



Capital RC&D



Supporting Pennsylvania's Heartland!

2013 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



As I prepare to step off the board of the Capital RC&D Council following nine years of representation for the County of Adams, I am struck by the changes that have occurred and the progress that has been made by this organization over the years. And in particular, I am honored by the dedication of the staff and volunteers who strive to meet the mission of Capital RC&D “to promote responsible use and conservation of our region’s natural, community and economic resources.” This objective is very recognizable in the work our organization does each and every day.

Our “Park the Plow” project has been a very good example of the conservation of our region’s natural resources, the project assisted farmers in transitioning over 8,000 acres of land to no-till practices that prevent soil erosion while improving the condition of the Chesapeake Bay.

Our “Grass Roots” project is another good example of natural resource conservation, offering grazing technical assistance to landowners for the improvement of soil health and pasture resilience. This project is in its fourth

year targeting expanded use of rotational grazing and will continue into the future.

Capital RC&D also continues to offer oversight for a number of technical positions that provide assistance to landowners enrolled in various conservation programs. These conservation programs are making a difference by supporting wildlife habitat, providing riparian buffers for water quality improvement and helping to manage the application of nutrients to farmlands.

We have also been involved in supporting several new projects including an innovative youth employment training program this year. The LEAF Project has provided leadership and job skills related to building a healthy local food system. Knowing that an introduction to the importance of our environment and our local food system begins with awareness early in a child’s life, we have sponsored Sweet Meriam’s Farm Preschool Program, which offers an experiential learning curriculum incorporating various aspects of nutrition and agriculture.

With an eye toward keeping a focus on the importance of the local food system, we will soon embark on a new marketing message strategy to communicate with the public about the important environmental conservation stewardship efforts undertaken by our local farms.

I invite you to review the annual report that highlights the important work your Capital RC&D has accomplished in 2013, and I wish much success to the new Council Chair Pat Devlin, as she takes over the leadership of the Council in 2014.

As always in your service,

Bicky Redman, Chair

Office Information

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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 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 changes 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. In Pennsylvania, nine Councils serve their regions and collaborate as members of the Pennsylvania RC&D Council.
- 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.

"Collaboration and idea-sharing are strong benefits provided by the network of nine RC&D Councils across Pennsylvania. Each Council is strengthened by this coordination of resources."

-Sam Price, Executive Director

Community Partnership Resource Conservation and Development Council

Capital RC&D Project Highlights

Park the Plow for Profit III

2013 was the final year for the multi-year Park the Plow for Profit program that coordinated resources from various conservation agencies including the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA-DEP) and USDA NRCS. The program's goal was to help farmers transition from conventional tillage methods to no-till and organic no-till systems. Financial and technical support was directed through educational programs, no-till equipment cost share and peer-to-peer mentoring.

Project impacts during the final three years of the program include: cover cropping financial assistance impacting 11 farms and 163 acres and region-wide equipment cost-share assistance impacting 35 farms with over 4,955 acres transitioned to no-till production.

In 2007, 2010 and again in 2012 and 2013, Capital RC&D coordinated roadside tillage surveys to identify the long term trends for tillage in the region. This information is used to estimate the impacts of practices that reduce sedimentation and erosion in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and guide future program development. During the 2012/2013 survey alone, nearly 15,000 data points were collected across 26 counties within the watershed. The compiled data was provided to PA-DEP, county conservation districts and the national Conservation Technology Information Center.



Soil



Riparian Buffer Maintenance

Forested streamside (riparian) buffer areas help mitigate flooding and reduce runoff while providing habitat for wildlife. Restoration of forested riparian buffer areas requires significant maintenance and follow-up to achieve good survival rates. Capital RC&D, with funding support from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund, is working with landowners and private landscape contractors in Franklin and Cumberland Counties to improve tree survival in buffers installed under the federal Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). This two year program will assess the impact that professional maintenance can have on riparian buffer success.

As part of the program, Capital RC&D and project partners sponsored a buffer walk for enrolled landowners, landscapers and the community. This event allowed participants to visit an enrolled site, view a professionally maintained buffer, ask questions from qualified technical staff and learn about weed and pest management.

Maintenance will continue in 2014 and the tree survival rates of participants will be compared with a control group. Differences may indicate beneficial impact from use of professional maintenance.

