

## Opening Statement:

Good Morning, I'm Barry Troutman, Vice President of Technical Services for ValleyCrest Landscape Maintenance. I have a Doctorial Degree in Turfgrass Science and Weed Control and for the last 30 years have actively participated in the design of turfgrass and landscape management programs as well as the training of landscape technicians and managers. ValleyCrest contracts total maintenance of many commercial landscapes here in southwest Florida and proper landscape fertilization is key to our success.

I would like to thank the commission for agreeing to meet with us this morning. I along with others here today have studied the Councils Draft Fertilizer resolution and am certainly aware of the political pressure within our community to mitigate red tide and to protect our surface and ground waters from pollution of all types.

I would ask that the council members listen carefully with open minds to the information we will present. We have attempted to organize it concisely, to present points that are well documented in scientific literature and experiences of experts many of whom are in the room today. We have also asked each to produce bullet point summaries of their presentations for you and some may even provide you with more defined written statements or bibliographies. Some key people important to this issue could not be here this morning and have prepared written statements for your review.

The mere fact of our appearance this morning should be primary evidence that we believe the resolution as written is flawed but let me assure you were are every bit as committed as the council to see that we minimize the amount of landscape nutrients that reach bodies of water. Where we differ is that we have a thorough knowledge of the science of fertilizers and nutrient movement in landscape environments and the importance of landscape plantings as buffers to filter nutrients from waters before they reach environmentally sensitive areas.

We are not new to the issue we will discuss this morning nor are we new to nutrient management plans. You will hear today from those within our industry, the Florida scientific community and the Florida regulatory community who have spend years crafting principles and regulations that are aimed at protecting our environment and insuring that applicators are properly trained.

Finally we will make proposals for modification of the Fertilizer Resolution that will help it effectively achieve our mutual goal of protecting our waters from plant nutrients used to maintain our landscapes.