

TOWN OF ORLEANS, OFFICIAL NOTICE OF A PUBLIC MEETING
Marine and Fresh Water Quality Committee, March 3, 20226

ORLEANS TOWN CLERK



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Meeting: Marine and Fresh Water Quality Committee

Date & Time: Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 1:00 PM (Nauset Room)

Webinar ID: 857 9091 4854. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85790914854>

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Warrant Article(s) for May Town Meeting – George Meservey.
Regulatory compliance and additional Water Quality Funds Requested – see ADD ENDUM
3. Review and Approval of Committee Meeting Minutes – February 3, 2026.
4. Wastewater Management Advisory Committee - Robert Mullin, WMAC Representative – Update
5. Update Herring Run
6. Committee Booth: Winter Farmer’s Market and OPC Family Fun Tent – Update.
7. Chair’s Committee Meeting of February 4, 2026 – Update.
8. Announcements
9. Public Comment
10. Adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted, Carolyn Auty, Chair

Future MFWQC Meeting Dates for 2026: March 23; April 27; May 27 (Wednesday); June 22; July 27; August 24; September 28; October 26; November 23; December 21.

ADDENDUM

Fund Water Quality Programs and Monitoring

\$215,000

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and or transfer from available funds the sum of \$215,000 or any other sum, for water quality monitoring, Cedar Pond improvements, and for an alum treatment in Baker Pond, or to take any other action relative thereto. (Select Board)

Water Quality Funds for Regulatory Compliance:

1. Lonnie's Pond Monitoring

Monitoring of oyster deployment, weigh-out and annual report, and revisions to QAPP to meet permit requirements of Pleasant Bay Watershed Permit and document nitrogen removal through aquaculture.

Funding Request: \$24,000

2. Cedar Pond Monitoring

Required water quality monitoring under the MADEP Superseding Order of Conditions. Adaptive management of pond outlet has demonstrated progress toward the Town's water quality goal for the pond.

Funding Request: \$41,000

3. Namskaket Marsh Monitoring

Annual monitoring of Namskaket Marsh as required under the Town's Groundwater Discharge Permit.

Funding Request: \$30,000

Additional Water Quality Funds Requested:

4. Cedar Pond Water Quality, Phase 2

Since the Cedar Pond Management Plan was implemented under a DEP Superseding Order in 2018, there have been notable water quality improvements. Salinity has been lowered, which resulted in anadromous fish documented swimming upstream to spawn. Lower salinity protects the adjacent Atlantic White Cedar Swamp. Shallow dissolved oxygen levels now routinely meet MassDEP regulatory standards and nutrients exported to Rock Harbor have returned to 2002/2003 levels. While shallow water column indicators have improved, deep conditions continue to be poor with regular anoxia and release of nutrients from the sediments that threaten the measured long-term improvements. Management of the sediments is a next step in the management plan goals.

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The requested funding will be used to engage qualified environmental professionals to review available deep sediment and water quality data, assist the Town to evaluate options to remove and/or sequester pond sediments, and recommend a preferred strategy.

Funding Request: \$30,000

5. Baker Pond Management Plan Follow-up

The Baker Pond Management Plan was completed in 2022 with a recommended strategy of sewerage within the watershed. Review of 2019 and historical water quality data showed that Baker Pond generally had acceptable shallow water quality, but deep conditions were impaired and those impairments were gradually worsening shallow conditions. The pond watershed is not part of current Town sewerage plans and will require additional consideration of sewerage design factors and costs. In order to slow the impact of deep conditions, the MFWQC is seeking funding for a pre-emptive alum treatment as a short-term management step to provide some additional time to consider wastewater treatment options.

Funding Request: \$80,000

6. Water Quality Consultation funding. \$10,000.