

**Dukes County Commission (DCC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 1, 2026
4:00 PM
Remote Meeting**

Dukes County Commissioners: Christine Todd, Doug Ruskin, Randy Milch, Peter Wharton

County Staff: Juliet Mulinare, Martina Thornton, Diane Conroy-LaCivita, Suzanne Jakel

Other: Christian Brown, Janette Andrews, Dan Martino, Kevin Yuen, Angela Knapp, Kathleen Samways, Nury Carreno, Kelly McCracken, Robert Johnston

Christine called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

Minutes from 2-4-2026, 3-3-26, 3-4-26, 3-18-26

Randy/Don moved to approve the minutes from 2/4/2026 with Doug's additional edits. Doug- yes, Don – yes, Randy- yes, Peter- abstain, Christine -yes. Motion carries.

Christine/Don moved to approve the minutes from 3/3/2026 with Doug's edits. Tabled until next meeting

Doug/Don moved to approve the minutes from 3/4/2026 with Randy's amendments. Doug- yes, Don – yes, Randy- yes, Peter- yes, Christine -yes. Motion carries.

Doug/Randy moved to approve the minutes from 3/18/2026. Doug- yes, Don – yes, Randy- yes, Peter- yes, Christine - yes. Motion carries.

Appointments

- Other Post-employment Benefits Trust – Kelly McCracken
- Cape Cod Municipal Health Group - Janette Andrews
- Inter-Island Public Health Excellence Collaborative Board – Diane Conroy-LaCivita, Martina Thornton (alternate)

Doug/Don moved to appoint Kelly McCracken to Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust (3-year term). Doug- yes, Randy- yes, Peter- yes, Don- yes, Christine- yes. Motion carries

Peter/Randy moved to appoint Janette Andrews to the Cape Cod Municipal Health Group Board (3-year term). Doug- yes, Randy- yes, Peter- yes, Don- yes, Christine- yes. Motion carries

Randy/Doug moved to appoint Diane Conroy-LaCivita and Martina Thornton (alternate) to the Inter-Island Public Health Excellence Collaborative Board. Doug- yes, Randy- yes, Peter- yes, Don- yes, Christine- yes. Motion carries

- Health Council (16 members)

Reappointments: Christine Todd, Sue Sanford, Betsy Edge, Chantale Patterson, Kathleen Samways, Robert Laskowski, James Wolff, Dan Pesch, Marcy Holmes

New Appointments: Angela Knapp, James Butterick, Kevin Yuen, Alexandra Bullen-Coutts, Diane Conroy-LaCivita, Nury Carreno, Christian Brown

Randy/Don moved to appoint all 16 members listed (above) to the Dukes County Health Council (2-year term). Doug- yes, Randy- yes, Peter- yes, Don- yes, Christine- yes. Motion carries

Island-wide Emergency Management

Martina shared with the commissioners a draft of the Island-Wide Strategic Plan that was supplied by the consultant, the Olson Group. (on file). She also contracted them to do the After-action report after the winter blizzard, as was approved previously. There was a discussion of what the next steps should be. The commissioners agreed to look more closely at the report and discuss it further at the next meeting.

Committee Updates

Land Use Committee- Will meet next month

Nominating Committee - The last set of appointments was made today. The group agreed to have another meeting to review the new process that was put in place this year.

Legislative Committee - Nothing at this time.

Finance Committee - Will meet next week

Communication Committee - will be disbanded due to lack of participation.

Doug/Randy moved to disband the communications committee. Doug- yes, Randy- yes, Peter- yes, Don- yes, Christine- yes. Motion carries

Governance Task Force – Doug reported that he started having discussions with some town representatives on regionalizing certain services like inspection and emergency management. The conversations seemed to be positive.

Manager's Report

ARPA – Tisbury wastewater project is done, and they have requested the \$240K allotted for them. Other towns are still in the process of getting their respective projects done.

Annual Town Meetings are coming up as follows and county representatives for each are listed:

Tuesday April 14th

6pm West Tisbury (Elementary School) – Doug Ruskin

7pm Oak Bluffs (PAC High School) – Christine Todd, Peter Wharton

7pm Edgartown (Whaling Church) - Martina Thornton, Juliet Mulinare, Paulo DeOliveira

Monday April 27th 7pm – Chilmark (Community Center) – Don Leopold, Randy Milch, Martina Thornton

Tuesday April 28th 6pm – Tisbury (Elementary School) – Tristan Israel, Martina Thornton, Diane Conroy-LaCivita

Tuesday May 12th 7pm – Aquinnah (Town Hall) - Juli Vanderhoop, Martina Thornton

Health Council will hold a workshop with Rural Scholars on April 9th at the Tisbury Safety Building with providers from the health organization on MV to talk about barriers to better collaboration and address gaps in the delivery of services. The County is a sponsor of this year's Rural Scholars project along with the Health Council itself. Diane Conroy-LaCivita has been leading this project along with Kathleen Samways. The final **presentation** on the findings of this study will be on **Thursday, April 16th, 4-6 p.m., at the Tisbury Council on Aging.**

Martina is leading a group to replace FirstStopMV and is looking at a new software called *FindHelp*. She will be bringing more information to the commission as things move along.

Elections - reminder: The nomination papers are available for pick up at the West Tisbury Town Clerk's office 7:30 am to 12:30 pm. The deadline to submit papers to the town clerks is **April 28th.**

New Business:

Doug asked about the volunteer conduct policy that was discussed several weeks ago. Christine is working on it.

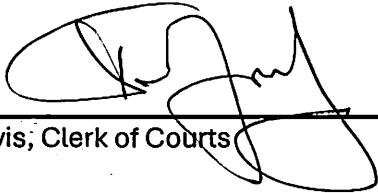
Doug also feels that there are gaps in our technology and would like to have a meeting with the department heads to discuss it.

Calendar - DC Commission meeting –April 15th at 4pm

Peter/Randy moved to adjourn. Doug- yes, Randy- yes, Peter- yes, Don- yes, Christine- yes. Motion carries.

Meeting ended at 5:25pm

Certified by:



T. George Davis, Clerk of Courts