



## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** February 20, 2020  
**To:** Falmouth Town Council  
**CC:** Nathan Poore, Town Manager  
**From:** Kimberly Darling, Energy and Sustainability Coordinator  
**Re:** Water Testing Regarding Pesticides and Fertilizers

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Water testing for both pesticides and nutrients is conducted in Casco Bay by the Board of Pesticides Control and Friends of Casco Bay. Both pesticides and nutrients are nonpoint source pollutants that originate from a variety of sources within a watershed. The Board of Pesticides Control monitors pesticides through a stormwater and sediment monitoring program and Friends of Casco Bay conducts extensive research on nitrogen levels, which is known to be a nutrient in lawn fertilizers. The Ordinance before the Town Council requires lawn care companies to register and report their use of both pesticides and fertilizers applied in Falmouth. As the Resolution, which accompanies this Ordinance mentions, the information collected will act as a baseline and inform water-testing procedures and protocols the Town may want to pursue. Moreover, the goal of this testing would be to characterize the contribution of fertilizer-and-pesticide-derived pollution to area waterbodies from fertilizer and pesticide application exclusively within the Town of Falmouth.

In Spring 2019, staff held a conference call with experts in this field. Those included FB Environmental Associates (FBE), a consulting firm with decades of experience in monitoring pollution in surface water, as well as Robyn Saunders from Attaining Sustainable Solutions (formerly with the Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District), and Jeff Dennis from the Maine DEP. The objective of the call was to discuss a proposal and potential scope of work and testing goal outlined above. At that time, staff asked FBE to consult with the Board of Pesticides Control and Friends of Casco Bay in developing their proposal.

FBE has recommended an in-person meeting to discuss updating the proposal and clearly defining the scope of work as it relates to the proposed Ordinance. FBE originally quoted a project of this scope between \$12,000-\$30,000, however, exact project costs will depend on the number of sites selected, frequency of samples, parameters chosen, and extent of community outreach schedule. Staff will provide an update after this meeting is held.