

2010

Capital RC&D

Annual Report





A Message From the Chair

By now, many of you are aware that Capital RC&D has undertaken a strategic planning process to guide our organization through the next five years of delivering meaningful services to you, our stakeholders. Our final Area Plan is based on your input and our overarching mission of protecting our region's natural, community and economic resources. As a fellow board member shared with me: "the strength of the Capital RC&D is in its ability to leverage resources, utilize partnerships, share knowledge and lead the way with innovative solutions to problems;" these attributes will take our organization to the next level in the ensuing years.

With the assistance of Jan Herrold, our facilitator from York College Center for Community Engagement, our diverse board of volunteers and staff members have been engaged in a year-long process of examining our past successes while planning for our future endeavors. Without a doubt, we've come to realize that our overall success is largely the result of our competent and highly respected staff members – they capitalize on opportunities and provide the utmost professional administration of the various projects that are underway. One thing we're learning is that we don't "toot our horn" enough; we need to better report on the work that we do and find new ways in the future to increase our public outreach.

On a personal level, I can't say enough about our board members too; they are a committed group of representatives from our seven county region who are engaged in the RC&D's work. Their leadership is constantly evolving and will strengthen the direction of our organization as we move forward. We are also thankful for the support of the Natural Resource Conservation Service and for the assistance we receive from other RC&D Councils around the state and nation.

As we continue to hear from many organizations and governmental entities, these are challenging times. We know nothing motivates better than a challenge. The Capital RC&D can and will meet the challenges of these times by being prepared for the future. Thank you for your valued support and contributions to our successful endeavors, and please continue to be engaged in the work that we do.

Committed to serving you,

Bicky Redman, Capital RC&D Chair

Office Information

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Cheryl Burns, Agricultural Outreach Specialist · cburns@capitalrcd.org

Please visit our website at www.capitalrcd.org for more information, to volunteer or donate.

“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)

- The NRCS is an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Its mission is to provide leadership in a partnership effort to help America's private landowners conserve their soil, water and other natural resources.
- Nationally, the RC&D program is 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.
- The RC&D Program responds to the needs of communities through regional councils. Members represent county commissions, conservation districts, business interests, nonprofits and other community-based organizations. Council members bring a diverse cross-section of skills and interests to the table.
- Councils direct the RC&D program through a planning and implementation process addressing local issues. The process is facilitated by a coordinator position, with funding provided by the NRCS. The coordinator assists the Council to fulfill its commitment to NRCS through its activities and annual work plan.

“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, Coordinator

Capital RC&D Project Highlights

Grass Roots: 21st Century Prescribed Grazing

This project focuses on supporting farmers in their efforts to transition cropland or improve grazed pasture land to prescribed grazing, also known as rotational grazing. These efforts will improve participating farms' economic viability as well as provide conservation benefits locally and regionally.

In the first year, almost \$190,000 was provided to farms for fencing and watering systems, which facilitated the conversion of over 1,000 acres to a grazing system approach. Peer-to-peer learning was provided to landowners through experienced grazing advisers with extensive, practical knowledge in livestock grazing. Regional conservation district field staff also received one-on-one training during farm visits with grazing advisers, increasing their capacity to support prescribed grazing.

The project also addresses the business aspects of conversion to grazing, including cost analysis and product marketing. A planning committee, consisting of representatives from Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative, PA Forage and Grasslands Council as well as Penn State Cooperative Extension, developed workshops for grass-based dairy and meat producers.



Open-Air Farmers Market Assistance Program

This project seeks to improve connections between farmers markets and consumers of all income levels. To support this goal, the Capital RC&D will provide up to 14 wireless swipe card machines to open-air farmers markets throughout the region. This facilitates acceptance of both debit card transactions and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), also known as food stamp, payments.

Further, we will expand the capacity of participating markets by creating a marketing toolkit and consumer toolkit to help market vendors provide better outreach and service to their customers. So far, nine markets are receiving assistance and farmers market manager training took place both regionally and on an individual basis. Outreach to consumers will also continue throughout 2011.

Markets now participating in the program include:

- Mercersburg Farmers Market, Franklin County
- Eastern Market, Lancaster County
- Adams County Farmers Market Assoc, Gettysburg (2 locations) – Adams County
- Carlisle Farmers on the Square, Cumberland County
- Palmyra Producer-only Market, Lebanon County
- Joshua Farm Farmers Market, Harrisburg – Dauphin County
- Millersville Community Farmers Market, Lancaster County
- Farmers Market in Hershey, Dauphin County

For more information on any of the featured projects, see the project page on our website at www.capitalrcd.org



Photo credit: Stuart Leask

South Mountain GeoTrail

Capital RC&D recently launched the region’s newest outdoor adventure opportunity – the South Mountain Geotrail. Geocaching is an outdoor activity where participants use a Global Positioning System (GPS) to locate “caches” hidden in out-of-the-way places. The South Mountain GeoTrail features up to 50 sites throughout York, Adams, Cumberland and Franklin Counties covering a range of almost 50 miles.



