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Wind Energy Planning

The MVC completed the first phase of a wind energy planning effort for Dukes County, publishing a report outlining issues and possible approaches. The report helped inform a January workshop. On March 11, the first meeting was held of the Wind Energy Plan Work Group made up of representatives of the seven towns, the County, the Tribe, other organizations and the MVC.

The effort will focus primarily on siting issues for offshore and land-based wind turbines within the MVC's jurisdiction: new thresholds and criteria for MVC review of DRIs, determination of what constitutes "appropriate scale" for offshore wind (in conformity with the State's Ocean Management Plan), and preparation of a model by-law for the Island Wind DCPC adopted last year. This effort should also prove useful to shaping wind turbine proposals beyond the MVC's jurisdiction, and to towns addressing the issues at the local level.

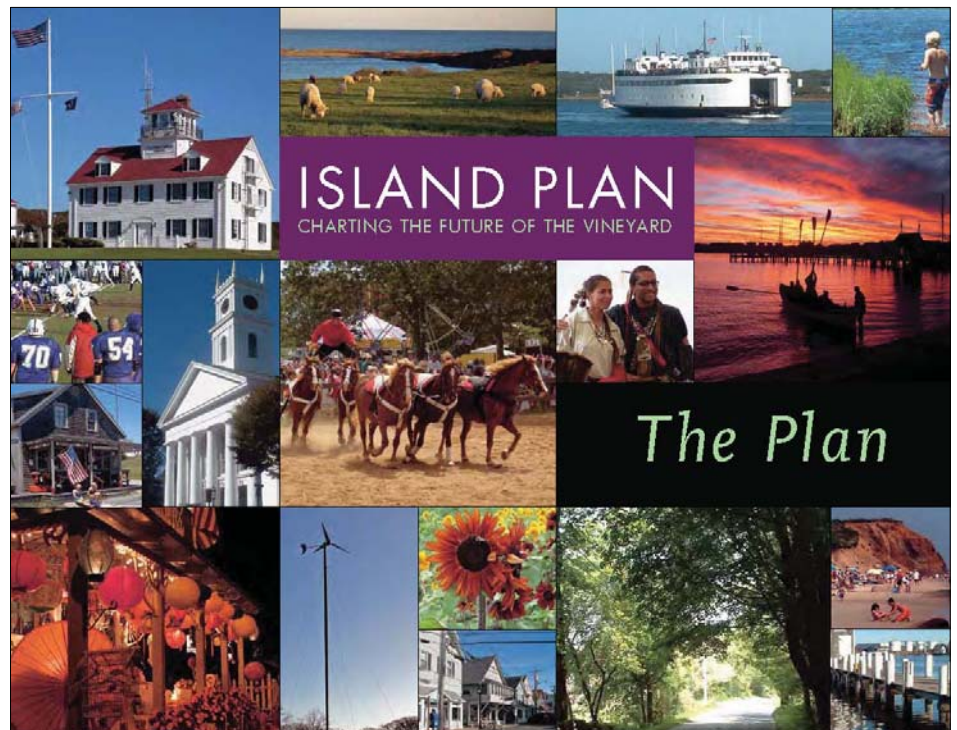
Documents and meeting minutes are available on the MVC website. The final Massachusetts Ocean Management Plan can be found at czm@state.ma.us. Information: Bill Veno veno@mvcommission.org.

Island Plan Adopted and Distributed

The Island Plan was adopted in December and the document has now been formatted and printed.

This week, an overview of the Island Plan is being included in every copy of the MV Times and the Vineyard Gazette. An op-ed article by Jim Athearn is being published in both newspapers to mark the occasion.

Copies of the complete Island Plan document have been distributed to Boards of Selectmen, Planning Boards, the County, the Tribe, and libraries. Additional copies will be distributed next week. The full document can be downloaded from the website – www.islandplan.org. CDs with the Plan are available from the MVC.



The Island Plan is the product of four years of study and discussion by our community. The Plan describes some of the key challenges the Island is facing and outlines the community's vision for a better future. The Plan describes how to turn this vision into reality, with more than 200 strategies involving business initiatives, educational efforts, incentives, projects, and regulations. Many of these initiatives are already underway; some helped shape the Plan, others emerged from the planning process.

