

TO: Governing Board  
FROM: Sims McGrath, Chairman  
DATE: March 2, 2017  
RE: Future Structure / Path Forward

As you all may be aware, the future of the Collaborative has been the subject of extensive conversation. There is little consensus on the path forward and, on the heels of yesterday's meeting at the Assembly, I'd like to suggest a solution for us as a body to advocate.

1. Support working with the Assembly on an amendment to the ordinance that established the Collaborative that defines its responsibilities as follows:

A: The Collaborative shall have the ability to serve as the 208 advisory committee if so designated by the Cape Cod Commission in response to a state or federal directive to establish such a committee. As such the Collaborative will provide direct municipal oversight of the regional plan in support of the County effort to comply with the requirements of the federal Clean Water Act;

B. The Collaborative shall function as a clearinghouse for the sharing of best practices and as a forum to facilitate inter-municipal cooperation in the protection and restoration of water resources;

C. The Collaborative shall work with state and federal authorities to facilitate necessary statutory and regulatory reforms that allow for the more efficient implementation of the recommendations of the 208 plan;

D. The Collaborative shall identify and pursue state, federal and private funding that benefits the implementation of the 208 plan and town sponsored projects, including compliance monitoring.

2. Request the County Budget provide funds to the Cape Cod Commission to provide support for the operation of the Collaborative. This could be funded with the money currently earmarked in the Commissioner's FY 18 budget for County Health to staff the Collaborative with existing staff.
3. In FY 17, obtain a commitment from the Commissioners to execute a three-year contract for the monitoring of near shore waters pursuant to the RFP currently issued.
4. Obtain a commitment from the Commissioners and the Assembly that any remaining funds from the Collaborative FY 17 funds, after the execution of the monitoring contract, be placed in a line item that would fund monitoring in FY 18. Added to the carry over of the unencumbered FY 17 balance to this line item should be the unexpended balance (\$140,000) from the Wellfleet purchase order. This

would provide roughly \$320,000 in this account and will cover the cost of FY 18 monitoring and provide a head start to funding the FY 19 contract. This will enable the state match requirements to be met.

5. No longer pursue funding for municipal support grants. This will reduce the annual cost of Collaborative related activities by \$150,000, a 30% reduction in annual operating costs. This will eliminate any ongoing controversy about the sweeping of funds into a discretionary grant account under the control of the Commissioners.

Taken together I believe this plan provides a clear set of roles and responsibilities for the Collaborative that focuses on the critical needs of the County and communities going forward. Acceptance of this approach provides clarity and certainty and responds to the budget issues facing the County while preserving the most essential and cost effective functions of the Collaborative.