

Barnstable County Regional Government

October 5, 2011

County Commissioners' Presentation to
Special Commission on County Government



REGIONAL GOVERNMENT IN BARNSTABLE COUNTY

- Affirmation of Regional Government by Voters
- Barnstable County Home Rule Charter
 - Established a Dedicated Revenue Stream
 - Provides Broad Language for Regional Services
- Cape Cod Commission Act
 - Created Regional Planning Agency
 - Regulatory Powers
 - Established a Dedicated Revenue Stream
- Executive and Legislative Branch
 - Link to Towns





REGIONAL SERVICES IN BARNSTABLE COUNTY

- Assembly of Delegates
- County Commissioners Office
- Cooperative Extension
- Department of Health and the Environment
- Cape Cod Commission
- Resource Development Office
- Economic Development Council
- Water Protection Collaborative





REGIONAL SERVICES IN BARNSTABLE COUNTY

- Cape Light Compact
- Department of Human Services
- Children's Cove: Cape Cod & the Islands Child Advocacy Center
- Barnstable County Dredge
- Fire-Rescue Training Academy
- Barnstable County Registry of Deeds





BARNSTABLE COUNTY REGIONAL SERVICES CAPE COD COMMISSION

- Regional Land Use Planning Agency
- Regulatory Component - Ensures that Development on the Cape Protects Water Quality, Traffic, Open Space.
- Affordable Housing Program.
- Promotes Consistency in Regional Planning Through Local Comprehensive Plans.



BARNSTABLE COUNTY REGIONAL SERVICES HEALTH DEPARTMENT

- Administration of Septic Repair Program - State Revolving Loan (15 Towns)
- Provide Water Quality Testing 50% Below Market Rates to all Towns.
- Regional Emergency Planning Committee (including the 911 Study)
- Alternative Septic Test Center
- Medical Reserve Corps



BARNSTABLE COUNTY REGIONAL SERVICES CAPE LIGHT COMPACT

- Competitive Power Supply Contract for Region
- Energy Efficiency Program Returns Nearly \$26 million in energy efficiency services to Cape and Vineyard customers each year.
- Facilitated the purchase and maintenance of streetlights, saving towns \$400,000 annually.



BARNSTABLE COUNTY REGIONAL SERVICES DREDGING SERVICES

- Provides Dredging Services at 75% Below Market Rate
- Removed Over 1 Million Cubic Yards of Material from Harbors in 14 Towns
- County Dredge Has Saved Local Towns Over \$3 Million



BARNSTABLE COUNTY REGIONAL SERVICES FIRE TRAINING ACADEMY

- Fire Training Services to County Towns Free of Charge
- Trains Other Entities for a Fee
- Provides Innovative Programs: Confined Space, Smoke Building, Etc.
- Assist Towns in Complying with State Mandates - Mask Fitting Program



BARNSTABLE COUNTY REGIONAL SERVICES EXTENSION SERVICES

- Coastal Explorer Provides Marine Education Classes to Grade Schools
- Horticultural, 4-H, Master Gardeners, "Buy Fresh, Buy Local"
- Lyme Disease Study and Prevention Program
- Shellfish Propagation and Seed Distribution
- Household Hazardous Waste Collection



BARNSTABLE COUNTY REGIONAL SERVICES AMERICORPS CAPE COD

- Service to Cape Communities for 12 Years
- Member & Volunteer Hours of Service = 530,555
- Completed 2,137 land and water based conservation projects
- 84 Alumni have Stayed or returned to Work on cape Cod
- Total Program Value Returned to Community - \$10,509,557



BARNSTABLE COUNTY REGIONAL SERVICES

OTHER SERVICES

- Children's Cove – Child Advocacy Center (First in State)
- License Plate Program for Economic Development Grants
- Registry Of Deeds
- Regional Purchasing Service
- Pilot Regional Inspection Agent (Wellfleet)



REGIONAL SERVICES IN BARNSTABLE COUNTY

OTHER MAJOR ACTIVITIES

- Public Safety Electronic Flares Program
- Medical Reserve Corps
- Human Rights Commission
- Cape & Vineyard Electric Cooperative
- Local technical Assistance Grants to Study Regional Opportunities (Assessing, Public Safety)
- Lyme Disease Awareness & Education





BENEFITS OF REGIONAL SERVICES

- Saves Dollars for Towns and Citizens.
 - Cape Light Compact – Energy Efficiency Programs, Renewable Energy and Power Supply.
 - Resource Development Office – Grant Services.
 - Department of Health & Environment – Health Agent Services.





BENEFITS OF REGIONAL SERVICES

- Economies of Scale for Service Delivery
 - * Maintenance Dredging Services
- Encourages a Dialogue Between Towns and Regional Government – Leads to Opportunities
 - * Regional Emergency Planning Committee



CHALLENGES FACING REGIONAL GOVERNMENT

- Financing! Importance of a Dedicated Revenue Stream.
- Identifying and Delivering Services That Are Both Needed and Wanted.
- Developing a Support System for Regional Government and Services.
- Public Awareness





BARNSTABLE COUNTY REGIONAL GOVERNMENT CONTINUING ISSUES & CHALLENGES

- Wastewater & Water Quality
- Economic Development
- Human Services & Coordination
- Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency
- Affordable Housing
- Transportation Issues
- Land Use Planning
- Public Safety/Communication

