



## What's Happening at Capital RC&D?

Previous editions of Capital RC&D's e-News highlighted creative solutions used by agencies, conservation districts, and non-profit organizations to integrate physical distancing guidelines and accomplish important work throughout the region. These systems continue to allow for small in-person meetings, on-farm visits, and as will be the case this September and October, pasture walks.

Capital RC&D staff and project partners are excited to host two in-person pasture walks as part of our ongoing Promoting Grazing and Cover Cropping by Developing Better Practice Information, Outreach and Cost-sharing project that is funded through a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed grant.

As with any meeting or event there will be changes to how registration, onsite access, and potentially even the availability of professional staff. Participants will notice changes like no openly accessible refreshments or access to covered gathering spaces but should otherwise experience a familiar educational event.



Two of the four participating farms will host pasture walks this fall with the remaining two tentatively scheduled for May 2021. Both fall 2020 pasture walks will detail infrastructure recommendations and challenges, cover crop mix options, integration into crop rotation, and livestock issues.

- Sept. 29, 2020, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Josh Ramsburg, Adams County
- Oct. 20, 2020, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Ben Peckman, Franklin County

Additional information such as farm specific detail and registration are available on the Capital RC&D events page: [www.capitalrcd.org/events.html](http://www.capitalrcd.org/events.html)



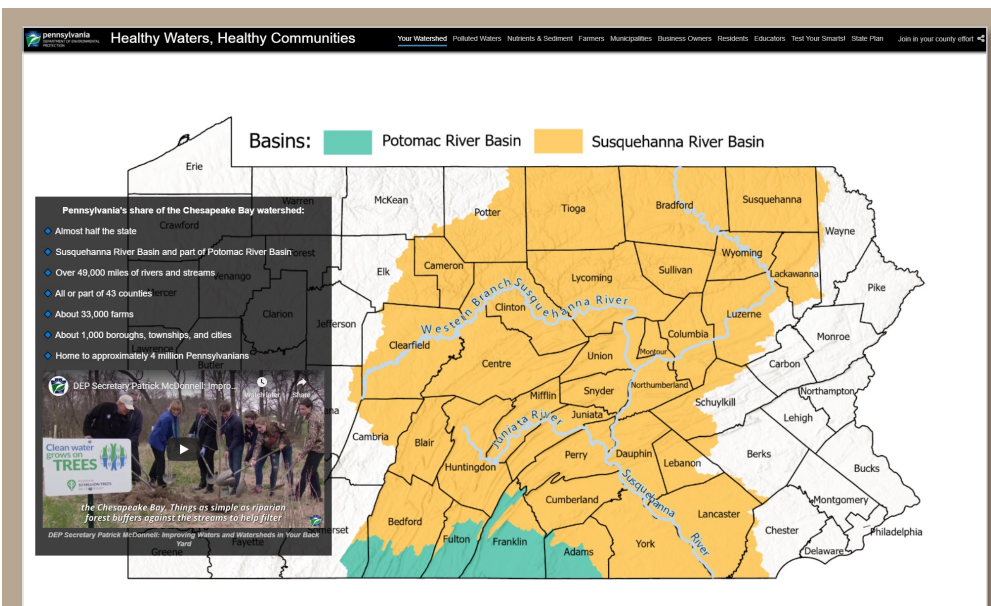
Two additional podcast episodes were released after the launch of the Capital RC&D Conservation podcast in June. The second episode features Kristen Wolf, Chesapeake Bay Program Coordinator with the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and in the third episode, Capital RC&D Project and Outreach Manager, Cheryl Burns, sat down with Katie Hess, Director of the South Mountain Partners joined for an in-person interview. All Capital RC&D Conservation Podcasts are accessible via [www.capitalrcd.org/conservationpodcast.html](http://www.capitalrcd.org/conservationpodcast.html), Blubrry.com, iTunes/Apple Podcast, and Spotify.

## Episode 2: Kristen Wolf, Chesapeake Bay Program, PA DEP

The success of the Chesapeake Bay Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) relies on the agencies, businesses, organizations, and individuals to identify and implement programs that put the state in a position to meet the goals established by the US Environmental Protection Agency. Kristen Wolf, DEP Chesapeake Bay Program Coordinator, uses her communications background to facilitate effective and

efficient communication between the many partners and agencies at the table. In early July, Cheryl Burns interviewed Kristen to learn more about her work, how the Phase 3 WIP differs from previous plans, and the role communities will play in plan development and implementation.

In addition to the Phase 3 WIP introduction provided in the podcast, PA DEP's Healthy Waters, Healthy Communities Storymap provides in-depth



The PA DEP Health Waters, Healthy Communities Storymap

information about the watershed and issues that need to be addressed. Healthy Waters, Health Communities also includes stories and video clips featuring farmers, educators, business owners, and volunteers, specifically showcasing projects that benefit our watershed.

To access the Healthy Waters, Healthy Communities Storymap, visit: [www.depgis.state.pa.us/chesapeakebaywatershed/index.html](http://www.depgis.state.pa.us/chesapeakebaywatershed/index.html)

In addition, for the most up-to-date information about the Phase 3 WIP, consider signing up to receive DEP's Chesapeake Bay Office publishes a newsletter detailing important information about the Phase 3 WIP, which is accessible here: [www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Water/Pennsylvania%E2%80%99s%20Chesapeake%20Bay%20Program%20Office/WIP3/Pages/Newsletter.aspx](http://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Water/Pennsylvania%E2%80%99s%20Chesapeake%20Bay%20Program%20Office/WIP3/Pages/Newsletter.aspx)

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### Episode 3: Katie Hess, Director, South Mountain Partnership

In 2004, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) launched the Conservation Landscape Program, which supports eight conservation landscapes including three within the Capital RC&D footprint; Susquehanna Riverlands, Kittatinny Ridge, and South Mountain. The South Mountain Partnership is a public-private partnership between DCNR and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy that collaborates with regional partners to secure a sustainable future for the South Mountain landscape. Cheryl Burns and Katie Hess, Director of the South Mountain Partnership sat down recently to talk about the landscapes, the partnership, ongoing programs, and a new initiative that will provide ongoing support for projects in the region.

The South Mountain Partnership announced a new collaboration with The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC) in late July and recently launched the Friends of South Mountain Partnership – a project of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities, fiscal sponsor, that allows for membership and tax deductible donations to further the cause of the partnership. Learn more about the Friends of South Mountain Partnership or to become a member visit: <https://southmountainpartnership.org/friends-of-south-mountain/memberships-and-donations>



## Upcoming Dates

- Aug. 28, 2020 ***Deadline to submit event info and updates for Capital RC&D's Sept. 2020 e-News***
- Sept. 10, 2020 Capital RC&D Council Meeting, Lancaster County Conservation District Office (TBD)
- Sept. 29, 2020 Pasture Walk: Josh Ramsburg, Littlestown, PA
- Oct. 20, 2020 Pasture Walk: Ben Peckman, St. Thomas, PA

*For additional details about these and other Capital RC&D and partner events, including postponements or modifications resulting from the impact of the Covid-19 virus, visit the Events page at [capitalrcd.org](http://capitalrcd.org).*