



Project Summary
Town of Acton, Massachusetts
Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan/Environmental Impact Report
Phase 1: Existing Conditions, Future Requirements, and Problems Definitions

CAC Meeting No. 2 – January 23, 2003

This Comprehensive Wastewater Resources Management Plan/Environmental Impact Report (CWRMP/EIR) will evaluate issues of regional consequence within the Town of Acton and evaluate a number of alternatives to provide a 20-year plan and solutions to the water reuse and wastewater collection, treatment and disposal needs of the Town. Included within the CWRMP will be an assessment of Acton's wastewater disposal needs and an evaluation of the potential collection systems, transmission systems, required treatment levels and technologies for a range of on-site, localized and decentralized alternative treatment facilities, effluent disposal options, residuals handling and disposal options, and facilities siting solutions that will best serve the needs of the Town.

The CWRMP is currently proceeding through the first phase, which includes an assessment of the current environmental conditions in and around Acton. The flow of the project is shown in the attached **Figure 1**, CWRMP/EIR Regulatory Process.

The preliminary scope of the subsequent three phases has been approved in concept by DEP but further refined analysis and development of specific plans will require re-scoping with MEPA and DEP at the end of each phase.

Organization and Purpose of CAC

The CAC consists of stakeholders representing members of various town boards, local environmental groups, the Acton Water District, several local businesses and the general resident populace. The mission of the CAC is to:

- Serve as a representative Acton forum to offer views, comments and opinions about the CWRMP/EIR to the Town and consultant team;
- Help the Town and consultant team identify all relevant issues, topics and concerns about CWRMP/EIR by offering its good ideas and constructive comments;
- Demonstrate to MEPA and DEP by its periodic meetings and discussions that the diverse views of the community have been considered in the process; and
- Provide outreach to Acton residents and the community at large to communicate the process and results of the CWRMP/EIR and, hopefully, help to build a consensus for the plan that emerges from this process.

Goals of the CAC (January 23, 2003 Workshop)

In addition to the kick-off meeting, the Phase 1 process has two CAC meetings scheduled prior to completion of the Phase 1 report. The October meeting of the CAC was the first meeting since the initial kick-off. That meeting achieved the following goals:



- Confirmed each Study Area and established the level of effort to characterize each area through field investigations, especially for non-wastewater concerns such as neighborhood character, historical significance, natural features, etc; and
- Established the objective criteria by which each Area's wastewater needs will be assessed and the relative ranking of the criteria.

The second CAC workshop will confirm the results of the needs rating of each Study Area and establish the criteria for determining potential sites for wastewater treatment and disposal satellite facilities. Prior to each CAC Workshop, each CAC member will receive an informational package such as this, and copies of the report will be made available for public viewing at the Board of Health office and public library.

Project Status

To provide the best available information for the CWRMP, key Board of Health (BOH) non-electronic files were converted into a GIS database for analysis. The inclusion of the BOH records provides lot-by-lot detail not previously available through other reports and records. The BOH data was used in conjunction with other relevant data to provide data for the wastewater needs analysis in each Study Area. **Figure 2** shows an outline of the needs criteria and the needs screening process. The data from the BOH records, CAC input, previous reports and studies, town-sponsored or conducted sampling, and local regulations and bylaws form the basis for the analysis of the "needs" rankings.

Figure 3 shows the results of applying this analysis to the Town. The figure shows locations most likely suitable for on-site wastewater solutions and locations with potential need for off-site wastewater solutions. The use of the BOH data allowed the project team to perform this analysis in much more geographic detail. This lot-by-lot analysis was used to define future needs areas, realizing that data do not exist for all lots and off-site solutions are not practical for isolated lots.

Figure 4 shows the outline of the criteria for selecting potential satellite wastewater treatment and disposal locations. This process also benefited from the lot-by-lot detail provided by the converted BOH records. Preliminary analysis will be completed in Phase 1, with continued analysis in the next phase of the CWRMP/EIR. The undeveloped lots shown in **Figure 5** are the primary focus for locating satellite facilities.

The project team has also reviewed the existing data to determine if additional field work is needed to complete the needs analysis. The Town's groundwater and surface water sampling program, shown in **Figure 6**, is comprehensive and no further sampling locations or tests are necessary to supplement the existing data for this study. The town is seeking to augment its surface water sampling program under other programs, which will provide benefit to the overall planning effort.



