

APPOQUINIMINK RIVER ASSOCIATION  
Annual Meeting  
May 21, 2009

The Annual Meeting of the Appoquinimink River Association (ARA) was held at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, May 21, 2009, at St. Andrews School. Present at the meeting were Donna Holmberg, Martha (Corrozi) Narvaez, Nancy Parker, Kate O'Brien, Dan O'Connell, Dave Raughley and Sara Wozniak, as well as several other members including Lyle Jones, Kim Cole and Kathy Bunting-Howarth from DNREC.

Before the meeting, attendees were invited to play "Name That Pollutant," and were awarded prizes for guessing the most correct pollutants found in the Appoquinimink Watershed.

President Dan O'Connell welcomed everyone to the meeting. Three seats were up for re-election. Current President Dan O'Connell, as well as board members Martha Narvaez and Dave Raughley agreed to run for another term and were uncontested. Dan invited further nominations; hearing none, all three board members were re-elected unanimously.

Because this year is our fifth anniversary, Sara Wozniak gave a PowerPoint presentation reviewing our accomplishments so far. We have done much to educate the public about keeping our watershed clean. We have exhibited at many community functions, designed and printed brochures, published educational material in *The Middletown Transcript*, and put up "Entering the Appoquinimink Watershed" signs in seven places throughout the watershed. We held a "Most Welcoming Yard" contest in Townsend and are presently working to make this community the first Community Wildlife Habitat. We did fun things like decorating a tree for Christmas in Odessa and taking boat tours of Noxontown Pond. For two years we have held a "Race for the River" to raise funds for the Association.

We worked with the Delaware Nature Society's technical monitoring program and created a wonderful web site ([www.apporiver.org](http://www.apporiver.org)). We started River Watch, a newsletter published twice a year, worked with DeDOT on their Clean Water Calendar and a non-point source pollution survey. We planted a rain garden at the Jean Birch MOT Senior Center, reforested open spaces in watershed developments and planted trees along riparian buffers. These are just some of the many projects we have been involved in over the past five years.

Dan talked briefly about some of our plans for the next five years. Most importantly, we have been talking about expanding our geographic scope to include the entire area between the C&D Canal and the Kent County line.

Kate O'Brien asked if we should think about doing a five-year assessment on the State of the Watershed. Kathy Bunting-Howarth, Director of the Division of Water Resources, DNREC, thought that would be a great idea. EPA likes to be able to measure

progress. Sara noted that we do have some trend data from DNREC. Things look good. There are less nutrients in our watershed than there were five years ago.

Other things we are thinking about are if we are capable of having an office? A staff? We are considering what we can and can't do. We would like to do a strategic plan in the near future. Lyle Jones said his Division would like to establish Tributary Action Teams for the Smyrna and Liepsic Rivers. That is the next goal area in the State. Smyrna is still growing, and perhaps we could bring this area into our organization. Kim Cole, Delaware National Estuarine Reserve, is very interested in continuing their association with the Appoquinimink River Association. Sara asked anyone who had additional ideas or input to contact her.

Donna Holmberg suggested we set up a way for people to post comments on our website. Dan suggested starting a Facebook page and linking it to our website.

Last, but not least, we all played "ARA Trivia," and prizes were awarded for the best answers to each question. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned and those in attendance enjoyed a Fifth Anniversary cake!

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy W. Parker  
Secretary