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Department of Health and Environment Budget Highlights

The Department of Health and Environment anticipates a service level equal to that of previous fiscal years with three exceptions that are reflected in the Fiscal Year 2018 budget requests.

Administration/Environmental:

After 12 years as Director of BCDH&E, George Heufelder has stepped down from that role and has been reassigned as the Director of the Massachusetts Alternative Septic System Test Center and as the Principal Investigator on a large EPA grant. Sean O'Brien has been named as the Interim Director. In order to potentially fill the position of the director, there is a significant increase (57.73%) in the requested Administration Division salary line. The movement of George's salary as well as the step increases within the department result in an increase in the salary line of the Environmental Division.

Laboratory:

Requested increases in laboratory supply line (5% or \$3,036) reflect both the increased supply-item prices and an anticipated increase in supply needs for additional analyses during FY18. Discussion and analysis with the Laboratory Director determined a need for an increased allocation for laboratory equipment repairs and maintenance to ensure that revenue-making instruments remain online uninterrupted. In part, this increase was for service contracts for older analytical equipment in light of no requests for equipment replacement in the capital budget. The capital funding request for a new Laboratory Information System is to replace a twelve-year-old system and provide a more efficient data management and report generation as well as provide for efficient billing and collection. The Laboratory revenues surpassed \$650,000 in FY17 with anticipation of increased revenues in FY18.

Environmental:

The Environmental division continues to support the fifteen communities in Barnstable County with programs in Environmental Health and Safety, groundwater monitoring, recreational water sampling, landfill soil gas monitoring, hoarding, alternative septic system tracking and many other programs. Increases in the environmental supplies line (66.67%) and the Misc. Equipment Line (28.57%) support these efforts by the purchase of consumable supplies to support

instruments used for groundwater sampling, air monitoring equipment, and other field instruments.

Additional Updates:

Emergency Preparedness:

Emergency Planning continues as a prime directive of the Department. Medical Reserve Corp staff are supported completely by a Center for Disease Control Grant. Support from regular staff includes supporting regional sheltering plans, natural and man-made disaster response, and yearly compliance checks for over 450 hazardous materials storage sites in fulfillment of the Community Right-to-Know. Center for Disease Control Grants are used to compose and implement public health emergency plans in every town in Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket County.

Public Health Nursing:

The Department has determined that providing regional public health nursing services using contract services that are coordinated by the Public Health Nurse is the most efficient and cost effective way to serve target populations. The increased need for screening and vaccination services to underserved populations for the prevention of chronic diseases is met by a cadre of nurses willing to work on a per-diem basis, thus avoiding long term financial commitments associated with permanent-staff status. This program is continuing to build sustainability by obtaining approval for billing of certain services to major health insurance carriers.

Septic System Loan Program:

The Septic Loan Program continues to provide the citizens of Barnstable County with an excellent option for financing residential septic system replacement. The administration costs are completely reimbursed from interest payments on loans.

Wastewater Management Support Efforts

The Massachusetts Alternative Septic System Test Center continues to operate under the aegis of the Department and supports it through staff directorship. In the coming year, we will be developing a long-term sustainability plan to ensure the Center continues to support wastewater planning efforts for those communities continuing to use septic systems to address wastewater management needs. The Department also operates a management entity for assisting towns in the tracking and management of advanced wastewater treatment devices which is supported by fees collected.