

2011

**Capital RC&D
Annual Report**





A Message From the Chair

2010-2011 was a year of evolution for the Capital RC&D. Having adopted a new Area Plan in September 2010 and having engaged in strategic board development, the organization was well positioned to advance the new goals and objectives of our seven-county region. To achieve our renewed vision, the Council implemented a new governance structure, including new committees and revised job descriptions. Each of these actions helped to further engage Board members and more effectively govern the organization.

With the loss of federal funding for RC&D coordinators nationwide, Susan Parry, our faithful coordinator, was reassigned to another position within NRCS. While Susan's expertise and enthusiasm will be greatly missed, Capital RC&D continues to thrive.

The Board was proud to appoint Susan Richards as Executive Director to lead the organization. With six years experience with the RC&D Program and over 15 years of experience in the conservation field, Susan was well situated to assume the position.

Capital RC&D's 2011 projects with high visibility include the *Park the Plow for Profit* No-Till Program and *Grass Roots 21st Century Grazing*, both assist with on-farm water and soil resource protection. These programs provided more than 300 farm-businesses with financial and/or technical assistance and also directly impacted more than 3,500 acres of farmland in the region. Other projects led by the organization feature local food marketing support by providing direct assistance for 31 South Central PA *Buy Fresh Buy Local* Campaign members. Capital RC&D's local food programs also helped eight area farmers markets accept SNAP (formerly food stamps) benefits, bringing additional revenue and customers to the markets.

Lastly, I am proud to report the Capital RC&D was recognized nationally by the National RC&D Circle of Diamonds *Standard of Excellence* Program. Circle of Diamonds recognizes good governance practices and demonstrates the honesty, integrity, and strong commitment to the National RC&D mission of "Making Things Happen."

In 2012, Capital RC&D looks forward to continuing to "make things happen" and appreciates the support and assistance of our partners.

Regards,

Stephanie Williams, Chair
Capital RC&D

Office Information

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Susan Parry, Coordinator (until April 2011) · susan.parry@pa.usda.gov · now State Grasslands Specialist

Susan Richards, Executive Director · srichards@capitalrcd.org

Kathy Greiner, Program Administrator · kgreiner@capitalrcd.org

Cheryl Burns, Outreach Specialist · cburns@capitalrcd.org

“Healthy communities in harmony with the natural environment.”

-Vision Statement

“The Capital Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area Council, Inc. is a seven county, non-profit organization that networks people, resources and projects to promote responsible use and conservation of our region’s natural, community and economic resources.”

-Mission Statement

“We are committed to improving local conservation leadership through partnerships and ideas from diverse backgrounds and life experiences; we strive to foster educational and economic opportunities while improving the quality of life within the regional communities we serve; we have a responsibility to conduct our projects and activities in a fair, equitable and respectful manner.”

-Value Statement



The Capital Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area Council’s Partnership With Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

- Nationally, the RC&D program has been a unique combination of private enterprise and government assistance that encourages the blending of natural resource conservation with local economic and social values. Started in 1962, the program was designed to link federal, county and local agencies with community members. In 2011 the program was not allocated funding by Congress but continues to be a Farm Bill program. The RC&D program continues without the NRCS Coordinator that previously linked federal and local interests and supported the operation of the Council. Capital RC&D’s talented Coordinator, Susan Parry, was reassigned to the NRCS state office and is currently serving as the State Grassland Specialist.
- The RC&D program continues to respond to the needs of communities through regional councils. Members represent county commissions, conservation districts, business interests, non-profits and other community-based organizations. Council members bring a diverse cross-section of skills and interests to the table.
- The Capital RC&D Council directs the RC&D program through a planning and implementation process addressing local issues.

“The Council’s partnership with NRCS has been a highly successful one. The Capital RC&D Area Council has shown the marriage between natural resource conservation and community development can improve quality of life for all citizens.” -Susan Parry, Former RC&D Coordinator

Capital RC&D Project Highlights

South Mountain GeoTrail

Launched in December 2010, the South Mountain GeoTrail is a collection of geocache sites designed to encourage exploration of the region in a fun and unique way. Geocaching is an outdoor activity utilizing a handheld Global Positioning System (GPS) device to locate caches in hidden locations. The GeoTrail currently features 22 sites that highlight cultural, historical, natural resource, and agricultural sites of importance in York, Adams, Cumberland, and Franklin counties. During its first year, 1,426 visits were logged for South Mountain cache sites on the geocaching.com website.

The trail, developed by Capital RC&D and sponsored by the South Mountain Partnership through a grant from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, promotes tourism and local interest in the area. Capital RC&D and partners hope to add additional sites to the trail in the years to come. Visit <http://smgeotrail.blogspot.com> to participate in this popular activity.



