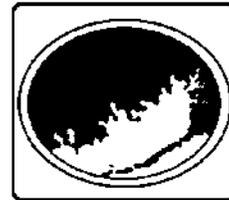




Coalition for Buzzards Bay



Buzzards Bay Project



Buzzards Bay Action Committee

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between the Buzzards Bay Project, the Buzzards Bay Action Committee and the Coalition for Buzzards Bay

Within their signatures on the Buzzards Bay Action Compact in January, 1991, the municipal officials of twelve communities within the Buzzards Bay watershed set a milestone towards the reclamation and preservation of the invaluable shared resource of Buzzards Bay.

For the first time, these communities united in officially recognizing that “the future of the Bay depended on the ability of neighboring communities to control the quality of their environment through regional communication and cooperation among municipal, state, and federal agencies responsible for managing the Bay and its watershed.”

Since the completion of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan, (CCMP), a blueprint to protect and restore water quality, habitat and living resources of Buzzards Bay and its surrounding watershed, the Buzzards Bay Action Committee, the Coalition for Buzzards Bay and the Buzzards Bay Project have continued to make the implementation of the Buzzards Bay CCMP their primary goal. In the intervening years, much progress has been made by all entities involved. In order to continue our success, the three Buzzards Bay organizations wish to recommit our energies to those basic goals contained in the CCMP that brought our communities together with state, federal and regional agencies.

It is critical at this time to clearly state our collective and individual responsibilities to the CCMP and strive for a better exchange of information and ideas expedite the region’s ability to implement sound and consistent environmental regulations and bylaws and future planning strategies to protect and enhance the mutual resources of Buzzards Bay and its watershed.

We agree that our number one priority as a region is to implement the goals of the CCMP. This includes working to ensure that state and local environmental regulations and bylaws, future planning and local decision making are implemented to best meet the goals of the CCMP. Among our CCMP priorities for implementation are these specific goals:

- * Control stormwater runoff from existing and new sources
- * Better management of individual septic systems
- * Protect coastal and inland wetlands and marine habitats

- * Reduce and eliminate toxic pollution
- * Protect and enhance shellfish resources
- * Prevent oil pollution
- * Protect and enhance anadromous fish runs

Assisting the communities towards these goals are the Buzzards Bay Action Committee (BBAC), which is a non-profit organization comprised of municipal officials which work toward implementation of the CCMP goals, the Coalition for Buzzards Bay (CBB), a member-based, non-profit, regional environmental organization dedicated to public education and advocacy on the protection of Buzzards Bay and its watershed; and the Buzzards Bay Project National Estuary Program (BBP), which is a technical and planning assistance unit of Massachusetts Coastal zone Management, whose mission is to facilitate implementation of the CCMP.

Specifically, the BBAC will:

- * Act as a liaison between the towns and the Buzzards Bay Project to facilitate coordination of grant applications based on town needs;
- * Work with Planning Boards to address storm water remediation and consistency in developing regional regulations and zoning by-laws;
- * Work with Shellfish Departments and Boards of Health to increase shellfish resources for recreation and commercial use;
- * Work with municipalities to designate town waters are EPA “No Discharge Area”, assisted with technical support by BBP;
- * Create an Annual Report for all towns, working cooperatively with the Coalition for Buzzards Bay and the Buzzards Bay Project, to review ongoing efforts to address regional goals and areas of future actions;
- * Work with municipalities to adopt a “marine fueling procedures and regulations”;
- * Work with municipalities to address the need for household hazardous waste collections.

Specifically, the Coalition for Buzzards Bay will:

- * Maintain a comprehensive water quality monitoring program which will provide up-to-date, accurate information to the towns and public about the environmental health of Buzzards Bay.
- * Promote sustainable principles to balance economic and environmental interests for the future of the region
- * Provide public education on the principles of environmental stewardship by all who use and enjoy the waters of Buzzards Bay;
- * Actively participate in the formation of public policy which will protect and sustain the region’s natural capital.

Specifically, the Buzzards Bay Project will:

- * Provide technical assistance to municipalities, businesses, nonprofits, and other interested practices in their efforts to implement the recommendations contained in the CCMP.
- * Help municipalities develop and implement nitrogen management plans, open space plans, and other watershed planning efforts to protect water quality, habitat, and living resources.

- * Help towns and land trusts acquire valuable wetlands, habitat, and other open space.
- * Assist municipalities with the writing of grant proposals and identifying funding sources for project that help further the implementation of the CCMP.
- * Assist the Coalition for Buzzards Bay and the Buzzards Bay municipalities use and interpret the results of the Citizens' Water Quality Monitoring Program and other data.
- * Help municipalities and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection evaluate wastewater disposal strategies including the use of alternative onsite systems.
- * Assist and train Conservation Commissions in the protection and delineation of inland and coastal wetlands, update wetland bylaws, and identify impaired wetlands for restoration.
- * Assist municipal boards acquire and use Geographic Information Systems and other data tracking techniques to assist in local planning and decision making.
- * Help Planning Board, Board of Health, and Conservation Commissions address existing and future potential stormwater issues including site plan review, remediation design, and implementation of stormwater remediation projects.
- * Help municipalities upgrade and restore anadromous fish runs.
- * Assist municipalities in their efforts to have adequate oil spill containment equipment and training as a first response until state and federal coordinators are on scene.

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