Figure 1
CWRMP/EIR REGULATORY PROCESS

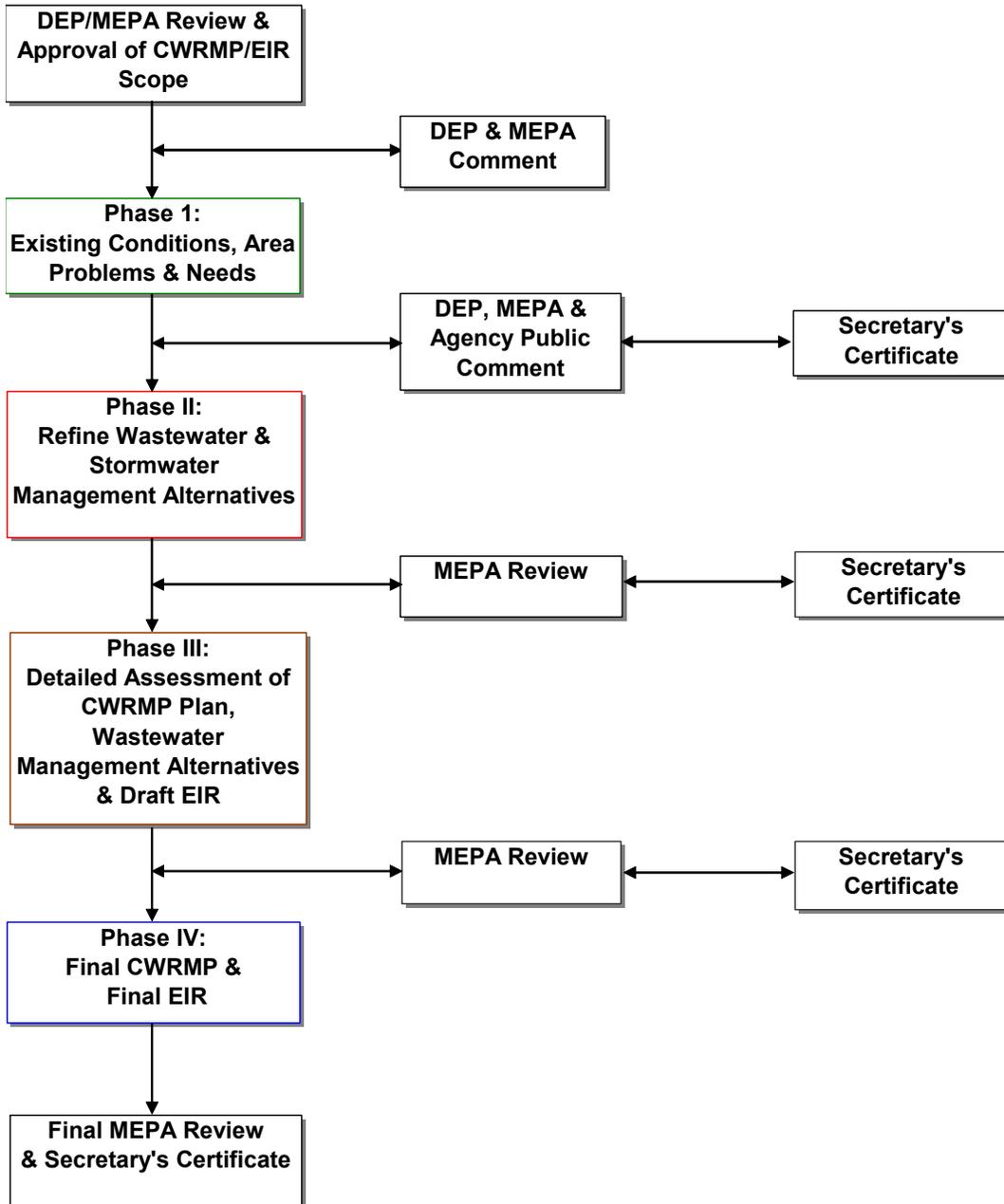




Figure 2: Needs Rating Criteria

ACTON DECENTRALIZED WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT NEEDS DEFINITION PROCESS FLOW CHART

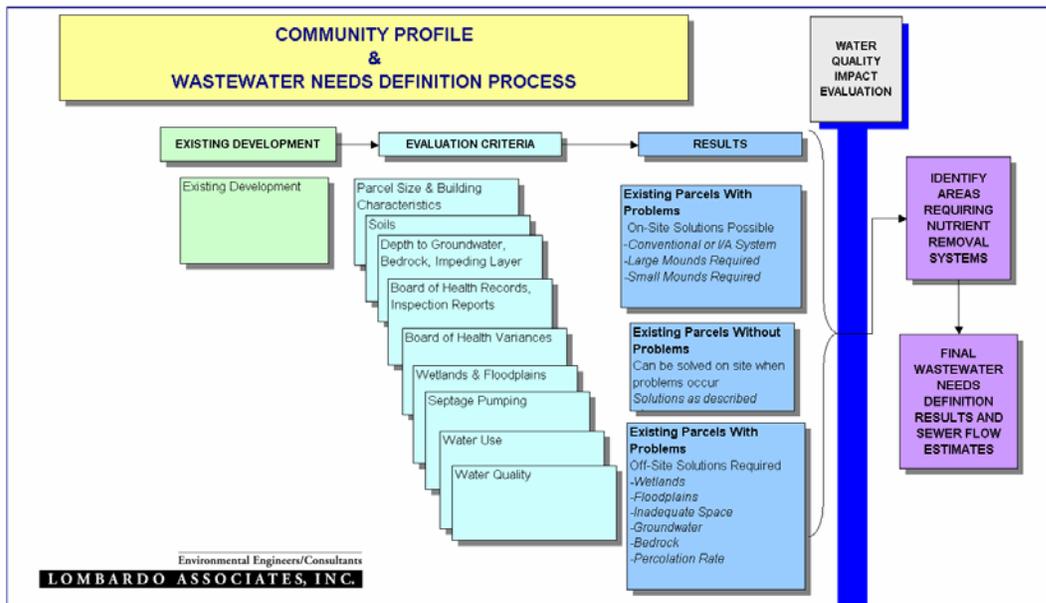
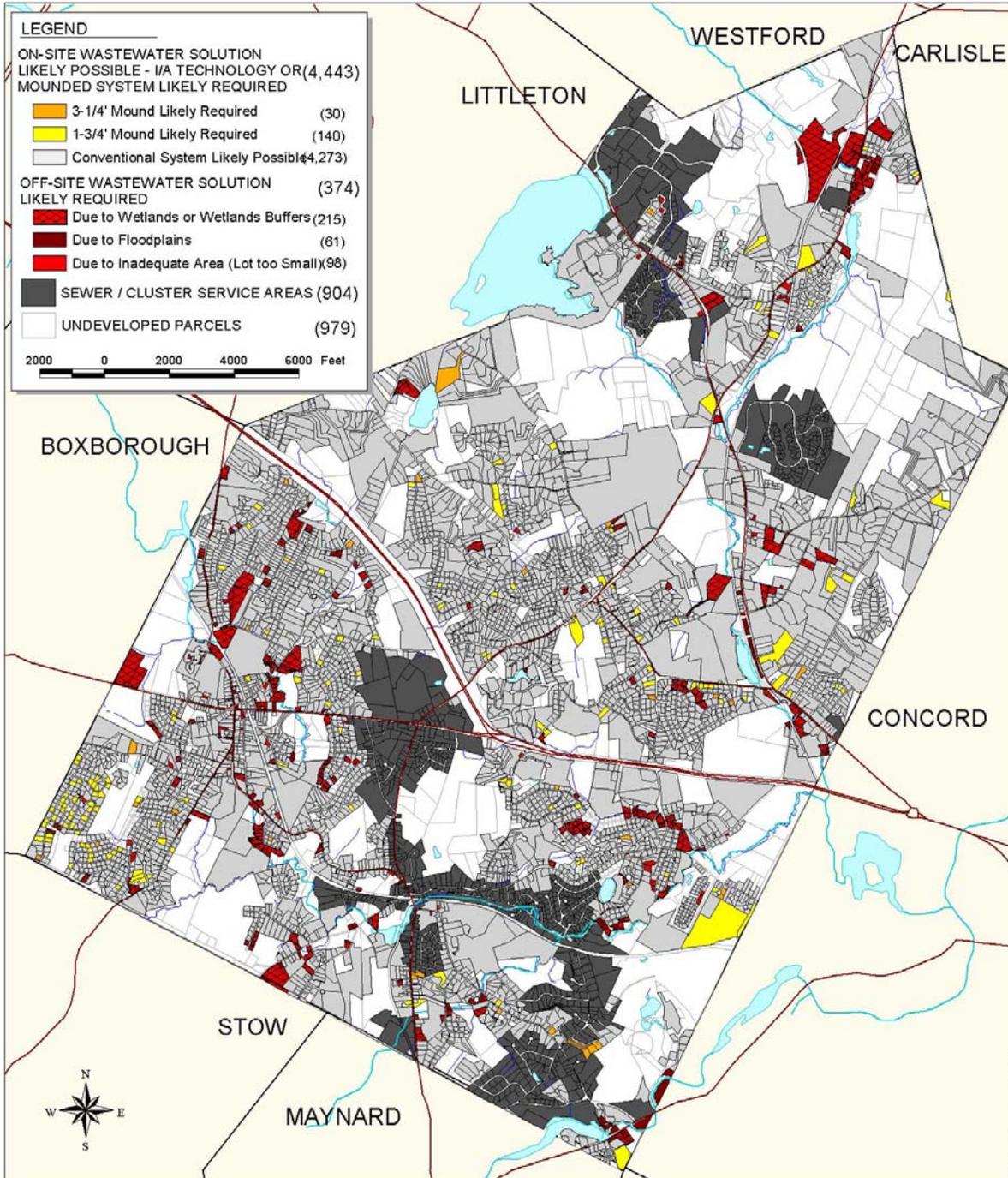




