

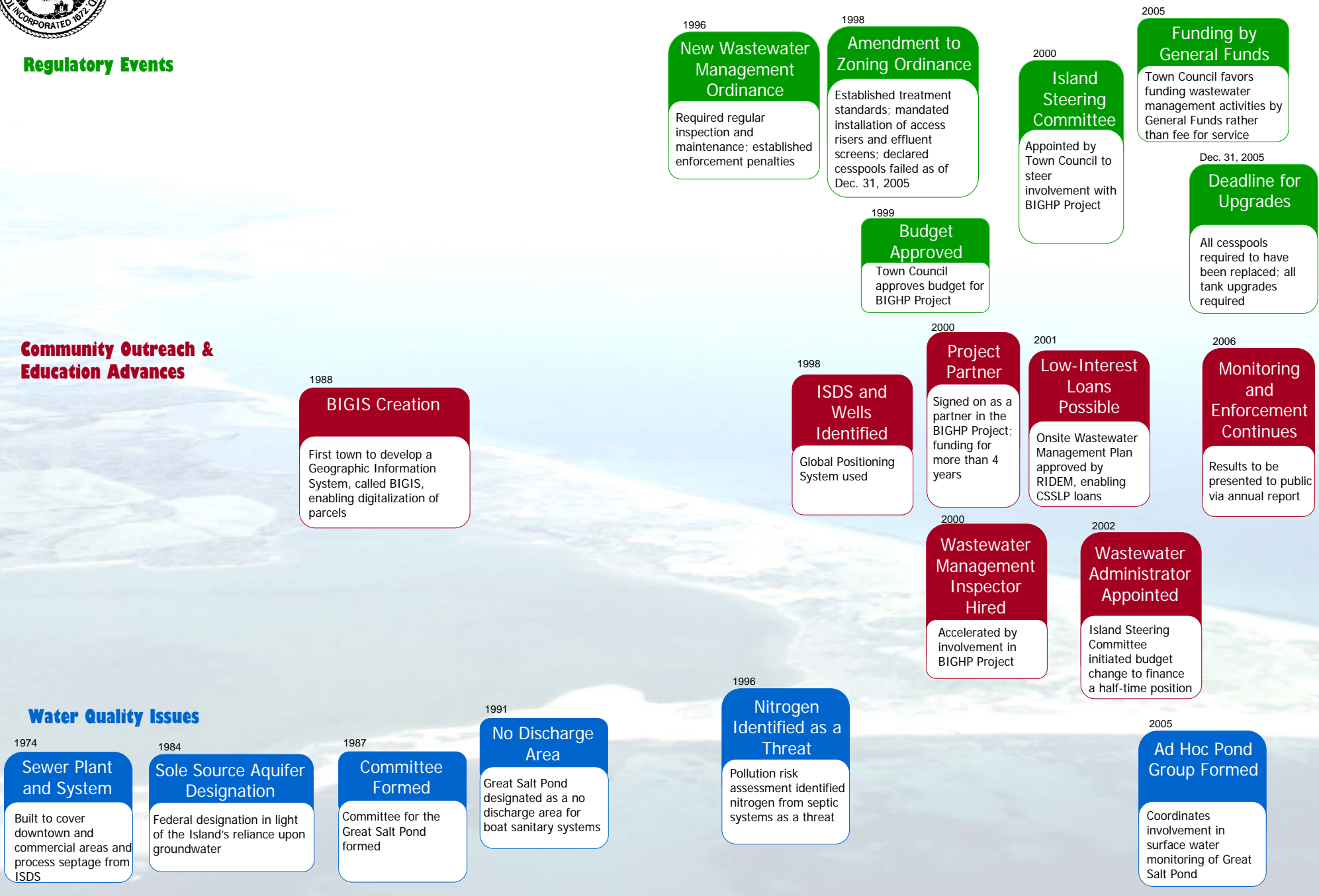


The Evolution of Block Island's Wastewater Management Program

Regulatory Events

Community Outreach & Education Advances

Water Quality Issues



1974
Sewer Plant and System
 Built to cover downtown and commercial areas and process septage from ISDS

1984
Sole Source Aquifer Designation
 Federal designation in light of the Island's reliance upon groundwater

1987
Committee Formed
 Committee for the Great Salt Pond formed

1991
No Discharge Area
 Great Salt Pond designated as a no discharge area for boat sanitary systems

1996
Nitrogen Identified as a Threat
 Pollution risk assessment identified nitrogen from septic systems as a threat

2005
Ad Hoc Pond Group Formed
 Coordinates involvement in surface water monitoring of Great Salt Pond

1988
BIGIS Creation
 First town to develop a Geographic Information System, called BIGIS, enabling digitalization of parcels

1998
ISDS and Wells Identified
 Global Positioning System used

2000
Project Partner
 Signed on as a partner in the BIGHP Project; funding for more than 4 years

2001
Low-Interest Loans Possible
 Onsite Wastewater Management Plan approved by RIDEM, enabling CSSLP loans

2006
Monitoring and Enforcement Continues
 Results to be presented to public via annual report

2000
Wastewater Management Inspector Hired
 Accelerated by involvement in BIGHP Project

2002
Wastewater Administrator Appointed
 Island Steering Committee initiated budget change to finance a half-time position

1996
New Wastewater Management Ordinance
 Required regular inspection and maintenance; established enforcement penalties

1998
Amendment to Zoning Ordinance
 Established treatment standards; mandated installation of access risers and effluent screens; declared cesspools failed as of Dec. 31, 2005

1999
Budget Approved
 Town Council approves budget for BIGHP Project

2000
Island Steering Committee
 Appointed by Town Council to steer involvement with BIGHP Project

2005
Funding by General Funds
 Town Council favors funding wastewater management activities by General Funds rather than fee for service

Dec. 31, 2005
Deadline for Upgrades
 All cesspools required to have been replaced; all tank upgrades required

