

Barnstable County

Regional Government of Cape Cod

Department of Health and Environment

Massachusetts Alternative Septic System Technology Center

Responsible Management Entity Program (RME)



RME Recommended Tech Panel Kickoff – June 12, 2023

Meeting started 12:00PM, ended 12:49 PM

Attendees:

MASSTC – Brian Baumgaertel, Alexie Rudman, George Heufelder, Tracy Long

EPA – Matthew Stamas & Ian Dombroski

Mass DEP – Marybeth Chubb & Andrew Osei

Joe Brennan – Buzzards Bay Coalition

M. Shelly Jenkins – NEIWPC

Alissa Cox – URI

David Martin – TNC

Albert (Bob) Rubin – NCSU

Judy Giorgio – Chatham Health agent

Bruce Walton – NEWEA

Alexie Rudman (AR) shared PowerPoint with meeting agenda. Everyone introduced themselves and gave short background. Alexie gave overview of RME program and described the towns that have signed on to be part of the pilot, including Bourne, Brewster, Falmouth, Wellfleet, and the current Marston Mills Shubael Pond project.

Primary goal of the RME is to help towns meet human and environmental health goals by:

- Providing WW management and technical support
- Making sure systems are properly installed & maintained.
- Reducing risks to homeowners:
 - Protect their financial investment by vetting & hiring high quality service providers.
 - Leveraging economies of scale to get cost-competitive contracts.

Bob Rubin (BR) asked which level of RME management were we thinking about offering. AR responded it is up to the towns to decide what level of support they want and stated everyone has a copy of the guidelines if they would like more information.

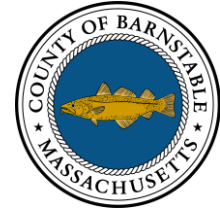
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AR reviewed the current paradigm of IA system deployment and explained how it is mostly on the hands of the homeowner and said the RME would be able to absorb most of the steps.

The RME can work with technologies that are not approved yet in state by helping them through a pilot process with the RME.

AR gave high level overview of the four elements of the RME, including Planning & Design, Operations and Maintenance, Monitoring & Compliance, and Education & Participation.

BR asked how the RME will address vacation home usage – Airbnb, VRBO, Realtors. Brian Baumgaertel (BB) replied there are numerous problems that we will need to address.

AR reviewed the panel objective, to help MASSTC determine which nitrogen-reducing I/A technologies to include in the RME Pilot. The four main goals of Panel include:

- Help develop procedures for identifying best available technology to be considered for inclusion in the RME.
- Help guide the development of procedures for accepting data from other states and entities outside Massachusetts.
- Help review data collected by the RME to periodically evaluate the inclusion of new/existing technologies into the Pilot.
- Help identify both how and to whom this process and our determinations should be communicated.

BR asked – Have you decided on level of nitrogen reduction to be considered best available? BB answered it will Watershed compliance based.

Other participants discussed whether we should consider companies' track records including their strengths and weaknesses. AR mentioned the panel has to determine how important this is.

Another participant asked how bankable the industry is, and put forward that we need to stop talking about I/A systems individually and start talking about them as infrastructure.

AR spoke about expectations of the panel and MASSTC and reviewed the anticipated timeline. She asked everyone to think about what parameters should the RME consider for IA system inclusion. She said that she would be sending out notes and that MASSTC would present data back to RTP participants based on the parameters identified by the group.

Joe Brennan (JB) asked if they should submit ideas prior to the next meeting. AR said yes, send them to her and she would also be sending out the slides she reviewed today to everyone.

Bruce Walton (BW) shared a link with information about the NEWEA IA taskforce that could be helpful:

<https://www.newea.org/resources/innovation/resources/>

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