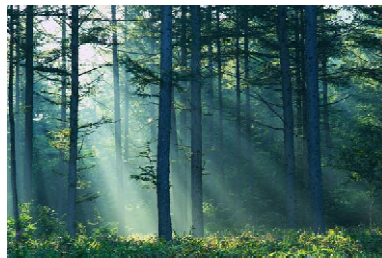


Pennsylvania Association of Resource Conservation & Development Councils

Making things happen in the Keystone State



2005

A Message from the President

As president of the Pennsylvania State Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils, it is my pleasure to introduce the annual report of our State Association and the nine RC&D Councils working together to make Pennsylvania a better place to live, work, and recreate. RC&D is a truly unique program, giving local people not just a voice to express their needs and problems, but also the ability to determine what the solutions and opportunities for improvement are, and even some of the resources needed to make them happen!

This past year was a successful one on several fronts. As you look over the featured projects and highlights of each RC&D Council, it should become apparent to you that RC&D is alive and well, serving the needs of local people all across our state. It is also noteworthy that nationally, the RC&D program has withstood a fifty percent budget cut in the President's proposed budget for the past two years. These proposed budgets sought to eliminate federal funding for all RC&D Areas that were twenty or more years old across the country last year, and would have required RC&D Coordinators to serve multiple RC&D Councils in this year's version, had those cuts been enacted.

Across the state of Pennsylvania and across the country as well, RC&D Councils and the people that we serve continue to send a message to Congress that gutting a successful program is not the answer to budget problems caused by the war on terrorism. As I write this, it appears that Congress has heard that message and will restore the RC&D funding to about what it has been for the past two years. Although we surely will have to continue to deal with the possibility of diminishing federal funding support in the future, at least this victory will allow us more time as we plan and learn how Councils can ensure their own ability to sustain themselves far into the future. I believe that the time is coming that all RC&D Councils will have to be largely self-sufficient to sustain their plan of work. The challenge will not be easily overcome, but the results of meeting that challenge will certainly solidify and enhance the ability of RC&D Councils to serve our stakeholders and carry out our mission successfully for many years to come.

In summary, I would like to personally thank the volunteer council members and staff of each RC&D Council, the citizens who took the time to get involved by writing or calling their congressional leaders, and the members of Congress who heeded the message, and supported funding for the RC&D program. I look forward to continuing to work with you and our many partners to carry out a wide variety of successful RC&D projects in the future. Working together, we know that RC&D can and will make a difference in our communities. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,

Jack M. Preston, President

Vision of the Pennsylvania Association of RC&D Council

We will serve, support, and promote Resource Conservation and Development Councils by nurturing partnerships and by providing innovative and dynamic leadership. The result will be an excellent quality of life in Pennsylvania and a strengthened ability to be responsible for the environment.

2005 Officers:

President – Jack M. Preston (Penn Soil RC&D)
Vice President - Dick M. Rice (Southern Alleghenies RC&D)
Secretary - Ron K. Beam (Capital RC&D)
Treasurer - Paul R. Snell, Jr. (Southeastern RC&D)
Member at Large - Robert Hughes (Pocono Northeast RC&D)



Dick Rice, Paul Snell, Ron Beam
& Jack Preston

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Witten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Why RC &D ?

To understand the need for RC&D Councils, one must first grasp what the RC&D Program actually is. An acronym for Resource Conservation and Development, the RC&D Program helps local people care for natural resources and improve the quality of life in their communities by encouraging and improving the capability of volunteer, locally elected, and civic leaders to plan and carry out projects in their own areas. Councils undertake community driven actions that are strategically focused on regional resource conservation and economic viability. RC&D priorities are set by area residents to meet community and regional needs.

Just as Pennsylvania has a diversified landscape, so too are the concerns and needs of its people in the area of conservation, development, and management of their natural resources. The concerns, issues, and challenges of the coal fields of western Pennsylvania, are not the same as the agricultural lands of central Pennsylvania. To meet the needs of its many counties, Pennsylvania is divided into nine Resource Conservation & Development Councils, each unique in its structure and leadership that reflect its specific region.

Over the years, Councils have worked on many, many projects adapted to the individual needs of their areas. There are times that concerns and issues are so inclusive that they cover the entire state. Two current examples of these are issues such as water quality and fire protection in rural areas. These two issues are currently being addressed by the talents of the combined Pennsylvania Councils.

