

WQCC Virtual Board Meeting Minutes for October 29, 2024

DRAFT

Attendance: Elizabeth Aranquin, Tolly Beck, Adam Bradford, Lauren Bunce, Kim Burgos, Matt Ceplo (Chair WQCC), Ryan Corbett, Beth Davidson, Jim Dean, Dana Harkrider (speaker), Michael Kezner, Bill Madden, Arianna Polanco, Sam Rulli, Brianna Rosamilia (RCDER), Laurie Seeman, Jen Zunino-Smith

Voting members present: Jim Dean, Bill Madden, Matt Ceplo, Tolly Beck, Kim Burgos, Mike Kezner

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

2. Membership Update: Brianna presented an updated list of voting and non-voting members that will help facilitate conducting business at WQCC meetings. Matt moved that the list be approved. Bill Madden seconded the motion. All approved. The motion was passed.

3. Rockland County Current Water Update: Matt introduced Sam Rulli, the Rockland County Director of Health, who presented the water update information. In summary, although there was no rain in October, we had a wetter than average summer. As a result, this has led to a current stable water supply. The water usage in the fall is lower than the water usage in summer and demand has remained low. The main concern now is wildfires.

4. Speaker: Matt introduced the speaker, Dana Harkrider. Dana is a consultant and co-founder of the Nyack Pollinator Pathway, a local non-profit focused on pollinator habitat creation.

Program Summary:

The non-profit was founded in 2019 to promote unused public and private spaces as pollinator gardens. Pollinators are responsible for 90% of plant pollination. Pollinator gardens can create a pathway that allows pollinators to move around. Pollinators need a natural space to complete their life cycle as well as native plants on which to forage.

One way to create space for pollinator gardens is to reduce lawns. Lawn areas can create problems for water quality as well. Lawns are frequently fertilized increasing the chances of phosphorous run-off to storm drains and streams. Both fertilizers and pesticides used on lawns contribute to the problem of lawn run-off polluting our streams.

Pollinator gardens don't have to create a literal pathway. A website that provides a link to a pollinator map, nyackpollinatorpathway.org, shows the location of pollinator gardens in Nyack. Also offered is information on creating and planting a pollinator garden utilizing native plants.

The program was followed by a question and answer session.

5. Treasurer's Report: Matt reported that there has been no change in the WQCC budget. The total balance remains at \$1,144.23.

6. Old Business: There was no old business.

7. New Business: Matt reported that Nicole Liable was unable to join today's meeting, but she will be joining in the future. Matt welcomed her back to this side of the river.

James Dean, Orangetown's Highway Superintendent, stated funds are being put away for pollinator gardens. Matt has helped with their pollinator garden.

Laurie Seeman said the Sparkill Creek Watershed Alliance is creating a watershed plan and the pollinator pathways would be helpful for the watershed program.

8. Next Meeting: The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 7th.

9. Adjournment: Matt moved to adjourn the meeting. James Dean seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am.

Submitted by Tolly Beck.