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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Susan Parry, Coordinator · susan.parry@pa.usda.gov
Susan Richards, Program Manager · srichards@capitalrcd.org
Kathy Greiner, Program Administrator · kgreiner@capitalrcd.org
Cheryl Burns, Agricultural Outreach Specialist · cburns@capitalrcd.org
Please visit our website at www.capitalrcd.org for more information, to volunteer or donate.
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
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

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.
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.

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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adams</td>
<td>$22,095.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumberland</td>
<td>37,613.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dauphin</td>
<td>23,059.00</td>
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<td>Franklin</td>
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<td>Lancaster</td>
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<td>York</td>
<td>25,028.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Statewide</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$852,526.00</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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*Please note: The financial statements above are presented on an accrual accounting basis.*

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Management &amp; General</th>
<th>Program Services</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Grants</td>
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<td>Other Expenses</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$53,874.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$798,652.00</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NET INCOME</strong></td>
<td>$566.00</td>
<td>$396.00</td>
<td>$170.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

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“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

“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
**Board Members**

**Adams County**
- Bicky Redman  
  Adams Co. Environmental Services  
  *(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 Wiser  
  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)*
- Richard Blouch  
  Community Volunteer
- Stephanie Harmon  
  Lebanon Co. Conservation District  
  *(Alternate)*
- Kris Troup  
  Lebanon Co. Planning Department  
  *(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. Visitor's Bureau  
  *(Member-at-Large)*
- George Hurd  
  Franklin Co. Cooperative Extension  
  *(Alternate)*
- Robert Ziobrowski  
  Franklin Co. Commissioner's Office  
  *(Alternate)*
- Ron Beam  
  RETTEW  
  *(Member-at-Large)*
- Mark Flaherty  
  York Co. Conservation District  
  *(Alternate)*

**Lancaster County**
- Gerald Heistand  
  Lancaster Co. Conservation District  
  *(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)*
- 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

**Lebanon County**
- Commissioner William G. Carpenter  
  Lebanon Co. Commissioner's Office  
  *(Commissioner Rep.)*
- Frank Harvatine  
  PA Association of Conservation Districts  
  *(Conservation District Rep.)*
- Leanne Sharp  
  Lebanon Co. Planning Department  
  *(Alternate)*
- Julie Flinchbaugh  
  Flinchbaugh's Orchard and Market  
  *(Conservation District Rep.)*
- Lonnie Young  
  RETTEW  
  *(Member-at-Large)*

**Advisory Members**
- Allan Williams  
  Community Volunteer
- Bob Hafner  
  Community Volunteer
- Dick Shellenberger  
  Friends of the American River
- Mike Russel  
  Community Volunteer
- Pat O'Neill  
  Community Volunteer
- Rob Collins  
  Community Volunteer
- Howard Berne  
  Community Volunteer
- David Shreffler  
  Community Volunteer

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**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 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

“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

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- Titus Martin, Grass Roots Grazing Adviser

“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

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- 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.d.org.

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