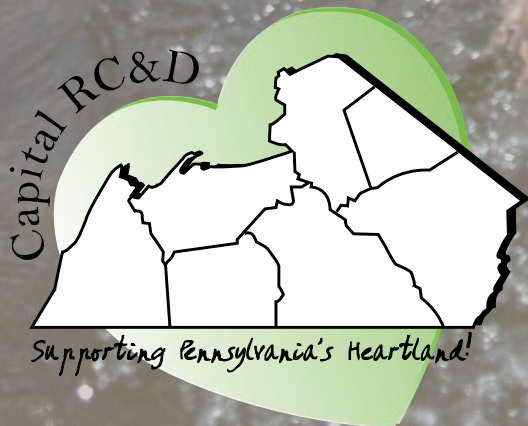


# 2012 Capital RC&D Annual Report

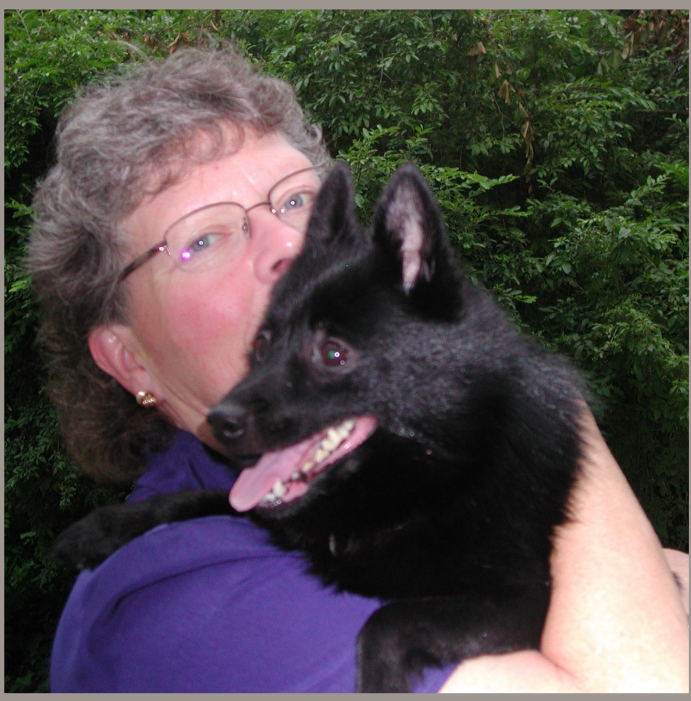
Capital Resource Conservation & Development  
(RC&D) Area Council, Inc.



"Healthy communities in harmony with the environment"



## A Message From the Chair



What a year for Capital RC&D, our 2013 budget, approved in September exceeds all prior budgets at over \$1.5 Million Dollars in new and continuing project activities! The expansion of this budget reflects the strength of our organization, the skills of our industrious staff and the dedication of our board members. We are grateful for the various partnerships that have allowed us to grow and meet the objectives of our mission.

Speaking of partnerships, we were honored to receive special recognition and a plaque in May 2012 for our work with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Our ambitious RC&D staff has been able to assist NRCS with the challenge of “doing more with less,” by taking on various new projects involving monitoring of conservation easements, wetlands and grasslands.

And with respect to efficiency, the Capital RC&D office suite has moved into a new location within the same building. This new office space is still in close proximity to our good partner the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy, but will allow us more financial flexibility in the coming years.

In support of our Plan of Work this past year, we continued to partner with many organizations to enhance our outreach efforts and offer technical services and support conservation practices. Our projects assisted farms in transitioning to no-till practices to limit nutrient and sediment erosion into streams; assisted landowners with weed management in natural plantings to enhance wildlife habitat; offered educational programs to support high tunnel use for fruit and vegetable production; and provided assistance for other demonstrable conservation measures. In partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection we also conducted a tillage survey assessment to update data for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model. And, as always, we continue to promote our local farmers through the *Buy Fresh Buy Local* campaign.

It has been a very busy and productive year for Capital RC&D and we expect the same for 2013. Please read the highlights of our 2012 achievements in this annual report and consider joining with us in this important work as we strive to protect and improve our natural resources and our communities.

On an ending note, I would encourage all to reflect on the things that are most important in our lives and take the time to hug those we love in a special way. Above all, let us maintain an optimistic outlook for 2013!

