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
“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

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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.

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“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
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.

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.
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)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adams</td>
<td>$ 27,479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumberland</td>
<td>53,236</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dauphin</td>
<td>34,902</td>
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<tr>
<td>Franklin</td>
<td>44,852</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster</td>
<td>55,191</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>37,187</td>
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<tr>
<td>York</td>
<td>9,417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td>428,025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 690,289</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“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

“*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)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Management &amp; General</th>
<th>Program Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>$ 652,499</td>
<td>$ 20,550</td>
<td>$ 631,949</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>5,477</td>
<td>2,950</td>
<td>2,527</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>39,000</td>
<td>34,582</td>
<td>4,418</td>
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<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>$696,975</td>
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<td><strong>EXPENSES</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Salaries/Wages</td>
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<td>$ 17,544</td>
<td>$ 89,840</td>
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<td>Rent</td>
<td>18,000</td>
<td>18,000</td>
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<td>Contractual Services</td>
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<td>477,613</td>
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<td>Supplies and Materials</td>
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<td>23,501</td>
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<td>Program Administration</td>
<td>25,440</td>
<td>1,792</td>
<td>23,501</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Expenses</td>
<td>27,170</td>
<td>7,103</td>
<td>20,067</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td>$ 690,289</td>
<td>$ 53,829</td>
<td>$ 636,460</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NET INCOME</strong></td>
<td>$ 6,687</td>
<td>$ 4,252</td>
<td>$ 2,434</td>
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*Please note: The financial statements above are presented on an accrual accounting basis.*
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. Szymborski
  (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 Zioberowski
  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
  (Alternate)
- Jill Whitcomb
  Lancaster Co. Conservation District
  (Alternate)
- Daniel R. Hess, CPA
  PFM Group
- Robert M. Sentz
  Lebanon County Planning Department
- Corinne Rebinski, CPA
  BSSF

Lebanon County
- Commissioner William G. Carpenter
  Lebanon Co. Commissioner's Office
  (Commissioner Rep.)
- Frank Harvatine
  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.
“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

“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.

Project Impact Testimonials

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

Pen 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.parcod.org.

Serving Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon and York counties.