The GeoTrail enhances a sense of place for residents and visitors, by linking agricultural, heritage and natural resources as well as promoting recognition and awareness of the importance of selected cache sites. The goal is to provide a family-friendly outdoor experience as a unique opportunity to enjoy all the area has to offer.

The project was sponsored by the South Mountain Partnership through a grant from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; the Capital RC&D also received a grant from the Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau to support the project. Check out <http://smgeotrail.blogspot.com>.

Long-Range Planning

The year-long process to develop our 2011 - 2015 Area Plan included research, key stakeholder interviews and online surveys. To review the entire plan, visit our website at www.capitalrcd.org

GOAL 1. Organizational Excellence: Build capacity and excellence, as demonstrated by a sustainable financial model, a sound organizational structure, and a network of robust and productive working relationships with mission-related entities.

GOAL 2. Water Quality/Quantity: Partner with local governments, conservation districts, community and nonprofit organizations, farmers and citizens over the next five years to restore and protect our region’s water resources, with at least 10 streams being positively impacted by activities and projects.

GOAL 3. Natural Lands: Provide outreach and technical support to at least five open space conservation/management projects over the next five years, giving priority to those that help create an interconnected network of natural areas.

GOAL 4. Sustainable Economic Development: Assist 25 agricultural and/or natural resource-based enterprises gain access to technical assistance, financing or other resources helping them succeed and grow.

GOAL 5. Energy: Create a collaborative environment that recognizes, encourages and facilitates five alternative energy/energy efficiency programs/projects in our region.



Photo credit: South Mountain Partnership

Other Capital RC&D Projects and Initiatives

- Claremont Community Gardens
- Fuels For Schools and Beyond
- PA No-Till Alliance Support
- Park the Plow for Profit
- Consortium for Scientific Assistance to Watersheds
- South Central Buy Fresh Buy Local
- Weed Control & Wildlife Habitat Technical Assistance Project

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

Regional Expenditures by County
Fiscal Year 2010 (October 1, 2009 - September 30, 2010)

“The project funding and technical assistance that Capital RC&D has been able to bring to our counties directly addresses needs identified by our council members and partners.”

-Susan Richards, Capital RC&D
Program Manager

County	Total
Adams	\$ 22,095.00
Cumberland	37,613.00
Dauphin	23,059.00
Franklin	35,897.00
Lancaster	154,443.00
Lebanon	60,766.00
York	25,028.00
Statewide	493,625.00
TOTAL	\$ 852,526.00

“The Executive Committee and staff of Capital RC&D worked together in 2010 to streamline reporting for more efficient use of time at council meetings. Efficient council meetings allowed time for beneficial board training sessions.”

-Gerald M. Heistand, Capital
RC&D Treasurer

Financial Statement
Fiscal Year 2010 (October 1, 2009 - September 30, 2010)

	Total	Management & General	Program Services
INCOME			
Grants	\$ 800,967.00	\$ 24,983.00	\$ 775,984.00
Donations	4,190.00	770.00	3,420.00
Other Income	47,935.00	28,517.00	19,418.00
Total Income	\$ 853,092.00	\$ 54,270.00	\$ 798,822.00
EXPENSES			
Salaries/Wages	\$ 97,603.00	\$ 18,079.00	\$ 79,524.00
Rent	17,757.00	17,757.00	-
Contractual Services	656,131.00	4,500.00	651,631.00
Supplies and Materials	13,773.00	4,264.00	9,509.00
Program Administration	17,888.00	-	17,888.00
Other Expenses	49,374.00	9,274.00	40,100.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 852,526.00	\$ 53,874.00	\$ 798,652.00
NET INCOME	\$ 566.00	\$ 396.00	\$ 170.00

*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 Chair*
(Commissioner Rep.)
- Judy Chambers
Penn State Coop. Extension
(Member-at-Large)
- Larry Martick
Adams Co. Conservation District
(Conservation District Rep.)
- Robin Fitzpatrick
Adams Co. Economic Dev. Corp.
(Alternate)
- Duane Kanagy
Adams Electric Coop.
(Alternate)