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 21st Century Grazing
- No-till Alliance Support

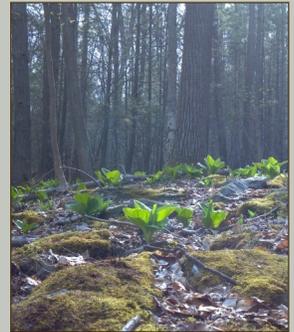
The Capital RC&D is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Sponsored Community Projects

Capital RC&D works closely with many community partners to promote the development of new projects throughout the region. In 2013, the Council fostered three new community projects: the Cumberland Conservation Collaborative, the LEAF Project and Sweet Meriam's Farm Preschool Program.

Cumberland Conservation Collaborative

The Cumberland Conservation Collaborative (CCC) is a partnership of community organizations and individual citizens working with a united voice to protect and promote the area's natural resources. Capital RC&D joins the effort by supporting CCC as its fiscal sponsor as well as assisting with strengthening collaborative partnerships and helping to coordinate outreach efforts. With the hiring of Administrative Coordinator, Jerry Wilkes, this year, the CCC is planning strategic initiatives to synergize and coordinate projects and activities.



Sweet Meriam's Farm Preschool Program

Regional studies indicate Central Pennsylvania's children are prone to the same childhood obesity challenges as in other parts of the nation. Quality nutrition education helps promote healthy eating habits and builds the capacity of families to support better lifestyle choices. Sweet Meriam's Farm Preschool Program is introducing preschoolers to garden based activities and curriculum. It also introduces children to the role farms play in community life and resource conservation. Capital RC&D is proud to help sponsor this initiative of healthy living and natural resource conservation which, in the future, may be opened up to older students as well.

LEAF Project – Leadership, Education and Farming

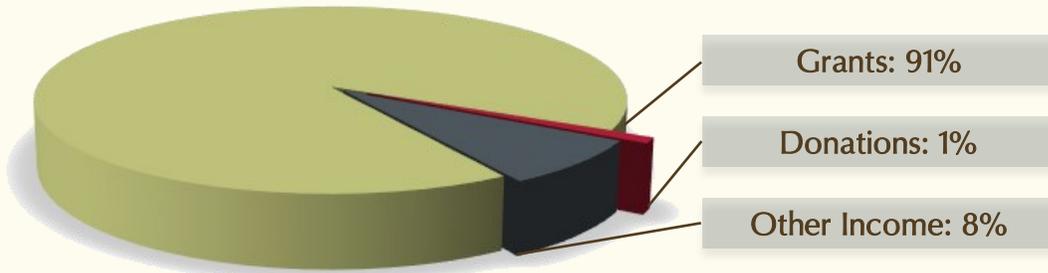
The LEAF Project brings together teens from a range of backgrounds to work on farms and learn about the region's food systems. The outcome is future leaders who understand the importance of agriculture, enterprise and service in their own communities. The Carlisle-based project is the first of its kind in a non-urban environment. With broad community support, LEAF teens worked on local farms, learning from local farmers and chefs and growing and gleaning fresh produce for area food banks.



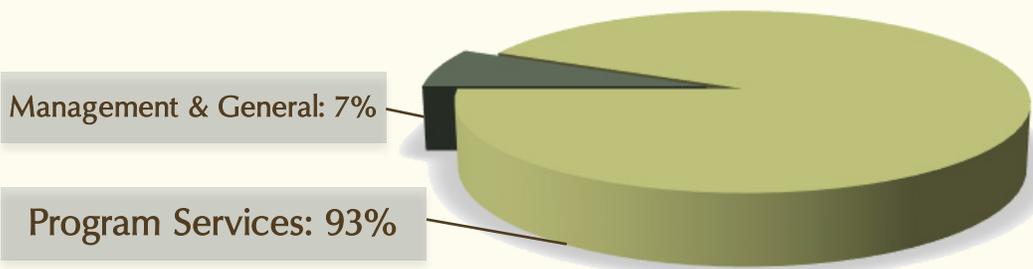
Community Development

Financial Statement

Income 2013 Total: \$1,069,429



Expenses 2013 Total: \$1,075,705



"Nearly 93 percent of Capital RC&D expenditures were spent on program activities during 2013. Efforts were made to keep administrative and fundraising costs to a minimum while ensuring effective management and oversight of all programs and providing time for diversifying sources of financial support."

