

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

Thomas Hansen, Chairman

Annual Report 2017

The Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) consists of a five-member volunteer board that meets monthly throughout the year to establish policies for, and monitor the progress of, the Town's Sewer Avoidance Program and its other programs. The WPCA performs this mission with assistance of Town staff from the Health Department and Town Engineer's Office.

In 2017 the WPCA met with the Health Department to express concerns and issues related to the long term, continued use of on-site septic systems in environmentally sensitive areas. The Health Department has in turn, has continued to enforce compliance with local ordinances regarding prescriptive standards of the public health code, seasonal conversions and repairs. The Department has also improved internal procedures, recordkeeping and recording and actively tracks the performance of new systems, particularly large, commercial systems. The WPCA and the Health Department are engaged in discussions about nitrogen removal and wastewater management districts. The WPCA will continue to work with the Health department to enhance water quality and environmental standards in Madison.

The WPCA prepared a draft ordinance for Management Districts (WWMD) in accordance with Connecticut General Statute 7.247 (b). A full copy of the proposed ordinance can be found on the WPCA website. The following standards for on-site wastewater disposal in a WWMD shall apply:

- Cesspools shall be replaced with septic systems that comply with the CT Public Health Code and the provisions of the WWMD.
- New and repaired septic systems in a WWMD shall have revised groundwater separation requirements of 24 inches.
- The requirements for upgrading on-site disposal systems shall be imposed upon change in ownership or use.
- Water proximity lots shall be required to install Advanced Treatment Systems (ATS) for the renovation of nitrogen prior to discharge to a leaching field.

The WPCA has provided a proposed scope and budget for preparing an updated facilities plan in accordance with the Capital Plan of Development (COPD) and DEP requirements. This would provide long term planning for wastewater disposal in Madison and address such issues as nitrogen removal, sea level rise, improved septic system standards and economics. There continues to be a lack of support from the town to proceed with such a study.