



P.O. Box 392 • Newfoundland NJ 07435 • (Phone) 973-492-3212

NEWS FROM THE PEQUANNOCK RIVER COALITION

Skylands Clean Disbands

February 13, 2011 – By now, many of you have heard about the demise of the environmental group Skylands CLEAN. CLEAN has operated since 1987 in the nearby Wanaque River Watershed, mostly in Ringwood, but also in Wanaque, West Milford and Bloomingdale. In their recent emails and on the CLEAN website it was announced that they were ceasing formal operations as of February 1st. In addition, their staff, in the person of Robin O’Hearn, was terminated.

We are saddened by this, since CLEAN has been our ally in many campaigns. In fact, director Robin O’Hearn was the recipient of our Professional Service Award for 2006. PRC conducted water quality monitoring for CLEAN in areas like Ringwood and Wanaque, worked with them on stream restoration projects, and assisted with a summer youth environmental education program. So, we regret this closing, and the end of an important chapter in the conservation partnership of the northern Highlands.

Going forward, PRC intends to pick up the slack, where possible. Technically the Wanaque River is a tributary of the Pequannock River, and CLEAN’s former area of operation falls within our realm. At a minimum, PRC will continue monitoring and restoration programs there. We will also explore expanding our “River in the Classroom” youth education into this region, along with our hikes and paddle events, and our general advocacy work. Not an easy task, given the economic situation, but at PRC we have always prided ourselves on doing more with less. This should be a challenge!

We are also discussing the idea of having Robin O’Hearn join us as a Board member or advisor. At this point there is still much to be worked out. For now, please look for details in the Post or via email as we start this new phase and begin our expansion.

As always, we appreciate your continued support and welcome any comments or suggestions on this or other matters.

For more information:

Ross Kushner, Executive Director

Pequannock River Coalition

P.O. Box 392

Newfoundland, NJ 07435

www.pequannockriver.org

(973)492-3212

pqguy@optonline.net