

## **Current Status of Community Action Grant to Study the Groundwater Resources on Westport Island**

As of June 20, 2023, we are pleased to report that the project is well underway and on schedule. Since receiving notice of award in late 2022, we have retained the services of a geohydrologist and conducted an informational meeting to explain the study to our residents. Initially we mailed a detailed questionnaire to all residents to collect as much information as possible from residents regarding their drinking water. To date we have received over 170 responses that we have supplemented with additional well data available from town, state and well drilling company records. From the responses received so far, we have learned 16% of the respondents have reported periodic dry wells while 47% have water quality issues that have usually required some kind of treatment. Unfortunately, 14% of the respondents indicate that they cannot drink their well water.

Our current plan is that beginning early next month, residents who want their water tested, will be able to pick up individually labeled water test kits at our town office. Instructions for sampling will be included in each sample kit. If persons prefer to have someone else collect their samples, members of the Conservation Commission will be available to help. Samples will be analyzed for a limited number of chemical parameters including: bacteria and sodium/chloride. Samples will need to be returned to the town office on designated days for transport to the laboratory. Bacteria samples must be analyzed within 24 hours of collection so it is important that the sample be collected the same day that it is dropped off to ensure the results are accurate. There will be a small refrigerator placed at the town office that will be accessible for sample drop off during collection days.

A copy of your water test results will be sent once they are received from the lab. We expect to receive the test results from the laboratory within 1-2 weeks. If the testing indicates potential water quality concerns for a well, we will be available to advise on follow up actions and testing to remedy the problem. The collective results of all the well sampling will be aggregated and analyzed. These findings will be included in the Ground Water Study Report, but individual test results will not be included or reported.

Further details of the testing program will be posted on the town website, Facebook page, and be available as a handout at the town office as soon as they are finalized.

Please feel free to contact Richard Tucker at [richard.tucker@rjasoc.com](mailto:richard.tucker@rjasoc.com) or at 882-7965 if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your participation,

Westport Island Conservation Commission

6/24/2023