South Central PA Buy Fresh Buy Local

Capital RC&D continues to coordinate this consumer awareness campaign in south central Pennsylvania. The campaign is a partnership effort, directed on a state-wide level by the Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture. In 2011, the South Central PA Buy Fresh Buy Local (BFBL) chapter collaborated with multiple sponsors to support three successful events that reached new audiences. The BFBL message for all audiences points to the benefits to individuals, communities and the Capital RC&D region resulting from buying locally-produced food. Successful collaborative efforts in 2011 included:

- PA Land Trust Association: In May 2011, the chapter coordinated and presented a farm tour for the Pennsylvania Land Conservation Conference, featuring three chapter producers.
- Lebanon Valley Conservancy: The chapter hosted a rest stop for approximately 300 riders participating in the *Round the Valley* bike tour.
- Fredricksen Library: *Bee Local at Fredricksen Library*, in Camp Hill, PA provided a large audience for a BFBL program.



Peer-to-Peer Technical Assistance - Grazing

One of the best delivery systems for agricultural technical assistance is through experienced farmers who have adopted new technologies or management systems and can provide first-hand guidance based on their experience. Capital RC&D supports peer-to-peer assistance from “grazing advisors” to help interested farmers change and improve their livestock grazing practices. During 2011 grazing advisors visited 41 farms controlling over 2,500 acres. Funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and NRCS supported the development of the grazing advisor program.

The peer-to-peer model is also used for no-till and high tunnel assistance and has impacted several thousand acres of farmland in the RC&D region through improved farm management.

Traditional Technical Assistance - High Tunnels

Capital RC&D in partnership with Penn State University high tunnel researchers, the Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association and NRCS staff introduced this program to provide technical assistance to Pennsylvania’s high tunnel producers in 2011/2012.

High tunnels are crop production systems used to extend the growing season of vegetables, flowers, fruits and specialty crops. These plastic-covered structures support local crop production well beyond the traditional end of the growing season.



High tunnels improve plant, soil and water quality by reducing nutrient and pesticide transport. Their use has become increasingly common, particularly as NRCS approved their use as a conservation practice. The partnership-planned workshops, twilight meetings and peer-to-peer assistance will help growers successfully use this practice.

Additional Capital RC&D Initiatives

- NRCS Program Awareness and Producer Readiness
- Grass Roots: 21st Century Grazing
- Park the Plow for Profit No-Till Support
- SNAP at Farmers Markets
- Weed Control & Wildlife Technical Assistance
- NRCS Easement Quality Assurance Monitor
- Conewago Soil Survey

The Capital RC&D is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Regional Expenditures by County
Fiscal Year 2011 (October 1, 2010 - September 30, 2011)

“We are proud our administrative efficiency enables us to use a vast majority of Capital RC&D project funds directly in project activities that promote conservation and economic development.”

-Kathy Greiner, Capital RC&D Program Administrator

County	Total
Adams	\$ 27,479
Cumberland	53,236
Dauphin	34,902
Franklin	44,852
Lancaster	55,191
Lebanon	37,187
York	9,417
Statewide	428,025
TOTAL	\$ 690,289

“This year the Capital RC&D board changed our committee structure, which made our board more efficient. The Business Affairs committee has increased involvement in review and financial planning, during this challenging financial year.”

-Dick Shellenberger, Capital RC&D Treasurer

Financial Statement
Fiscal Year 2011 (October 1, 2010 - September 30, 2011)

	Total	Management & General	Program Services
INCOME			
Grants	\$ 652,499	\$ 20,550	\$ 631,949
Donations	5,477	2,950	2,527
Other Income	39,000	34,582	4,418
Total Income	\$696,975	\$ 58,082	\$ 638,894
EXPENSES			
Salaries/Wages	\$ 107,384	\$ 17,544	\$ 89,840
Rent	18,000	18,000	
Contractual Services	487,003	9,390	477,613
Supplies and Materials	25,292	1,792	23,501
Program Administration	25,440		25,440
Other Expenses	27,170	7,103	20,067
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 690,289	\$ 53,829	\$ 636,460
NET INCOME	\$ 6,687	\$ 4,252	\$ 2,434

*Please note: The financial statements above are presented on an accrual accounting basis.

Board Members

Adams County

- **Bicky Redman**
Adams Co. Environmental Services
**RC&D Vice Chair*
(Commissioner Rep.)
- **Katie Ellis**
Penn State Coop. Extension
(Member-at-Large)
- **Vy Trinh**
Adams Co. Conservation District
(Conservation District Rep.)
- **Fran Koch**
(Alternate)
- **Commissioner George Weikert**
Adams County Commissioner's Office
(Alternate)

Cumberland County

- **Stephanie Williams**
Cumberland Co. Planning Office
**RC&D Chair*
(Commissioner Rep.)
- **Vince McCollum**
Cumberland Co. Conservation District
(Conservation District Rep.)
- **Courtney Accurti**
PA State Association of Boroughs
(Member-at-Large)
- **Kristen Kitchen**
Cumberland Co. Conservation District
(Alternate)
- **Rebecca Wiser**
Cumberland Co. Planning Office
(Alternate)

