



January 14, 2011

To: Town Administrators, Executive Secretaries, and Planning Boards
Aquinnah, Chilmark, Edgartown, Oak Bluffs, Tisbury, and West Tisbury

Re: District Local Technical Assistance

The Commonwealth has renewed its program to enable the staff of Regional Planning Agencies to provide technical assistance to communities for any subject within regional planning expertise. The MVC has entered into a contract with the state's Department of Housing and Community Development to provide such services between now and December 2011. The Commonwealth's aim is to fund regional planning agencies to provide technical assistance to municipalities or groups of municipalities in the following two areas.

- Sustainable Development and Land Use: The aim is to address land use planning in harmony with the Commonwealth's sustainable development principles, and encourage land use planning and decision-making reflective of needs in the municipalities and region. Preference is given to projects that encourage collaboration among communities to developed shared land use objectives in response to regional development needs.
- Municipal Partnerships: The aim is to support consolidation of local procurement, services, and planning. It is to encourage municipalities to work together to achieve and enhance cost-effective service delivery or create and sustain ongoing collaborative and consultative approaches to common issues such as sustaining public services, stretching local resources to the maximum, and re-thinking land use patterns to achieve community visions.

Last year's program helped finance work on the Wind Energy Plan, Island-wide GIS implementation, feasibility studies related to the regionalization of solid waste management and consolidation of the Oak Bluffs and Tisbury police departments, work on a land use database for the Massachusetts Estuaries Project watersheds, and printing the Island Plan.

The objectives of the Sustainable Development and Land Use component can be used for planning projects of interest to towns and to reflect to community concerns identified in the Island Plan. The Municipal Partnerships component can help towns think about how they might work together to reduce costs and/or improve services during this time of economic difficulty.

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REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY OF DUKES COUNTY • SERVING: AQUINNAH, CHILMARK, EDGARTOWN, GOSNOLD, OAK BLUFFS TISBURY, & WEST TISBURY

The MVC is soliciting proposals from towns under which MVC staff, and in some limited cases consultants, can provide technical assistance through the DLTA program. Project concepts will be reviewed by the MVC on a rolling basis. If you would like to submit a proposal, please submit a 1-page concept scope, clearly identifying the expected products. Please contact me for more information or to discuss your ideas.

The MVC will give preference to projects that meet the following criteria.

- General:
 - Involve or affect the greatest number of municipalities on Martha's Vineyard.
 - Serve as a model or pilot for other municipalities.
- Sustainable Development and Land Use
 - Further the implementation of strategies reflecting community concerns expressed in the Martha's Vineyard Island Plan.
 - Address one or more of the Commonwealth's Sustainable Development Principles.
 - Support collaboration among municipalities to develop shared land use objectives.
- Municipal Partnerships
 - Provide the greatest opportunities for collaboration, resource sharing, cost savings, and/or improvement in delivery of services.
 - Set the groundwork for identifying what services show the greatest potential for improving their method of delivery.

The MVC's objective is to allocate DLTA funds early this year, with projects to be completed by the end of this calendar year.

A local match by a municipality is not required, nor will it be used as a factor in determining which projects are selected by the MVC. However, if a proposed project exceeds the ability of the MVC to undertake the project with DLTA funds, then the MVC and the project proponent(s) can discuss either a) reducing the project scope to meet the limited DLTA funding capacity or b) securing funding from another source to conduct the portion of the project that exceeds the DLTA-funded elements of the project.

Please share this letter with any town board that might be interested or might like to provide input, and don't hesitate to contact me for further information. Thank you for your time and attention in this regard.

Sincerely yours,



Mark London,
Executive Director