



Notice of Meeting on Proposed and Potential Agricultural Fertilizer Regulations

Date: Wednesday, May 7, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.

Place: Commission Office, Stone Building
33 New York Ave, Oak Bluffs, MA

There are two related regulatory initiatives intended to protect and improve water quality through the regulation of nutrients from agricultural use of fertilizer. These initiatives will bear on agricultural operations on Martha's Vineyard and this meeting is an opportunity to provide input.

Items of Discussion

1. Proposed regulations by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR). (<http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/agr/docs/draft-nutrient-management-regulations.pdf>) MDAR will accept comments on its proposed statewide regulations until July 4, 2014. The MVC will be submitting comments to MDAR and wishes to capture concerns of Vineyarders affected by the regulation of agricultural operations.
2. Potential regulations by Vineyard Towns. The Island's boards of health will begin investigating how town agricultural fertilizer regulations would more appropriately address Vineyard nitrogen loading concerns than would the MDAR regulations. Such local regulations would supersede the MDAR regulations. This initiative is similar to the current effort by the boards to adopt regulations of lawn and turf fertilizer use. As with those regulations, the MVC will facilitate a group knowledgeable in agricultural and water quality issues to advise the boards of health in developing Vineyard-based measures promoting sound agricultural use of nutrients.

Questions can be directed to Bill Veno, Senior Planner (veno@mvcommission.org).

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