

**Summary of Meeting 1**  
**Citizens Advisory Committee**  
**Greenwich Bay Special Area Management Plan**  
**Wednesday, October 8, 2003 6:30-8:30 PM**  
**Warwick Sewer Authority, Warwick, Rhode Island**

The first meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) for the GB SAMP was called to order at 6:30 PM by Chair Michael Tikoian of the Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC). All meeting attendees introduced themselves and named the group they are representing.

**Opening Comments**

Joe Macari, the Superintendent of Public Works for East Greenwich spoke briefly on how the town is supportive of the GB SAMP, the role of the CAC and the status of the secondary wastewater treatment plant. A consent agreement is going through approvals between the plant and DEM to upgrade to tertiary treatment. Construction will start in the spring, moving faster than expected possibly due to events of the summer (fish kill). As a result of the upgrades, all areas east of Route 2 will be sewered and nitrogen levels will be reduced to 5 mg/L.

Grover Fugate from the CRMC delivered a presentation about the role of the CRMC and the SAMP process. Grover emphasized the importance of the CAC serving as a local knowledge source that makes suggestions and fills in gaps missed by the technical team.

The purpose and function of the CAC, along with membership requirements and a draft meeting schedule was presented by Glenn Ricci, the CAC coordinator, from the University of Rhode Island. Handouts on the structure of the CAC and the meetings will be available on the GB SAMP website. The committee will be formally established at the next meeting once membership letters are sent to CRMC.

**Topics Discussed**

The meeting attendees discussed the following issues regarding the CAC:

- Membership for the CAC is restricted to groups or organizations from Warwick and East Greenwich. Larger groups based outside of the Greenwich Bay area need to have local residents as representatives. Membership is for groups and not individuals so as to increase representation on the committee.
- CAC members and the public are welcome to attend technical meetings and give input, but technical meetings are primarily venues for technical experts to validate collected information prior to CAC review. It would not be useful for the CAC to receive out-dated or incorrect information. CAC members can make recommendations about who should serve on the Technical Committee.
- Some CAC members have been attending all technical meetings and contributing to technical discussions. They feel comfortable at the meetings and feel their recommendations and concerns are being incorporating into chapter drafts. The CAC has real authority in this process and it is very important that CAC continue on after formal adoption of the Greenwich Bay SAMP.
- Chapters are very dense and there is not enough preparation time for some CAC members to read chapters, make comments, and confer with members of their groups (some groups do not meet regularly). Attention will be made to provide the CAC members with information on drafts as soon as possible and additional meetings will be considered in February to allow for a review of remaining issues.
- T.F. Green airport, though located outside of the watershed, dumps run-off into brooks that feed into Greenwich Bay. It is recommended that this be addressed in the water quality chapter of the SAMP.
- The CAC should have access to chapters prior to technical review and should be involved in the review process as early as possible to maintain the credibility and transparency of the GB SAMP management team and the SAMP process.

### **Recommendations:**

- The CAC should be proactive and involved in all aspects of SAMP process. Therefore members of the CAC and the Technical Committee should attend each other's meetings as often as possible.
- The CAC wants their voice to be heard and accepted by the targeted audience. Public education should be an item on the CAC meeting agenda. The CAC should work to pull information together and explore various forms of communication available.
- While there is a desire to stick to the current meeting schedule, some chapters should extend over two meetings.
- CAC members should use the listserv to communicate ideas and concerns as the SAMP process progresses. Web communication is one way to disseminate information and generate public participation.
- Organizations and the public will better receive information if it is presented in a concise manner, using fewer words. Summaries of chapters, with bulleted main points, would be helpful in getting information to members of groups and local citizens.
- CAC should tap into local media sources. It was recommended that a series of articles be published about the SAMP chapters and the SAMP process, including the evolution of the CAC. However, it would not be beneficial to have members of the media at CAC meetings because members may be less likely to communicate freely.
- The CAC should serve as a coalition of business, neighborhood, environmental, and recreational groups concerned about Greenwich Bay and its watershed.
- URI's Watershed Watch (URI Cooperative Extension) will soon be recruiting and training volunteers to monitor the Bay for dissolved oxygen during winter months. This is something the CAC can be directly involved in and members of the CAC should inform their groups and the public about this opportunity.

### **Next Steps**

- A list serve for CAC members will be created before the next meeting by CRMC.
- A press release on the start of the CAC and summaries of the Chapters will be done by CRMC.
- The schedule of meetings will be reconsidered in order to allow more time for the CAC to review the chapters, specifically giving two meetings to the water quality chapter. CRMC will send an email out to potential CAC members for their vote.
- The next CAC meeting will begin with developing a vision and setting goals for the GB SAMP. Followed by a summary and review of the water quality chapter.
- All meeting agendas will include time to discuss how the CAC can best communicate the issues and educate to the public. CRMC will amend future agendas.
- Meeting attendees will encourage community groups from Warwick and East Greenwich to become members of the CAC.

### **Attendees**

Elise Del Barone

Jerry A. Meyer, E.G. Chamber of Commerce

Rich Langseth, Indian Point

Carol Fritz, Cedar Tree Point Assoc.

Joe Macari, Town of EG

John Williams, Warwick Cove Marina

Steve Insana, Buckeye Brook Coalition

Steve Stycos, Northern Sky News

Catherine Murphy, Defenders of GB

Don Pryor

Donna Travis, City Council Oakland Bch

Linda Green, URI Cooperative Extension

Walt Galloway, Buttonwoods Beach Assoc. &

Warwick Watershed Action Team

Dennis Vinhateiro, Warwick Sewer Authority

Michael Tikoian, CRMC Chair

Grover Fugate, CRMC Ex. Director

Megan Higgins, CRMC

Virginia Lee, URI Sea Grant

Glenn Ricci, URI Sea Grant