

## **Dukes Conservation District Meeting**

### **AGENDA**

**Date: 15 March 2016**

**Time: 1:15 p.m.**

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

**Attending:** Jefferson Munroe, Kristen Fauteux, Bill Wilcox

**Treasurer's report:** As of 2/29 the balance was \$8475.87 with the NACD dues check being the only debit to the account.

**Approval of minutes:** February 16 approved as written with Jefferson abstaining.

**NRCS report:** Mia called in to see if we had any questions about the Innovation RFP as she was unable to attend.

#### **Other business:**

Discussion of application for State funds in response to the Conservation District Innovation RFP Agreement on the scope of any proposed submittal to the RFP

#### **Possible grant proposal topics were discussed including:**

- Nitrogen assessment of the farms within the Tisbury Great Pond watershed which were identified as a substantial source by the Mass Estuaries Project. The project would focus on visiting all farms within the watershed to prepare actual nitrogen budgets for each and to assess the interest in and need for farm plans to address water resource as well as operational issues.
- Use of grant funds to design fishway passages for the dams on the Mill Brook and Tiasquam Rivers in the Tisbury Great Pond watershed to improve habitat. Possibility of subsequent year fund requests for a portion of the construction cost.
- Promotion of the use of bio-char as a means to improve soil health and fertility.

After discussion it was agreed to apply for a grant for the nitrogen assessment from agricultural sources in the Tisbury Great Pond watershed and to apply for a smaller operational grant that would be used for educational programs on agriculture related topics in partnership with the MV Agricultural Society and the Polly hill Arboretum. Mia indicated that her office could assist with identifying skills required for the job, training and for specific situations that required more experienced evaluation. There was some discussion as to how the field person would be hired- as a salaried position versus as a consultant. It was agreed that we were not in a position to have a salaried employee at this time. The possibility that the person could be hired through an existing agency like MACD was discussed and Bill agreed to check with Jeff LaFleur. Bill indicated he would draft up proposals for the two grants and would circulate them before submitting by the deadline.

**Outstanding Statements:** None

**Next meeting:** April 19

Adjourned