

WQCC Virtual Board Meeting Notes for September 19, 2023

DRAFT

Attendance: John Abbatangelo, Tolly Beck (public), Matt Ceplo (Chair WQCC), Jim Dean (RCSWD/Orangetown), Michael Kezner (RCPD), Marisa Marrone (KRB), Marcus Octaviano, Anna Palmer (NYSDEC), Beth Roessler (Speaker,NYSDEC), Brianna Rosamilia (RCDER), Richard Schiavo (RCPD), Bob Milone (RCSWCD/Clarkstown)

1.Call to Order: Matt Ceplo, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

2. Speaker: Matt introduced the speaker, Beth Roessler. Beth is the Stream Buffer Coordinator for NYS DEC's Hudson River Estuary Program. Beth presented on the reasons and resources for protecting and restoring healthy native plants along streams, including details about the Hudson Estuary Trees for Tribs program.

Program Summary:

Healthy buffers should reduce flooding and damage, recharge groundwater, provide for wildlife, improve property value, support recreation, and sequester carbon. They should also provide education and community engagement, accomplish MS4 requirements, implement local plans and help establish a climate smart community.

Healthy stream buffers should provide diversity with many types and sizes of plantings, be wide (minimum of 100'), offer shady spots and allow for messier maintenance which would benefit both the stream and the fish. Buffers should protect target areas that promote stream erosion, areas that can reduce flooding, headwaters, streams, floodplains, wildlife corridors and other conservation concerns, surface runoff, subsurface runoff, as well as nitrogen removal.

There is site scale grant funding for protection and restoration, for stormwater requirements as well as regional and municipal planning. State funding is available from NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Hudson River Estuary Grants, as well as grants for local stewardship planning.

The Hudson Estuary Trees for Tribs provides site assessments, advice on preparation for planting, free plants and supplies, delivery and demonstrations. Applicants in turn provide for site preparation, volunteer labor for planting and for future maintenance. Eligible projects include: along a water body, public or private projects, within program boundary- usual project would be 20' long x 300'wide and large enough for 60 plants, and a plantable area. Projects that are not eligible are: stormwater ponds, drainage ditches, and areas that are separated from the waterbody by a road. High priorities are along a stream, larger planting areas, a wide buffer, and have volunteer or educational possibilities. Applications for spring planting are due March 1 and fall planting applications are due August 1.

Trees for Tribes offers 40 plus native species, 1-3 year old seedlings, various sizes and protection supplies like tree tubes that stay on for 2-5 years. In Rockland County there are 23 sites with 3,060 plants and 600 volunteers. A project in Rockland Lake State Park was planted in the fall of 2021. To contact Hudson Estuary Trees for Tribes: TFT@dec.ny.gov or call 845-256-2253.

A question and answer period followed the presentation.

3. Old Business: The Water Task Force Coordinator position is still vacant. There has been an extension for the water conservation grant. Contact Arianna.

4. New Business: Matt reported that Harriet Cornell will not be running for the Rockland Legislature next year. There has been an extension for the water conservation grant. Contact Arianna. Alan Beers has retired and we wish him the best. Maria Marrone from Keep Rockland Beautiful said there is a clean-up at Minisceongo Creek on 10/22/2023.

5. Treasurer's Report: Matt reported that there has been no change. The WQCC balance is still \$1,144.32.

6. Next Meeting is November 14, 2023. There will be a speaker on how there is less maintenance with a native lawn.

7. Adjournment: Matt adjourned the meeting at 11:02am.

Submitted by Tolly Beck