The Island Plan Steering Committee and the MVC have been discussing how best to work with town boards, non-profits, and individuals in order to implement the Island Plan recommendations.

Information: Mark London london@mvcommission.org

www.islandplan.org

Wastewater Management Study



A two-year evaluation of wastewater management options and issues has just been completed. The

study found that on average, we draw 3 million gallons of potable water each day and return about 90% to the groundwater through our wastewater disposal systems. A detailed analysis of water meter record data indicates the average residential water use varies by town from 140 to 210 gallons per day (GPD). Commercial rates average about 750 GPD.

Using the MVC's GIS capability, we now have a very good estimate of the volume of wastewater going into the groundwater in each of the Vineyard's watersheds. About 71% of our land area lies in a nitrogen-sensitive watershed. Combining this with our present understanding of the amount of excess nitrogen in each watershed produced a preliminary indication that we need to expand our wastewater treatment from today's average of 290,000 GPD to 1,060,000 GPD just to deal with the current nitrogen excess and protect our coastal waters.

At full buildout (existing zoning on available land), total average daily wastewater flow will increase from 2,700,000 GPD to 4,200,000 GPD. Of this, 1,600,000 GPD (over five times currently treated flow) would need treatment to reduce nitrogen levels.

This will be an expensive undertaking. It points out the need for alternative strategies, such as dredging to improve pond circulation, using aquaculture to remove nitrogen, and reducing growth in areas where wastewater flow impacts coastal ponds and cannot easily be tied into sewage treatment facilities. The study is posted on the MVC website. *Information: Bill Wilcox* wilcox@mvcommission.org.

Tisbury Urban Design



The MVC has completed an urban design study of two areas in Vineyard Haven, in collaboration with the Tisbury Planning Board.

The first focuses on the waterfront and downtown, while the other looks at the Upper State Road area. The study involved construction of 3D computer models of both areas, and simulations of what development could take place under existing zoning and as well as with guidelines based on existing building characteristics. The study is available on the MVC website.

Information: Mark London
london@mvcommission.org.

Agricultural Self-Sufficiency



The MVC's study of Agricultural Self-Sufficiency has been completed. It looks at how self-sufficient the Vineyard could be for growing its own

food, based on various scenarios for growth, farming, and dietary habits. On March 20, Jo-Ann Taylor is presenting the study to the Massachusetts Agricultural Commission Annual Conference. *Information: Jo-Ann Taylor* taylor@mvcommission.org.

Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, April 7, 12:30 pm

Water Alliance
MVC Offices

Thursday, April 8, 5:00 p.m.

Wind Energy Plan Work Group
MVC Offices

Tuesday, April 13, 4:00 p.m.

Agricultural Alliance
MVC Offices

Wednesday, April 14, 8:30 a.m.

SEED Entrepreneurial Workshop
Harbor View Hotel

Please check the Calendar section of the MVC website for the latest updates.

DRI Status Report

Island Fuels – modification, West Tisbury (#566-M2) – PH 03/18/10

Tisbury Marketplace – Multi-Use Building, Tisbury (#485-M5) – continued PH 03/18/10

Rickard Bakery – retail use, Tisbury (#311-M2) – PH 04/01/10

Wavelengths – multi-use building, Edgartown (#623) – PH t.b.d.

10 State Road – multi-use building, Tisbury (#622) – PH t.b.d.

YMCA – landscaping, Oak Bluffs (#600M) – PH t.b.d.

Ferry/Fella's – change of use, West Tisbury (#598M) – LUPC 4/5/10.

Hart Plumbing – modification, West Tisbury (#549M) – LUPC 3/22/10.

Williams / Big Sky – commercial building, West Tisbury (#618M) – LUPC t.b.d.

Surfside Motel/Condos – Modification - hotel to condos, Oak Bluffs (#295-M) – On hold at Applicant's request

LUPC Land Use Planning Committee review
CR Commission Concurrence Review
PH Commission Public Hearing
DD Commission deliberation and decision
WD Commission vote on written decision
t.b.d. to be determined

All meetings at MVC offices unless otherwise noted. (Information: Paul Foley, ext. 18, foley@mvcommission.org, or on the website)

DCPC Status Report

Town of Aquinnah District – Public Hearing – 04/01/10 – Proposed amendment to the Designation and review of proposed town regulations

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