



## Town of Nags Head, North Carolina

### Decentralized Wastewater Management Plan Update

#### Advisory Committee Meeting #5 – August 19, 2021

##### Attendees:

**Advisory Committee Members:** Bob Mueller, Basil Belsches, Dave Herrmann, Bill Simmonds

**Town Staff:** Kylie Shephard (Project Manager for Town), Michael Zehner, Holly White

**Tetra Tech (Tt) Team:** Holly Miller (Project Manager Tt), Hillary Yonce (Tt), Mary Clark, Bob Rubin, Charles Humphrey (ECU)

**Invited Guests:** Katie Hill (UGA), Vic D'Amato (NCDENR)

##### Referenced Materials:

- Vision, Mission and Goals Document
- AC Committee Survey Questionnaire
- Engagement Strategy Memo
- AC Meeting Minutes for #3 and #4

##### A. Call to Order, Agenda Review, Project Status Update (Michael Zehner, Holly Miller)

- a. Michael called the meeting to order and reviewed the meeting agenda.
- b. Michael asked for any discussion or approval for the AC Meeting Minutes for Meetings #3 and #4. No edits, the minutes were approved by the Committee 3-0.
- c. Michael mentioned that there will be some homework for the AC following this meeting, specifically to review sections of the current DWMP (sections 1,2, 2.1, 2.2, and 2.8.)
- d. Holly Miller provided an update on the project status, what data has been collected and being organized for analysis, and what data is still outstanding (mostly Dare County Health Department data that will be collected and digitized over the next month).
- e. The team and town staff have been holding stakeholder meetings and have a few more to complete. These meetings have been very insightful and will help provide direction for the Plan development. Holly reviewed some of the key takeaways.
- f. A citizen survey questionnaire is being developed and should be distributed in the next month. And the team is planning on an educational forum in early Fall. There was discussion around whether to have a separate questionnaire for residents connected to a package plant system. Katie Hill asked about where the septage from septic tank pump outs was taken and the response was to the WWTP in Currituck. The DWMP update will address

- whether there is an issue with promoting pump outs that may overwhelm this facility. The NC Division of Waste Management has data on septage pump outs.
- g.** Mary briefly reviewed the latest version of the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy and Mission, Vision, Goals and Objectives document. Bob M. said he had some minor edits and there was some discussion on this document. Michael said we would set aside these documents as they are serving a purpose, and we can revisit them later in the project.
  - h.** Holly M. and Charlie discussed the data that shows a significant groundwater level rise that is impacting the functioning of the septic systems. We also discussed that from the stakeholder meetings, we heard that there are areas where there are older substandard septic systems, including tanks with no bottoms that direct discharge into the ground. It was mentioned that we need to justify with data any mandatory management options or structural changes needed.
  - i.** Holly discussed some of the ideas for expanding education and outreach efforts including providing realtors and property managers with educational materials and information on the town Septic Health Initiative (SHI) program. Engaging residents through citizen science projects was another idea to get homeowners more involved.

**B. Action Items and Next Meeting**

- a. AC invited to attend additional stakeholder interviews
- b. AC to review sections of the current DWMP by September 10
- c. Next Meeting is **September 16, 2021**, from 3:15 P.M. to 4:45 P.M.