

BARNSTABLE COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES
Standing Committee on Natural Resources
Minutes

The Standing Committee on Natural Resources met to review the 2013 proposed budgets of Health & Environment, the Cooperative Extension, and the Cape Cod Commission (excluding the Affordable Housing and Economic Development sections), and the Cape Cod Water Protection Collaborative on February 29, 2012, beginning at 3:00 p.m.

Committee members present: Chairperson Julia Taylor, Cheryl Andrews; Leo Cakounes, and Teresa Martin.

Also present: George Heufelder for Health & Environment, William Clark for Cooperative Extension Service, Paul Niedzwiecki, Gail Coyne and Patty Daley for Cape Cod Commission, Andrew Gottlieb for the Cape Cod Water Protection Collaborative, Commissioner William Doherty, and Assembly Delegate John Ohman.

Department of Health & Environment

George Heufelder met with the committee and provided them with an overview and a handout for his department budget. This handout will be considered a part of these minutes. The handout highlighted the rationale associated with the increases in his budget and capital improvement requests including various aspects of emergency planning.

Lab sampling activities have increased this year that require the purchasing of supplies and generates revenue. No large turn-back of funds are expected at the end the current fiscal year. No increase in personnel is anticipated. Only a few staff is expected to receive step increases. A COLA will be given to staff if granted by the County. If given less money furloughs would be a consideration because it would be evenly spread out.

Leo Cakounes motioned, and it was seconded, to recommend the Health & Environment budget as submitted with the reservation that changes may be necessary if there are changes in the County's financial situation, to the Standing Committee on Finance. Motion carried. 4-0-0.

Cooperative Extension Service

William Clark met with the committee and provided them with an overview of the services and programs offered by the Cooperative Extension Service. No new positions are being requested. A new truck was requested for FY 2013 but it was not approved so the vehicle repair line was increased. Approximately half of the staff would receive a step increase. All grants that the department is aware of are in the budget and the County will receive a full-year of funding from Woods Hole in federal funds of approximately \$58,000.

It doesn't appear that there will be any substantial turn back of funds this year. If given less money regional services like fire and lyme prevention programs would be reduced or cut.

Leo Cakounes motioned, and it was seconded, to recommend the Cooperative Extension Service budget as submitted with the reservation that changes may be necessary if there are changes in the County's financial situation, to the Standing Committee on Finance. Motion carried. 4-0-0.

Cape Cod Commission

Paul Niedzwiecki, Patty Daley, and Gail Coyne met with the committee and highlighted the major points in their budget. Staffing levels will not change and a 2% COLA is budgeted. Approximately half of the staff will receive step increases. Due to health insurance reform there is a little bit of savings in that account. No County funds are being requested but there is a request for a 2.5% increase in the Cape Cod Commission tax due to a reduction in grants. Estimated grants in the budget reflect a conservative estimate.

Regional opportunities will be created once OpenCape is operational such as GIS and ePermitting. There are 14 out of 15 towns interested in ePermitting and a grant will allow quicker implementation. Office space on County property could save money versus paying rent. The direction of costs related to computer hardware and the shared use of software will be under considered in future budgets.

The services of the Cape Cod Commission cost the average household on the Cape \$11.00 per year.

Leo Cakounes motioned, and it was seconded, to recommend the Cape Cod Commission budget as submitted to the Standing Committee on Finance. Motion carried. 4-0-0.

Cape Cod Water Protection Collaborative

Andrew Gottlieb and Paul Niedzwiecki met with the committee to discuss the wastewater budget request. It represents a 33% reduction from the current budget year. This is due to several non-reoccurring costs: reduced legal support fees and a completion of the scientific peer study. There will be an increase in municipal support costs for FY 2013.

There will be a turn back in the current budget because legal support costs were less. Waste water planning will be an issue that will take time and money to plan.

Leo Cakounes motioned, and it was seconded, to recommend the Cape Cod Water Protection Collaborative budget as submitted to the Standing Committee on Finance. Motion carried. 4-0-0.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Submitted by:
Janice O'Connell, Secretary/Clerk
Assembly of Delegates