Cumberland County

- Stephanie Williams
Cumberland Co. Planning Office
**RC&D Vice-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 Wisner
Cumberland Co. Planning Office
(Alternate)

Dauphin County

- Skip Memmi
Dauphin Co. Economic Corporation
(Commissioner Rep.)
- James W. Szymborski
Tri-County Reg. Planning Commission
(Conservation District Rep.)
- Ann Devine
PA Department of Env. Protection
**RC&D Secretary*
(Member-at-Large)

- Mike Hubler
Dauphin County Conservation District
(Alternate)

Franklin County

- Commissioner David S. Keller
Franklin Co. Commissioner's Office
(Commissioner Rep.)
- Tammy Gross
Franklin Co. Conservation District
(Conservation District Rep.)
- Janet Pollard
Franklin Co. Visitors Bureau
(Member-at-Large)
- George Hurd
Franklin Co. Cooperative Extension
(Alternate)
- Robert Ziobrowski
Franklin Co. Commissioner's Office
(Alternate)

Lancaster County

- Gerald Heistand
Lancaster Co. Conservation District
**RC&D Treasurer*
(Conservation District Rep.)
- Craig Lehman
Lancaster Co. Commissioner's Office
(Commissioner Rep.)
- Dick Shellenberger
Lancaster Co. Conservation District
(Member-at-Large)
- Don McNutt
Lancaster Co. Conservation District
(Alternate)
- Mark Metzler
RETTEW
(Alternate)

Lebanon County

- Commissioner William G. Carpenter
Lebanon Co. Commissioner's Office
(Commissioner Rep.)
- Frank Harvatine
PA Association of Conservation Districts
(Conservation District Rep.)

- Richard Blouch
Community Volunteer
- Stephanie Harmon
Lebanon Co. Conservation District
(Alternate)
- 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 Flaharty
York Co. Conservation District
(Alternate)

Advisory Members

- Ron Beam
RETTEW
- Mark Kimmel
York Co. Conservation District
- Commissioner Jo Ellen Litz
Lebanon Co. Commissioner's Office
- Patrick Naugle
Community Volunteer
- Mike Palko
PA Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources
- Curtis Shreffler
US Geological Survey
- Phil Tarquino
Franklin Co. Planning Commission
- Chuck Wertz
Lebanon Co. Conservation District
- Allan Williams
Community Volunteer

*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 partnership and collaboration with Capital RC&D has enhanced and brought an improved level of expertise to achieving our mission goals. The marriage of their technical expertise with our outreach to landowners has resulted in improved conservation efforts ‘on the ground’ both literally and figuratively.”

*-Debra Bowman, Executive Director
Central PA Conservancy*

“Thanks to Capital RC&D for seeing the need for ‘practitioners’ to help others starting a grazing system, and for beginning to use local grazing advisers for project assistance. Through the Grass Roots program, advisers are given the time for mentoring of those that need it to succeed. Teaching how to manage properly to produce more grass for feed as well as ground cover can help farmers make fewer mistakes as they go through the learning curve in today’s economy, especially for dairymen who are having an especially difficult time.”

*-Titus Martin, Grass Roots
Grazing Adviser*

Capital RC&D



Supporting Pennsylvania's Heartland!

“The farmers market ‘Marketing Toolkit’ developed for Capital RC&D through the USDA-SNAP project will provide market managers with an easy-to-use resource guide incorporating fresh ideas, cost-effective concepts and advertising programs. Vital to the success of any market is the ability to retain existing customers and reach new consumers. The toolkit is a beneficial resource contributing to the success of Capital RC&D Area farmers markets in 2011 and beyond.”

*-Kathleen Glahn, Entrepreneur
Adams County Farm Market Association*

“Connecting local communities with the land and water resources that they may take for granted is essential to what the South Mountain Partnership represents. The Capital RC&D has created the South Mountain GeoTrail as a fun, high-tech way for people to get out and explore the landscape through learning about agriculture, recreation, natural and heritage assets. While they learn, we also hope there are increased visits and dollars spent at business sites along the GeoTrail.”

-Kimberly Williams, Landscape Protection Coordinator, Appalachian Trail Conservancy

RC&D Councils in Pennsylvania

Capital - (717) 241-4361

Community Partnerships - (717) 248-4901

Endless Mountains - (570) 265-5288

Headwaters - (814) 375-1372

Penn's Corner - (724) 834-9063

Penn Soil - (814) 226-8160

Pocono Northeast - (570) 282-8732

Southeastern PA - (215) 453-9527

Southern Alleghenies - (814) 623-7900

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