

Nearly \$300,000 in grants aid pollution cleanups

Monitoring groups

Eighteen groups help monitor water quality on the Cape and islands, according to the Office of Coastal Zone Management's Web site:

■ **Cape Cod Watershed** – Gulf Watch; Cape Cod Wetland Health Assessment; Barnstable Land Trust; Cataumet Civic Associates; Coalition for Buzzards Bay; Cotuit Waders; Falmouth Pond Watchers; Garretts Pond Watchers; Harwich Shellfish and Marine Water Quality

Committee; Orleans Water Quality Monitoring Task Force; Shawme Pond Watershed Association; Waquoit Bay Watchers; Wequaquet Lake Protective Association; and Wheeler Road Association and Friends.

■ **Islands** – Department of Environmental Protection Funded Monitoring; Nantucket Environmental Lab; UMass Cooperative Extension; and Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head.

By **KEVIN DENNEHY**
STAFF WRITER

POCASSET – For a few years now, a group of Bourne residents has collected samples from Conservation Pond in this village, gauging just how bad bacteria levels are.

How bad are they?

"There's a lot," said James Mulvey, a longtime fisherman who also chairs the town's pollution task force. "Big-time chloroform. Too numerous to count in many of the samples."

The cause is really no secret – located at the foot of a hilly shore-side neighborhood, this small pond receives a stream of microscopic waste every time it rains.

An affordable solution, how-

ever, is less certain.

Some help from the state, however, is making it look a little more feasible. The Bourne cleanup is one of several Cape projects to receive a portion of \$722,000 in state watershed protection funds this week, a variety of plans aimed at restoring the state's shoreline and coastal resources.

The Coastal Pollution Remediation grants are administered by the state's Office of Coastal Zone Management.

Essentially the state tries to deliver the funds to towns and cities to prevent the pollution before it enters the region's wetlands, bays and beaches.

"It's putting money in the hands of people who know

what the deal is," said Deerin Babb-Brott, assistant director of the coastal management office.

Among other Cape communities receiving funds are:

■ **Wellfleet**, which is designing a new storm water collection and treatment system at the town pier (\$21,300).

■ **Orleans**, which is investigating pollution within its watershed area, a problem that has forced a shellfish closure in Town Cove (\$37,400).

■ **Nantucket**, which plans to build a treatment system in the Consue Springs watershed zone to control storm water pollution into springs and Nantucket Harbor (\$109,864).

■ **Provincetown**, which plans to address bacteria and pathogens entering Provincetown Harbor (\$93,750).

In Bourne, the pollution task force will use its \$25,000 to conduct an engineering study to determine how to keep storm water runoff from pulling animal waste and pollutants from tainting Conservation Pond.

When they come up with a plan, then they'll have to look for more money, Mulvey said. But first things first.

"The state isn't flush with money," he said, pointing out a shallow shell bed that has been off limits for years. "But even in tight times, they're still showing the importance of these kinds of projects."