For the Pennsylvania Councils to continue their work, along with the 375 Councils which cover the United States, will require involvement, support, and dedication of individuals, organizations, and governmental agencies at all levels.



The Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Program

First authorized by the Food and Agriculture Act of 1962, P.L. 87-703, the RC&D Program received permanent authorization as part of the 2002 Farm Bill. Congress created this public/private partnership as a way of engaging local leaders to promote their local economy by leveraging limited federal dollars.

RC&D projects need to relate to at least one of the following areas: (1) Land Conservation; (2) Community Development; (3) Land Management; and (4) Water Management. In fact, most projects or programs that are brought before Councils will relate to one or more of these areas.

RC&D Councils in Pennsylvania are nonprofit, tax-exempt organizations that are designated 501(c)(3) by the Internal Revenue Service. This makes them eligible to secure grant funds from government grant programs, private foundations, and receive private individual donations, as allowed by their by-laws.

Become involved in an RC&D Council

Each of our Councils is composed of a group of local community members that are interested in enhancing and improving the communities and Council Area. Councils direct the RC&D Program at the local level through a comprehensive planning process, and then take an active role in demonstrating emerging activities and technologies through implementation. **Local Councils offer many opportunities for your involvement in helping to make things happen in your area of Pennsylvania.** They are constantly seeking private citizens, businesses, and organizations to become members, serve on committees, participate in planning projects, or just help with an activity.



www.parcld.org

**RESOURCE CONSERVATION and DEVELOPMENT AREAS
PENNSYLVANIA**



☆ RC & D Council Office

Pennsylvania RC&D Councils:

Capital RC&D
108-109 Church Hall, PSU-Hbg
777 West Harrisburg Pike
Middletown, PA 17057
717-948-6633

Community Partnerships RC&D
23 North Main Street
Lewistown, PA 17044
717-248-4901

Endless Mountains RC&D
RR#5, Box 5030
Towanda, PA 18848-9354
570-265-5288 Ext. 5

Headwaters RC&D
478 Jeffers Street
Building 3, Suite D
DuBois, PA 15801-2438
814-375-1372 Ext. 4

Penn's Corner RC&D
RR#12, Box 202C
Greensburg, PA 15601-9217
724-834-9063 Ext. 3

Penn Soil RC&D
265 Holiday Inn Road, Suite 3
Clarion, PA 16214
814-226-8160 Ext. 5

Pocono Northeast RC&D
1300 Old Plank Road
Mayfield, PA 18433
570-282-8732 Ext. 4

Southeastern PA RC&D
1000 East Walnut Street, Suite 704
Parkersburg, PA 18944
215-453-9527 Ext. 5

Southern Alleghenies RC&D
702 West Pitt Street, Suite 7
Bedford, PA 15522-8800
814-623-7900 Ext. 5

RC&D Councils in Pennsylvania have made great strides in 2005 to bring together both human and financial resources to be used towards viable solutions to address natural resource and community needs. Councils are now working together to not only address the local needs but also to develop and deliver programs statewide. That impact has been felt in local communities for over 40 years with active Councils in some areas of the state, and is just beginning to make a significant difference in our newest Council areas. This blending of experienced Councils with those just beginning the process gives the state real strength and endless possibilities.

RC&D is administered by the U.S.D.A. and is financially supported by NRCS with a Coordinator, part-time administrative assistant, office space, and a vehicle. Coordinators provide technical assistance to Councils in seeking funding and carrying out Council projects. With an outstanding group of Coordinators in Pennsylvania, we are better able to provide the technical assistance needed to respond to the Council leadership. We in NRCS appreciate the time and energy that Council members working as volunteers put into this program. The accomplishments so well documented in this report could not have happened without this outstanding partnership.

Gary P. Smith
USDA – NRCS RC&D Program Manager

2005 Statewide Projects

Consortium for Scientific Assistance to Watersheds (C-SAW)

Pennsylvanians are faced with significant environmental challenges in the 21st Century. To help prepare them to meet those challenges, the Consortium for Scientific Assistance to Watersheds (C-SAW) has, over the past four and a half years, developed and implemented a successful capacity-building model that provides watershed groups the necessary programmatic and technical assistance to effectively address local water-quality concerns across the state. The willingness of private citizens to take action to protect and restore local streams, as evidenced by the many groups looking to the C-SAW program for support, is improving water quality and preserving streams throughout the Commonwealth.



