



# ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

## MAINE COASTAL COMMUNITIES GRANT

THURSDAY JUNE 2, 2016 10:00 – 11:00 AM

AT DUNAWAY COMMUNITY CENTER, OGUNQUIT, ME

### ADDRESSING BACTERIA CONTAMINATION IN THE OGUNQUIT RIVER WATERSHED (2015-2016)

#### 1. THANK YOU / INTRODUCTIONS

Present: Tom Fortier (Town Manager, Ogunquit), Leslie Hinz (Stormwater Manager, York), Bill Baker (Ogunquit Conservation Commission), Jon Carter (Town Manager, Wells), Kristin Feindel (Maine DEP), Meagan Sims (Maine Healthy Beaches), Laura Diemer (FB Environmental Associates), Carly Ellis (FB Environmental Associates).

**2. GOAL:** Continue efforts to identify, monitor, and manage sources of fecal contamination in the Ogunquit River watershed.

#### 3. REVIEW PROJECT TASKS & SCHEDULE

##### TASK 1: Multi-Town Collaboration and Meetings

- ✦ GOAL: Strengthen collaboration and open lines of communication among the watershed towns of Wells, South Berwick, York, and Ogunquit, as well as local land trusts (Great Works Regional Land Trust and Mt. Agamenticus to the Sea Conservation Initiative).
- ✦ Hold 3 multi-partner meetings (2 complete, final one scheduled for October-November 2016).
- ✦ Publish meeting minutes on Ogunquit River Restoration Project website. Minutes will also be sent directly to all project partners, along with final deliverables.

##### TASK 2: Septic System Database and Risk Assessment

- ✦ GOAL: Identify areas at risk from fecal contamination as a result of old/malfunctioning septic systems.
- ✦ Final product: spreadsheet of prioritized septic and sewer parcels for the entire watershed; risk assessment maps that highlight problem areas; brief memo describing results and next steps.
  - Septic risk map by parcel (based on soil and environmental risk factors) was completed for entire watershed, with separate maps highlighting those portions of the watershed in individual towns. Map shows the risk of septic failure from natural soil and landscape factors, excluding age or maintenance of septic systems.
  - Expanded current septic and sewer system database to include the entire watershed – adding Wells (2,013), South Berwick (117), and York (148), and completing a thorough update of Ogunquit (941) parcels, totaling 3,219 parcels in the Ogunquit River watershed (not including roadways, right of ways, or coastal marshes).
  - Created a ranking system of properties according to risk of pollution to water based on soil and environmental risk factors as well as known or unknown condition of septic system. This prioritized list will help direct resources in an orderly and efficient manner, since it is impractical to check all systems in a short time period.
    - Memo thoroughly details how the spreadsheet was generated and how to interpret the database; separate tabs within the spreadsheet for each watershed town.
    - Ranked by category (1-6) with Category 1 being top priority parcels

- Category 1 – no septic permit on file or unknown status (whether septic, sewer, other) or build year older than 2006 (no permit)
  - Category 2 – septic permit available, but system more than 30 years old
  - Category 3 – septic permit available and system less than 30 years old
  - Category 4 – septic systems built within last 10 years
  - Cat 1-4: if septic pump-out records were available, each category further subdivided into A (not serviced in last 5 years) or B (serviced within last 5 years)
  - Category 5 – parcels connected to public sewer system
  - Category 6 – vacant land or parcels with accessory buildings lacking plumbing
  - Within each category, ranked by environmental risk factor (high to low factor values)
- ✧ Recommendations: address Category 1 parcels; implement schedule for updating the database regularly (will only be useful in the long run if kept up to date); consider giving MEGIS updated town parcel layers; consider incorporating a septic system maintenance ordinance similar to Ogunquit, but be sure there is an enforcement system in place
- Town-specific recommendations were also provided at the end of the memo for each town to review. For instance, the Wells Code Enforcement Office is currently working to scan and organize septic permit information to make it more accessible; we were unable to search for all 2,013 parcels in Wells due to the sheer volume and unorganized hardcopy data available.
- ✧ Match documentation needed from: Phil Pickering (OSD, # hrs); Jodine Adams (Wells, hourly rate), Gordon Clarke (Wells, hourly rate), Leslie Hinz (York, hourly rate – received at meeting); will follow-up with these individuals
- ✧ *Meeting discussion: towns are considering jump-starting a loan program to help facilitate septic system replacements in priority areas (based on septic system database); other potential grant programs could help pay for some replacements; DEP small community grant program based on low-income and towns may not qualify; towns also want maps by septic priority, which FBE will supply; MHB may have completed a similar septic system ranking for Ogunquit, which FBE will look into as a cross-check of methods; towns want to present this database to selectboard.*

#### TASK 4: Water Quality Monitoring Expansion

- ✧ Expanding existing water quality monitoring program to identify and bracket potential sources of bacteria in hotspot areas and across seasons. 2016 sampling locations have been selected (12 sites, 8 of which are being tested for DNA biomarkers – human, canine, avian). Seasonal and wet/dry component. Already completed first dry weather, spring sample.
- ✧ Will delineate the drainage area to OR-6 and conduct a thorough upstream land use investigation of the drainage; local volunteers encouraged to participate. The river will be walked beginning at the Rt. 1 crossing and sampled at regular and key locations to bracket potential sources. Likely to occur in July.
- ✧ **Final product:** Report documenting the watershed investigation, assessing the water quality results, and detailing next steps; drainage map; watershed map with bacteria results.

#### TASK 5: Project Management and Reporting

- ✧ FBE = continuing to track budget and match, develop summary of work for State invoices, and submit progress reports on 12/31/2015 (complete), 6/30/2016 (working on now), and 12/31/2016. Will develop a final progress report, case study, and match documentation to be submitted to the State no later than 1/13/2017.

## **TASK 6: Spatial Data**

- ✦ All spatial data created through this project will be maintained by the town in an easily accessible format to the public. FBE will develop a list of spatial data created during this project and process by which these data can be accessed for the final report.

## **5. WRAP-UP / QUESTIONS**