In your service,

Bicky Redman, Chair

## Office Information

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Please visit our website at [www.capitalrcd.org](http://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 the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

- 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 is designed to link federal, county and local agencies with community members. Despite reduction in financial support, NRCS continues as a strong partner with Capital RC&D. The program continues to create links with NRCS to provide support for conservation and community development.
- The RC&D program is designed to respond to the needs of communities through regional Councils. Council members represent county governments, 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. Throughout the country there are more than one-hundred active RC&D Councils working within their communities to further locally-led conservation and development.
- The Capital RC&D Council brings a variety of perspectives to developing and implementing the organization's plan of work. It also provides an important network for linking resources and programs that support Capital RC&D's vision and mission.

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*"The Capital RC&D Council has been particularly beneficial to USDA NRCS and our agricultural community in bringing much needed technical assistance to several USDA Service Centers. Through agreements with the Council, USDA program participants are receiving much needed assistance in getting conservation on the land that ultimately reduces soil erosion, improves water quality and enhances woodland and wildlife resources."*

*-Gary Smith , NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Operations*



# Capital RC&D Project Highlights

## Closing the Food Gap

Capital RC&D coordinated partners including Healthy Adams County, Wilson College and the South Mountain Partnership to host a one-day, food access symposium in November 2011 at Wilson College in Chambersburg. The symposium provided networking and partnership formation opportunities for organizations with missions that reflect a concern for agriculture, food access and nutrition. Nationally recognized food policy author, Mark Winne, introduced the concept of the *food gap*, which identifies the population whose income level falls between qualifying for public assistance programs and maintaining food self-sufficiency. Representatives of nineteen participating organizations learned more about issues and programs in South Central PA supporting food access, availability and usage concerns, while identifying gaps, opportunities and existing programs.

At the July 2012 follow-up session, participants formally became the South Central PA – Food System Alliance (SCPA-FSA). In 2013 the SCPA-FSA plans to address equity and inclusion concerns as well as strategic planning.



Community Development



## CREP Weed Control and Wildlife Program

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a voluntary conservation program that rewards producers and landowners for installing conservation practices on their land to improve water quality and wildlife habitat. The Weed Control and Wildlife Program has served CREP landowners in the Capital RC&D region for six years. The goal of this program is to optimize the water quality and habitat improvements that are intended by CREP conservation practices.

During 2012, Capital RC&D sponsored landowner technical support by offering individual consultation visits for landowners controlling over 500 acres of CREP land. These consultations with land management experts are intended to help the landowners become more proficient and knowledgeable in managing their property. Capital RC&D staff also organized two successful landowner field days to provide technical assistance, support landowner networking and showcase successful CREP practices in the region.

Capital RC&D will build on the success of this project by sponsoring similar activities for 2013 in the Capital RC&D region.

Water

## Additional Capital RC&D Initiatives

- Local Food Initiatives
- High Tunnel Technical Assistance
- Plain Sect Conservation Outreach
- Technical Assistance in NRCS Field Offices
- Grass Roots 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grazing
- Park the Plow for Profit; No-Till Support

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

## Quality Assurance of Conservation Easements

Beginning in 1996, the PA NRCS has been granting conservation easements throughout the state. A conservation easement is a voluntary agreement allowing a landowner to limit the type or amount of development on their property while retaining private ownership rights. Three of the most commonly used programs in PA are the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program, Wetland Reserve Program and Grassland Reserve Program. These easement programs have allowed

NRCS and their partners to preserve and protect many acres of valuable farmland and wildlife habitat on over 500 sites in PA.

Through agreements with PA NRCS, Capital RC&D has been able to provide much-needed staffing resources to assist the agency in a massive project to undertake a new monitoring and quality assurance policy for conservation easements. In 2012, Capital RC&D made available four individuals acting as easement monitors to

conduct on-the-ground reviews in eight south-central PA counties.

In addition to the field-based personnel, Capital RC&D provided a staff member, housed in the state NRCS office, to oversee the monitoring of 321 easements statewide and to orchestrate remedies for any concerns found in the field. This position is also responsible for providing assurance that all documentation for these easements is completed and filed as required by the new policy.

Thanks to the close and mutually beneficial relationship between PA NRCS and Capital RC&D, significant progress towards establishing a comprehensive NRCS easement monitoring program was expedited. NRCS looks forward to continuing this program well into the future.





