

## WQCC Virtual Board Meeting Notes for March 14, 2023

### DRAFT

**Attendance:** Tolly Beck, Pat Brady, Matt Ceplo, Joe Cerneglia, Michael Gianatosi, Michael Kezner, Joseph Mendicino, Marcus Octaviano, Bruce Peters, Brianna Rosamilia (RCDER), Rich Schiafo, Carl Schimenti, Larry Vail, Jennifer Zunino-Smith

**Call to Order:** Matt Ceplo, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.  
Brianna asked attendees to sign in via Chat with their name and affiliation.

**Guest Speaker:** Matt introduced Carl Schimenti Urban Environmental Specialist, Cornell Turfgrass Program. Carl spoke on the BMP's to maximize the value of existing urban green space and how the future planning and design of urban green space can be influential on watershed dynamics.

#### *Program Summary:*

Turfgrass makes up 50%- 70% of NY urban green areas. Turfgrass plays an important regulating service because of its high density of roots and shoots that decrease areas of erosion. Turfgrass can help with flooding issues and can handle road salt issues if it should flow onto golf courses. Urban green space is easily accessible and improves health benefits while decreasing morbidity. The ecosystem disservices such as dust pollution from mowing and overuse of watering can be addressed by utilizing Best Management Practices for green spaces.

Any traffic areas will need some nitrogen when fertilizing and young lawns would need more. The use of fine fescue and tall fescue grass will result in lower nitrogen use. If soil is sandy more water and nutrients are required. If nitrogen is leached out, more fertilizer is required. If adding fertilizer, apply in September or later (temperature must be above 50 degrees). The grass must be actively growing when fertilizing. Returning clippings to the grass can reduce nitrogen fertilization by 50%. Leaving leaves on the lawn can also reduce nitrogen applications by 50%. If there are too many leaves on the lawn, just rake them up and add to the compost pile. Grass should be mowed high at 3-4" This will cause grass to have deeper roots, helps to shade out weeds and can allow clippings to settle easier. Each time you raise the cutting height by 1" you reduce mowing frequency by 20%. By following BMP urban landscapes will use less fertilizer and require less mowing.

A question and answer period followed the program.

**Old Business:** Matt said the Task Force Coordinator position is still to be filled. Election of officers will be held at the April WQCC.

**New Business:** There will be a Town Hall meeting on March 23, 2023 at St. Thomas Aquiness College on flooding problems.

Matt brought up the possibility of WQCC tabling next year at the RCC Home Show in February.

Jen said that CCE is in need of funding help to pay for printing the new Fertilizer Law brochure and asked if the WQCC would be interested in helping with this. Matt asked her to send a proposal on the cost for printing.

**Next Meeting of the WQCC will be on April 1, 2023** and the speaker will present on the Orange County Land Trust. Rockland County currently does not have a land trust. Future WQCC meetings will be on September 19, 2023 and November 14, 2023.

**Adjournment:** Matt adjourned the meeting at 11:39am.