C-SAW is guided and administered by Pennsylvania's Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Councils, with the help of a group of service providers that collaborate with watershed organizations and municipalities to enhance the group's programmatic and technical skills to successfully monitor, protect, and restore Pennsylvania's waterways for the long term. The following are members of the consortium: The Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring (ALLARM), Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN), Pennsylvania Lake Management Society (PALMS), Stroud Water Research Center, Inc. (Stroud), USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the United States Geological Survey (USGS), and the Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (WPCAMR). C-SAW's multi-disciplinary team offers three levels of technical assistance, each customized to meet the group's specific, and changing needs: (1) watershed-specific (short-term) technical assistance; (2) mentoring (long-term) assistance; and (3) quality assurance/quality control assistance.

PA Rural Community Fire Protection Program

Each year thousands of dollars of damage is done to properties because of fire. Many rural areas do not have the adequate infrastructure for municipal water systems or pressurized fire hydrants. Having adequate sources of water year round for fire fighting is also a concern. Funded by the US Forest Service, this grant provides equipment and materials for the installation of 360 dry hydrants across the state.



Installing dry fire hydrants strategically throughout a community is one way of aiding fire companies in their efforts. A dry fire hydrant is a non-pressurized system that consists of a hydrant head where a fire truck can attach its hose to draw water, a piping system to a water source (lake, pond, river, stream, etc.), and a strainer placed within the water source at a sufficient depth for adequate water withdrawal.

Farmers, homeowners, and landowners benefit by having easily accessible water in case of fire emergencies. Dry hydrants may possibly lower insurance premiums.

Stream Signage



The Pennsylvania Stream Signage Program was a great success across the state, which came to a close in 2005. The program was a partnership between the RC&D Councils throughout the Commonwealth and the Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds & Rivers. The RC&Ds coordinated and partnered with PennDOT, municipalities, counties, watershed associations, and other organizations to install the stream signs at locations where roadways crossed the streams. The efforts of everyone were very well rewarded with signs placed at 4,088 stream crossings on more than 1,500 different roadways throughout 45 counties. There were 450 municipalities that participated with the program through coordination and installation of the signs. This project is a testament to the efforts of RC&D Councils.

Capital Area RC&D



Capital RC&D Area Council, Inc.

The **Capital RC&D Area** encompasses a seven-county (4,589 square mile) area in south-central Pennsylvania. As of the 2000 Census, close to 1.7 million residents inhabited the region. More than two-thirds of those residents live in townships and boroughs. The region's cities, on the other hand, have lost a quarter of their population since 1950. **Population centers** include Carlisle, Harrisburg, Chambersburg, Gettysburg, Lancaster, Lebanon, York, and other small towns dotting the countryside. One of the unique features of this area is the dichotomy caused by the urban/rural interface.

The Council's **Board of Directors** is comprised of three voting representatives from each county - a Conservation District designate, a County Commissioner representative, a member-at-large as well as an alternate. The member-at-large positions are selected from local planning and economic development agencies, Cooperative Extension offices, park and recreation interests, as well as business and industry within each county. Capital RC&D benefits from strong partnership support from those listed above; activities and projects are facilitated through proposals to county members and thoughtful consideration by the Board of Directors.

2005 Capital RC&D Projects and Activities:

- **Taste the Gifts of our Region** - A "guide" is being finalized that will highlight agritourism and cultural amenities for counties throughout the region, with a goal of supporting local businesses and providing regional tourism opportunities.
- **Park the Plow Program** - This project provides technical assistance and education to individual producers with a goal of promoting farmer transition to a "continuous no-till system." This agricultural BMP helps to maintain sediment and nutrients on land.
- **Time and the River, the Susquehanna** - Students from Harrisburg participated in this art and science education project, whose focus was the value of the Susquehanna River and its connection to the arts.

***Vision Statement:
Healthy Communities in Harmony with the Natural Environment***



Mission Statement:

The Capital Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area Council is a seven county nonprofit organization that networks people, resources and projects to promote responsible use and conservation of our region's natural, community, and economic resources.

Goals:

- *Promote Long Range Regional Planning*
- *Recognize Water Resources as a Critical Regional Issue*
- *Support Reduction, Reuse, and Recycling Initiatives*
- *Perpetuate the Conservation of Open Space, Farmlands and Natural Areas*
- *Enhance Agricultural Sustainability and Development*

For Information Contact:

Capital RC&D Council

108-109 Church Hall, Penn State Harrisburg
777 West Harrisburg Pike
Middletown, PA 17057
Phone: 717-948-6633
Fax: 717-948-6306
www.capitalrcd.org



Counties Served: Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon, and York



Community Partnerships RC&D

Community Partnerships RC&D Center

Community Partnerships RC&D continues to focus on improving the quality of life in central Pennsylvania in Juniata, Mifflin, Perry, Snyder, and Union Counties. After many meetings, much research, and several retreats, the council thoroughly revised and updated the five year strategic plan.