# Financial Statement

	Total	Management & General	Program Services
<b>INCOME</b>			
Grants	\$ 614,936	-	\$ 614,936
Donations	696	650	46
Other Income	53,470	49,620	3,850
Total Income	\$669,102	\$50,270	\$618,832
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Salaries / Wages	247,804	13,416	234,388
Rent	18,613	18,286	328
Contractual Services	326,442	9,620	316,822
Supplies and Materials	18,432	976	17,456
Program Administration	35,924	-	35,924
Other Expenses	21,741	6,768	14,973
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	\$ 668,957	\$ 49,066	\$ 619,891
<b>NET INCOME</b>	\$ 145	\$ 1,204	(\$ 1,059)

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

*"During 2012, Capital RC&D Council exceeded its goal in securing grant-funded projects and made new efforts to ensure fiscal responsibility for all new cooperative projects."*

-Pat Devlin, Capital RC&D  
Treasurer

## Regional Expenditures

by County  
Fiscal Year 2012

COUNTY	TOTAL
Adams	\$ 34,433
Cumberland	34,362
Dauphin	21,171
Franklin	27,384
Lancaster	82,237
Lebanon	68,859
York	22,813
Statewide	377,698
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 668,957</b>



## Volunteers and the Community

The success of RC&D initiatives depends not only on financial success but 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 and 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.

# Board Members

## Adams County

- **Bicky Redman**  
Adams Co. Environmental Services  
*\*RC&D Chair*  
(Commissioner Rep.)
- **Barry Towers**  
(Member-at-Large)
- **Vy Trinh**  
Adams Co. Conservation District  
(Conservation District Rep.)
- **Fran Koch**  
(Alternate)
- **Commissioner James Martin**  
Adams County Commissioner's Office  
(Alternate)

## Cumberland County

- **Cory Adams**  
South Middletown Township  
(Commissioner Rep.)
- **Vince McCollum**  
Cumberland Co. Conservation District  
(Conservation District Rep.)
- **Courtney Accurti**  
PA State Association of Boroughs  
*\*RC&D Secretary*  
(Member-at-Large)
- **Kristen Kitchen**  
Cumberland Co. Conservation District  
(Alternate)
- **Frank Meehan**  
(Alternate)

## Dauphin County

- **Skip Memmi**  
Dauphin Co. Economic Development  
Corporation  
(Commissioner Rep.)
- **James W. Szyborski**  
(Conservation District Rep.)

- **Mike Hubler**  
Dauphin County Conservation District  
(Member-at-Large)
- **Sally Zaino**  
Manada Conservancy  
(Alternate)

## Franklin County

- **Commissioner David S. Keller**  
Franklin Co. Commissioner's Office  
(Commissioner Rep.)
- **Tammy Piper**  
Franklin Co. Conservation District  
(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.)
- **John Bingham**  
(Member-at-Large)
- **Dick Shellenberger**  
(Alternate)
- **Jill Whitcomb**  
Lancaster Co. Conservation District  
(Alternate)

## Lebanon County

- **Commissioner Bill Ames**  
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)
- **Robert Sentz**  
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.)
- **Pat Devlin**  
(Member-at-Large)
- **Dru Peters**  
Sunnyside Farm  
(Alternate)

## Active Advisory Members

- **Don McNutt**  
Lancaster Co. Conservation District
- **Mark Kimmel**  
York Co. Conservation District
- **Chuck Wertz**  
Lebanon Co. Conservation District
- **Daniel R. Hess, CPA**  
PFM Group
- **Corinne Rebinski, CPA**  
Brown, Schultz, Sheridan & Fritz
- **Stephanie Williams**  
Cumberland County Planning Comm.

\*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.



## Project Impact Testimonials

*"Working with Capital RC&D to help facilitate the Grass Roots program has given me, as a District employee, another avenue to work with an expanded sector of the agricultural community with which I may not otherwise interact. It has been rewarding to work with producers to implement best management practices that improve their grazing operations and align with the Conservation District's mission statement."*

-Kristen Kitchen  
Cumberland County Conservation District



*"The Fulton Center for Sustainable Living looks forward to continuing the good work that started with Closing the Food Gap and continues with the South Central PA Food System Alliance. We are pleased to partner with Capital RC&D and others as we identify, explore and address sustainable solutions to enhance the quality of life for all in our region."*

-Christine Mayer, M.Ed  
Fulton Center for Sustainable Living  
at Wilson College

*"The support offered by RC&D for our high tunnels has helped us to move forward as we meet new challenges with our long term production of raspberries. Communication of best practices make it possible to meet the continuous changes facing growers."*

-Dan Burkholder  
Burkholders Ever-Green Farm, Inc.

*"Capital RC&D's support of the PA No-Till Alliance is essential in the Alliance's mission to support and educate farmers in the use of no-till farming practices. This support and education helps Pennsylvania's farmers, not only to become more efficient and profitable, but also, by being good stewards of the land, to aid in the efforts to clean up the Chesapeake Bay."*

-Dave McLaughlin  
Vice President, Pennsylvania No-Till Alliance

## RC&D Councils in Pennsylvania

Capital: (717) 241-4361

Community Partnerships: (717) 248-4901

Endless Mountains: (570) 265-2717

Headwaters: (814) 503-8654

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](http://www.parc.org)

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