

Nags Head Septic Health Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes

April 30, 2025

Location: Conference Room, Town Hall

Attending: Comm Megan Lambert, Bob Muller, Wayne Varilek, Rob Crawford via call-in.
Staff: Andy Garman, Conner Twiddy, Joe Costello, Kelly Wyatt

Staff welcomed the committee and provided updates on year-to-date Septic Health Program participation numbers, along with a quick update on the installation of four new water-quality loggers. Staff then introduced the primary purpose of the meeting, which was to review and discuss preliminary scoping concepts for the Division of Water Infrastructure (DWI) zero-interest septic loan program.

Staff walked the committee through a presentation outlining the intent of the DWI pilot program, key administrative requirements, and areas where the Town believes we have some flexibility in defining program parameters. Topics included loan eligibility, potential targeting of vulnerable or high-risk properties, compliance requirements related to Davis-Bacon prevailing wages and American Iron and Steel provisions, coordination with the Local Government Commission, and how the DWI loan program could build upon the Town's existing Septic Health Program framework.

The committee had extensive discussion regarding how best to define and prioritize vulnerable properties, balancing broad eligibility with targeted outreach based on environmental sensitivity, system age, groundwater separation, and proximity to surface waters. Additional discussion focused on appropriate loan limits, treatment of advanced or pre-treatment systems when required by Dare County Environmental Health and ensuring program requirements are clear and manageable for both homeowners and contractors.

Based on the discussion, the committee provided guidance for staff to further refine the proposed scope of work, conduct additional analysis, and continue developing program materials for submittal to the Division of Water Infrastructure. The committee agreed that a follow-up meeting would be beneficial once staff have completed a more detailed review and refined the scope and supporting documentation.

The meeting concluded with general questions and confirmation that the committee would reconvene in May 2025 to continue discussion and review the refined program scope.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:15 AM.