**

- Poor Soils
- Highly Sensitive Watershed
- Low-Cost Water Quality Improvements

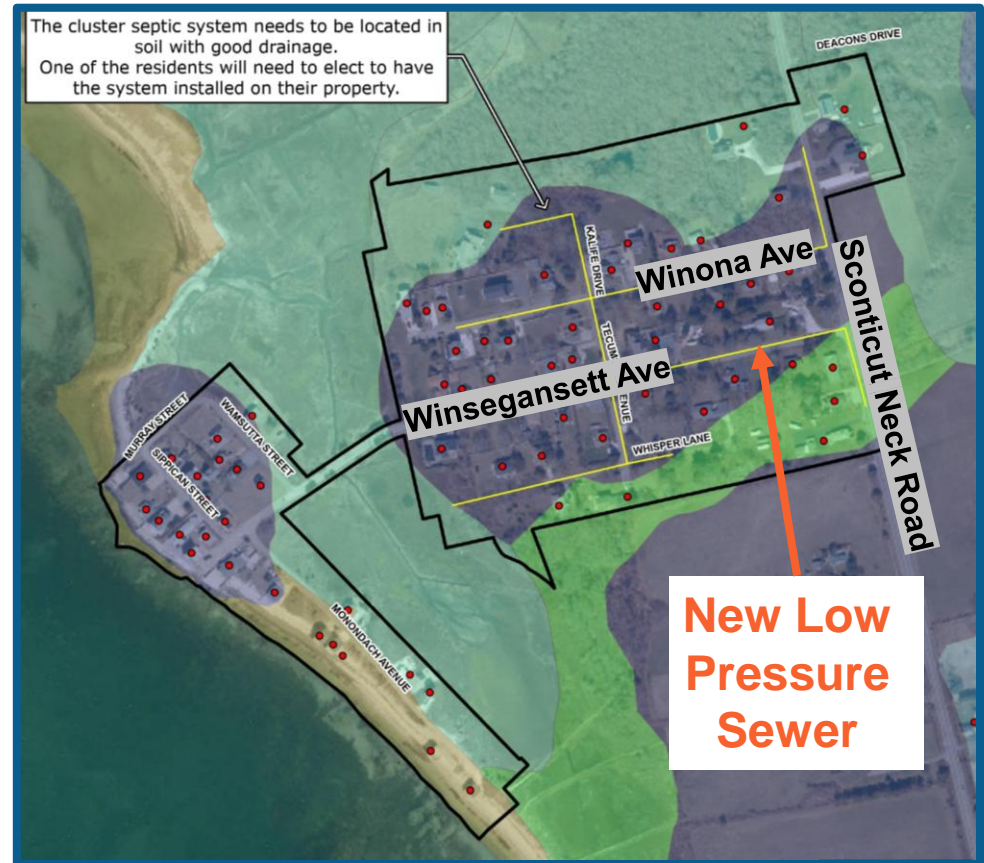
- **Project Scope**

- 9 services connected
- 2,500 LF Low Pressure Sewer
- 2,500 GPD Title 5 Flow
- \$720k OPCC



STUDY AREA 7 CLUSTER SYSTEM

- **Reasons for Cluster**
 - High Density Neighborhood
 - Highly Sensitive Watershed
 - Low-Cost Water Quality Improvements
- **Project Scope**
 - Requires Groundwater Investigation
 - No Readily Available Parcel for Cluster System
 - Up to 90 bedrooms, (~36 services)
 - 3,800 LF Low Pressure Sewer
 - 10,000 GPD Title 5 Flow
 - \$1.6M OPCC



RECOMMENDED PLAN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

- **New Bedford Inner Harbor**

- 53,290 kg/y down to 20,805 kg/y
- Meets all TMDL Requirements for Fairhaven

- **New Bedford Outer Harbor**

- No baseline Water Quality reports available
- Benefits from work toward Inner Harbor TMDL compliance
- Estimated 48% TN removal factoring in TMDL compliance and Fairhaven's Recommended Plan

- **Mattapoisett Harbor**

- No baseline Water Quality reports available
- 91 kg/y TN septic load from Fairhaven
- 1,654 kg/y TN mitigated by Mattapoisett sewer extensions

RECOMMENDED PLAN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

- **Total Nasketucket Embayment**

- Target TN Loading: 1,543 kg/y
- Current TN Loading: 1,197 kg/y (already 22% below)
- Recommended Plan: - 454 kg/y
- 20-Year Build-Out: +430 kg/y
- Projected TN Loading: **1,173 kg/y (down to 24% below)**

- **Nasketucket River Main Subwatershed**

- Target TN Loading: 657 kg/y
- Current TN Loading: 687 kg/y (already 5% high)
- Recommended Plan: - 116 kg/y
- 20-Year Build-Out: +422 kg/y
- Projected TN Loading: **993 kg/y (up to 51% high)**

CWMP IMPLEMENTATION MONITORING

- **Sewer Connections & Septic Systems**
 - 90 Septic Systems with access to sewer
 - Goal: connect 4.5 per year
 - Track new & removed septic systems by subwatershed
- **Pump Stations**
 - Goal: Spend \$0.75M to \$1.0M per year on average
 - Goal: Upgrade 1 every 1.2 years on average
- **Infiltration & Inflow**
 - Goal: Continue to spend \$250k per year
 - Goal: Flat or Downward Trend for I/I year over year
- **Recommended Projects**
 - Goal: complete 1 project every 3 years
 - Spending: ~\$270k per year, depends on cost sharing
- **Shellfishing**
 - Goal: Upward trend in Shellfishing
- **Water Quality Monitoring**
 - Goal: TN trends going down

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

- **Potential Policy Changes:**

- Require Sewer Connection Upon Transfer
- Increased Support for Shellfishing
- E-I/A Systems in Nasketucket River Overlay District
- Regulate Fertilizer Use
- Agricultural Nitrogen Reduction Practices

- **Potential Projects:**

- Additional Sewer Extensions
- Additional Cluster Systems
- Water Service to Shaw's Cove