Dauphin County

- **Skip Memmi**
Dauphin Co. Economic Development
Corporation
(Commissioner Rep.)
- **James W. Szymorski**
(Conservation District Rep.)
- **Sally Zaino**
Manada Conservancy
(Member-at-Large)

- **Mike Hubler**
Dauphin County Conservation District
(Alternate)

Franklin County

- **Commissioner David S. Keller**
Franklin Co. Commissioner's Office
(Commissioner Rep.)
- **Tammy Piper**
Franklin Co. Conservation District
**RC&D Secretary*
(Conservation District Rep.)
- **Janet Pollard**
Franklin Co. Visitors Bureau
**RC&D Exec. Committee Member-at-Large*
(Member-at-Large)
- **George Hurd**
Franklin Co. Cooperative Extension
(Alternate)
- **Commissioner Robert Ziobrowski**
Franklin Co. Commissioner's Office
(Alternate)

Lancaster County

- **Sallie Gregory**
Lancaster Co. Conservation District
(Conservation District Rep.)
- **Commissioner Craig Lehman**
Lancaster Co. Commissioner's Office
(Commissioner Rep.)
- **Dick Shellenberger**
Lancaster Co. Conservation District
**RC&D Treasurer*
(Member-at-Large)
- **Don McNutt**
Lancaster Co. Conservation District
(Alternate)
- **Mark Metzler**
Wild Resources
(Alternat)
- **Jill Whitcomb**
Lancaster Co. Conservation District
(Alternate)

Lebanon County

- **Commissioner William G. Carpenter**
Lebanon Co. Commissioner's Office
(Commissioner Rep.)
- **Frank Harvatin**
PA Assoc. of Conservation Districts
(Conservation District Rep.)
- **Stephanie Harmon**
Lebanon Co. Conservation District
(Member-at-Large)
- **Kris Troup**
Lebanon Co. Planning Department
(Alternate)

York County

- **Felicia Dell**
York Co. Planning Commission
(Commissioner Rep.)
- **Julie Flinchbaugh**
Flinchbaugh's Orchard and Market
(Conservation District Rep.)
- **Lonnie Young**
RETTEW
(Member-at-Large)
- **Mark Kimmel**
York Co. Conservation District
(Alternate)

Active Advisory Members

- **Chuck Wertz**
Lebanon Co. Conservation District
- **Daniel R. Hess, CPA**
PFM Group
- **Robert M. Sentz**
Lebanon County Planning Department
- **Corinne Rebinski, CPA**
BSSF

*NOTE: Council meetings take place bi-monthly on the third Friday, beginning in January, and are always open to the public. Please contact the council office for specific meeting information.

Volunteers and the Community

The success of RC&D initiatives depends on the support and participation of volunteers in the community. With their new energy, ideas and perspectives - volunteers contribute the necessary "person-power" behind our activities and provide vital links to community organizations and partner groups. The Council relies on our communities for project guidance. By listening to the input of our volunteers, we are able to focus on the issues and concerns that are most important to our region.

Project Impact Testimonials

"The CREP landowner [one-to-one technical assistance program] showed me some different plant species that I didn't realize were a problem species. The [technician] was able to help me come up with a plan to manage Canadian Thistle and through plant identification I received new information that will help manage my property for wildlife."

*-John Z. Millar, Jr.
CREP landowner*

"The working relationship between NRCS and RC&D is an essential one to our customers. I look at RC&D as the special forces of conservation because of their unique skill set, and their ability to pull together projects that NRCS can't. RC&D is a key member of the conservation partnership."

*-Chad Cherefko
NRCS District Conservationist, Carlisle Field Office*

Capital RC&D



Supporting Pennsylvania's Heartland!

"The work that Capital RC&D has undertaken with the Buy Fresh Buy Local brand is critical right now when buying local is trendy and more farmers are switching to direct marketing. In reference to another project area, the SNAP program has been a super addition and is appreciated by customers at the Carlisle Farmers on the Square farmer's market. Every conversation that I hear regarding the work of Capital RC&D is always positive!"

*-Sara Baldwin
Oyler's Organic Farms and PASA Board Member*

"With support received through Capital RC&D, the Adams County Farmers' Market Association implemented EBT services at three local markets in 2011. This program has not only had a positive effect on vendor sales but enabled the Association to form valuable partnerships with area health care providers, community leaders and educational institutions.."

*-Kathleen Glahn
President, Adams County Farmers' Market Association, Inc.*

RC&D Councils in Pennsylvania

Capital: (717) 241-4361

Community Partnerships: (717) 248-4901

Endless Mountains: (570) 265-2717

Headwaters: (814) 503-8653

Penn's Corner: (724) 857-1043

Penn Soil: (814) 726-1441

Pocono Northeast: (570) 234-3577

Southeastern PA: (877) 610-6603

Southern Alleghenies: (814) 623-2394

For more information, please visit www.parc.org.