Figure 3: Needs Definition



WASTEWATER NEEDS DEFINITION - IA SYSTEMS WHERE NEEDED
Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan
Acton, Massachusetts

November 3, 2002





Figure 4: Satellite Location Criteria

POTENTIAL SATELLITE TREATMENT/DISPOSAL LOCATION PROCESS FLOW CHART

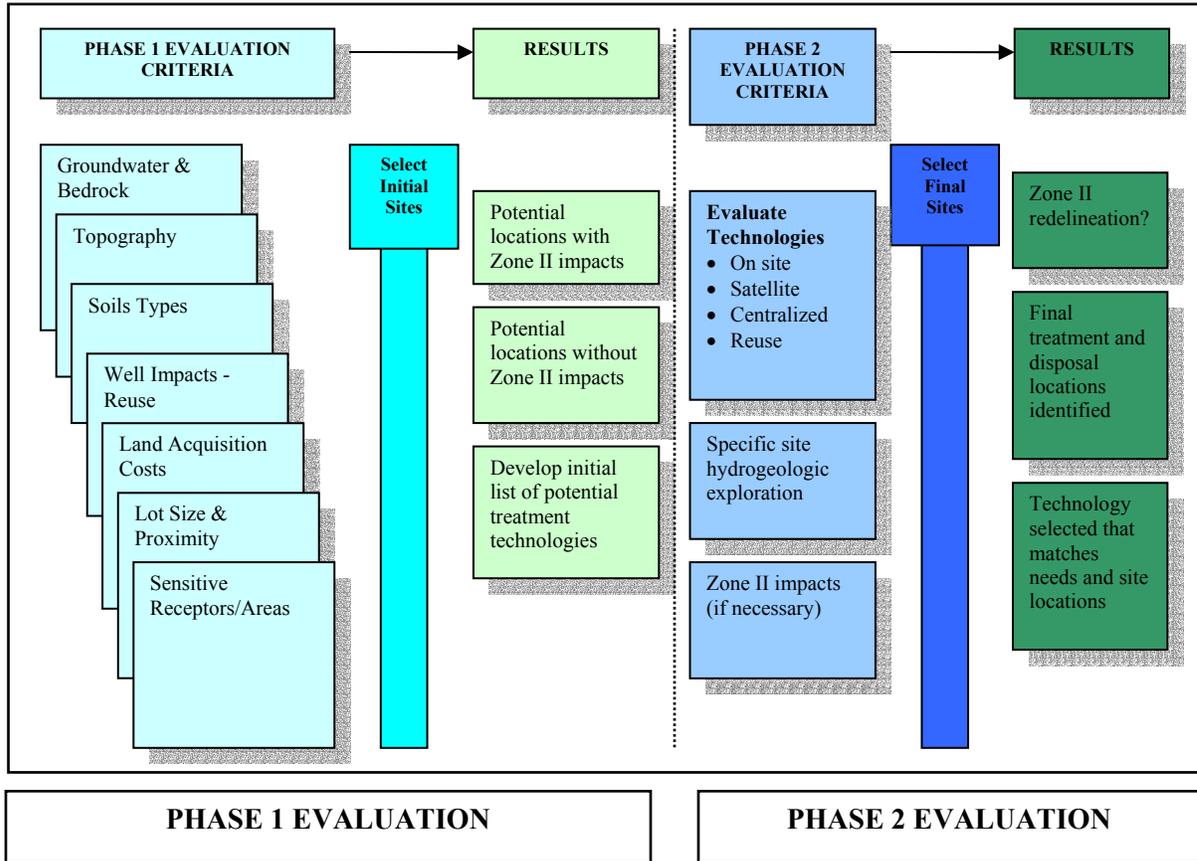




Figure 5: Potential Satellite Locations

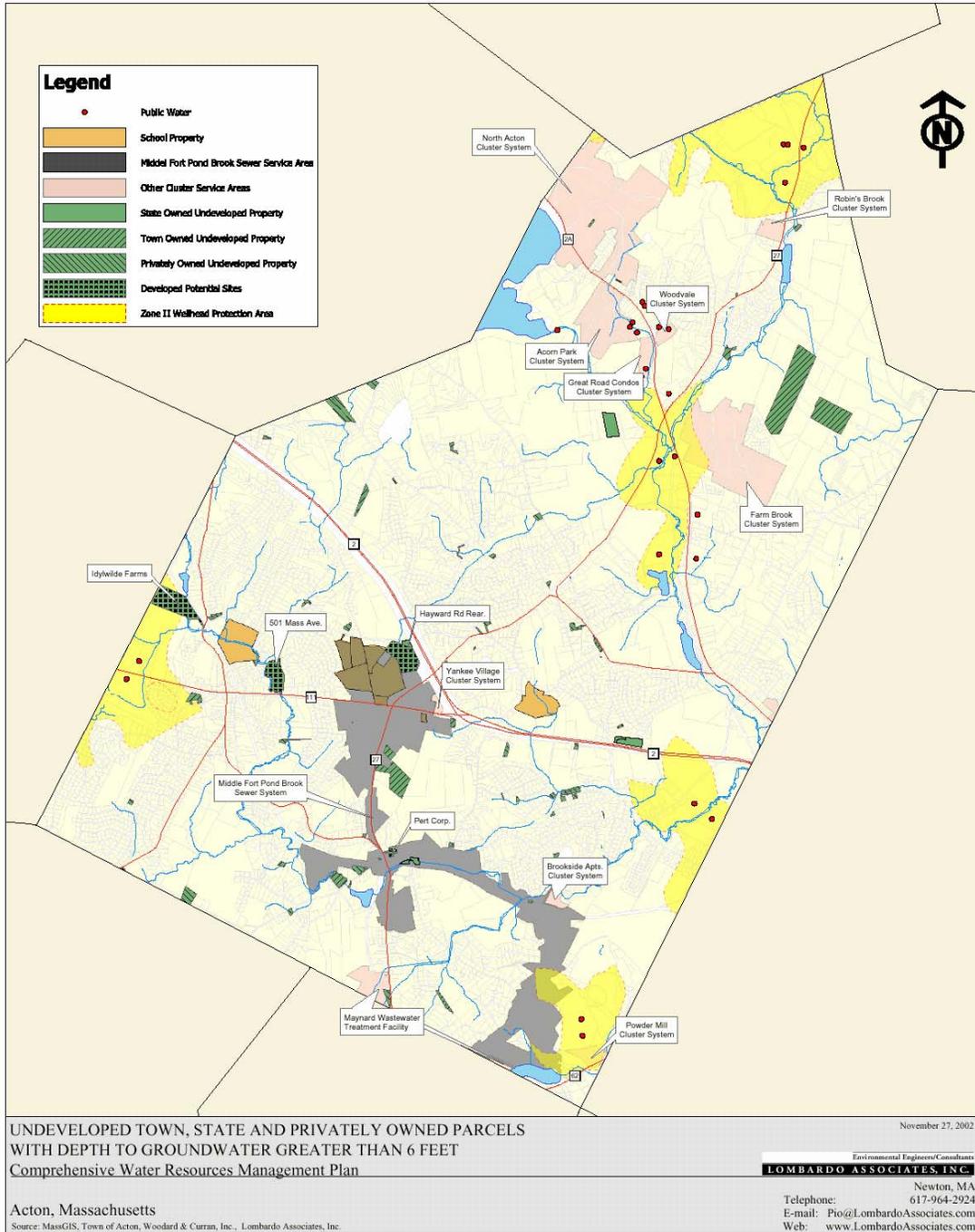




Figure 6: Water Sampling Locations

