

Dukes Conservation District Meeting Minutes

Date: 16 February 2016

Time: 1:15 p.m.

Location: Robert E. Rose Town Garage, 347 County Road Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

Present: Liz Durkee, Dave Grunden, Kristen Fauteux, Bill Wilcox, Mia Halter and Tim ____, NRCS and Kristina West MV Agricultural Society

Treasurer's report: As of 1/29/16 the account held \$8510.80. Approved.

Approval of minutes: January 26 minutes approved as written

NRCS report: Mia attended a training program on area wide conservation planning. Focus on consensus building among all interested parties. NRCS is still month-to-month on their budget. The limit on the size of high tunnels for funding assistance has been removed. She and Tim visited North Tabor Farm in Chilmark and they are interested. Dan Tighe will be back in June working the Cape and Islands.

Other business:

Discussion of application for State funds in response to the Conservation District Innovation RFP

Possible projects:

Livestock slaughter facility feasibility

Culch purchase for enhanced oyster habitat

Create a video highlighting Mia's efforts here on the island that could be shown at several venues and likely apply to other districts?

Dam removal – Mill Pond?

Some sort of pilot/demonstration project looking at reducing/mitigating excess nitrogen load to our coastal ponds?

Partner with towns, MVSG, to purchase oyster seed for the 2017 season selling the environmental services including N mitigation?

Fund additional goat scraping?

Assist NGOs to develop new trails and interpreted sites to promote stewardship?

The focus was on the feasibility of having a slaughter and cut and pack facility on the Island. Bill reported that he had a conversation with Ed Maltby who did the feasibility analysis for Bloods slaughterhouse in Athol. He indicated that for a study that would be suitable to seek commercial lending, the cost would be about \$50,000.

Island Grown Initiative has backed out of their initial interest due in part to the planned Westport facility but also due to concerns over location. Kristina indicated the AG Society was still interested and has land that might become the site for the facility. Richard Andre did a feasibility analysis for IGI some years ago (2012?). It was agreed that this was a topic worthy of further investigation if it would stimulate more livestock production and could support itself. Bill will get the previous feasibility study to see whether there is a need for another look.

Outstanding Statements: None

Next meeting: March 15, 2016

Adjourned