-Pat Devlin, Capital RC&D
Treasurer

Expenditures by County

COUNTY	TOTAL
Adams	\$ 9,457
Cumberland	59,207
Dauphin	26,783
Franklin	41,618
Lancaster	59,035
Lebanon	190,939
York	80,182
Statewide	608,484
TOTAL	\$ 1,075,705



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.

2013 Board Members

Adams County

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

Dauphin County

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

- **Mike Hubler**
Dauphin Co. Conservation District
**RC&D Vice Chair*
(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**
Community Volunteer
(Member-at-Large)
- **Dick Shellenberger**
Community Volunteer
(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**
Community Volunteer
**RC&D Treasurer*
(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
- **Stephanie Williams**
Cumberland Co. Planning Commission

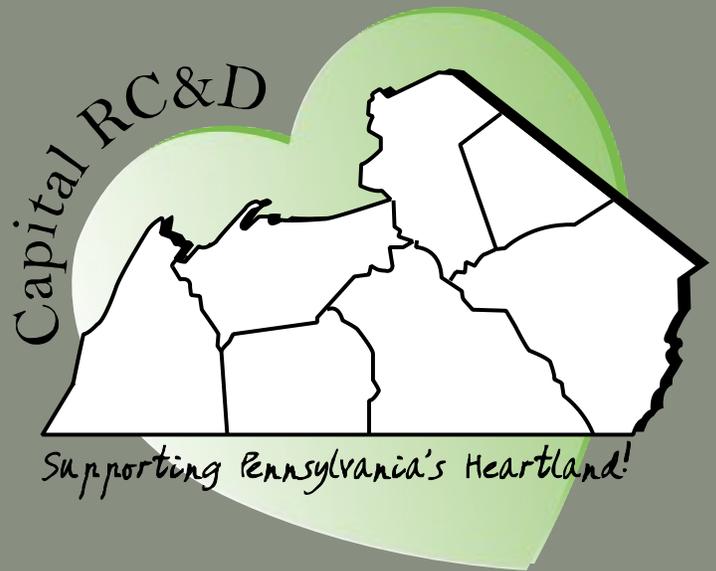
*NOTE: Council meetings take place bi-monthly on the third Friday, beginning in January, and are always open to the public. Please contact the council office for specific meeting information.



Project Impact Testimonials

"In our second year of owning the family dairy farm, the funding and expertise we received from Capital RC&D was vital to our operation as we expanded our pasture acres. We were able to put in a walkway, waterline and fencing which would have taken years to be able to finance on our own. Dry lanes, a good supply of water and more grass to graze is better for the health of the cows, the environment, and our bottom line."

-Matt & Amie Bomgardner
Blue Mt. View Farm



"In assuming the role of grant administrator and fiscal agent, Capital RC&D has permitted the creation of the Cumberland Conservation Collaborative. I applaud the vision of Capital RC&D in bringing structure to this collaborative of organizations and individuals working passionately to protect and conserve the environment for present and future generations."

-Rick Rovegno
President, Cumberland Conservation Collaborative &
Cumberland County Commissioner (1999-2011)

"Capital RC&D's work in completing our county tillage transect surveys not only provided useful data for Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay reporting but also set up this survey method as potentially providing valid, Bay Program-recognized data for other conservation practices. This was largely due to the quality training Capital RC&D provided to the staff involved and the data quality control measures RC&D included within the survey."

-Steven Wm. Taglang
PA Dept. of Environmental Protection

"Capital RC&D's support of the PA Grazinglands Coalition has helped us to further our mission of improving the management, productivity and health of privately owned grazing lands in the state. We were able to conduct field days and pasture walks focusing on effective rotational grazing systems for livestock farmers as well as to provide mentoring activities between our members and farmers just starting to graze their livestock. This has been invaluable to our organization, and we thank you for your partnership."

-Duane Hertzler; Treasurer, PA-Grasslands Conservation Landscape Initiative
& Susan Parry; State Grasslands Conservationist, USDA-NRCS

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*: (610) 892-9484

Southern Alleghenies*: (814) 472-2120

**Housed within the Conservation District Office*

For more information, please visit www.parc.org

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