

# Pace on wastewater agency to quicken

Patriot  
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## *Referendum could come in November*

By Edward F. Maroney

Imagine that your backyard septic system is failing. You have to do something new to clean the wastewater you flush back into the

ground.

You have lots of questions: what kind of system should I get? How much will it cost, and how will I pay for it? Will it last? Should I do anything until I know all the answers?

Now multiply your situation by the number of houses, commercial and municipal buildings on Cape Cod. That's the headache that civic

leaders have been wrestling with for many months.

Some want the Barnstable County to create a regional entity right away to provide leadership on the technical and financial aspects of fixing the Cape's wastewater woes. Others want to have their ducks in a row first, to be able to spell out to voters exactly what they'll get by paying in to

what some are calling the Cape Cod Clean Water District.

The county commissioners unveiled their plan at a meeting with members of the Association to Preserve Cape Cod's Business Roundtable Wednesday. They would appoint an ad hoc Blue Ribbon Committee on Regional Waste-

Continued on page 12

Patriot 1/9/04

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Continued from page 1

water that would develop a proposed operating structure for the entity, write a non-binding referendum question to

gauge voter support in November, and mobilize support for the initiative.

State Sen. Rob O'Leary, who attended Wednesday's meeting, said he

could take the results of a positive vote to Beacon Hill and work on legislation for the financing piece. He thought the short timetable to the elec-

tion might actually be an advantage.

"It will force everyone to focus on that question," he said. "The media will write about it, and people will step up to vote on it."