Imminent focuses in the plan include highlighting the assets in the area through asset-based development; refurbishing and opening the CP RC&D Center in downtown Lewistown; promoting community as one of thirteen partners in the Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts program; and grant administration and management.

Asset Based Development through the Arts

Community Partnerships RC&D is a partner in the Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts (PPA) program, administered by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. Through this program the RC&D re-grants state funds throughout the region. CP RC&D reached out to the community by holding twelve mini-grant workshops to educate local citizens on the availability of PPA funds and other grants available to the community.

After being reviewed by a panel of local citizens, nearly forty community improvement projects were funded. Projects included: community arts festivals, workshops highlighting local crafts, coffee houses, youth programs, cultural and diversity education, violence prevention, theater productions, library programs and arts collection expansion, artisan and crafters demonstrations, cooperatives, and more.



Lewistown Community Arts Festival

“Pride in Community; Partnerships in Action”

Geologic Mapping and Tour

Community Partnerships RC&D is in partnership with the Pennsylvania Geologic Survey to do detailed geologic mapping throughout the ridge and valley region in central Pennsylvania. During 2005, the first of fifty geologic quad sheets was completed. To highlight this accomplishment, the RC&D partnered with the Mifflin County Conservation District to sponsor a tour of the Lewistown Quadrangle area. A crowd of twenty people participated in the tour. However, a two full page color spread in the local newspaper allowed Community Partnerships RC&D to reach thousands.



Geologic Tour – Jack’s Mountain, Belleville, PA

Pennsylvania Association of RC&D’s Annual Meeting

Community Partnerships RC&D hosted the first ever multi-day Pennsylvania Association of RC&D’s meeting. About fifty council members, coordinators, legislators, and others enjoyed the festivities, which included: picnics, entertainment (Rock ‘n’ Roll!!! of course!), and a bus tour. The tour highlighted RC&D projects, local history, aesthetic appreciation, local asset based businesses, including the tour climax at Hall’s Ice Cream store.



KJ Wagner Rocks

Healthy Communities

Community Partnerships RC&D is working on a healthy communities initiative to promote wellness and involve citizens in downtown revitalization. The RC&D is partnering with several local health organizations to get people out walking, exercising, communicating, and enjoying the beauty of life.

Goals:

- Community Improvement
- Economic Enhancement
- Human and Natural Resource Sustainability
- Leadership Development

For Information Contact:

Community Partnership RC&D

23 North Main Street
Lewistown, PA 17044
Phone: 717-248-4901
<http://msrcd.cas.psu.edu>

Sustainable Agriculture

Community Partnerships RC&D is also supporting sustainable agriculture by administering Growing Greener grants for fourteen counties in the south-central Pennsylvania. These grants encourage the installation of rotational intensive grazing systems through the Project Grass Program.

Mission:

The mission of Community Partnerships RC&D is to address the long term needs of the community by promoting arts, culture, and asset-based/sustainable use of human and other natural resources.



Serving: Juniata, Mifflin, Perry, Snyder, and Union Counties

Endless Mountains RC&D



Pine Creek Watershed Rivers Conservation Plan

The Council has partnered with the Lycoming College Clean Water Institute, Lycoming County Planning Commission, Tioga County Conservation District, Tioga County Planning Commission, Potter County Conservation District, Potter County Planning Commission, Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy, Pine Creek Preservation Association, Pine Creek Council of Governments, and Pine Creek Headwaters Protection Group to develop the Pine Creek Watershed Rivers Conservation Plan. This project, funded by the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, focuses on the significant natural, recreational, and cultural resources of the watershed. The plan contains a list of recommended management options which are based upon existing data collected with public input. The plan was developed by the partners listed above and other residents of the watershed, some of which are business owners, municipal officials, and members of local community service organizations.

A major element required in development of the plan was public participation. Three public meetings were held throughout the watershed in May of 2003 to introduce the project. In addition to the meetings, approximately 12,000 questionnaires were sent to all the residents and property owners of the watershed asking specific questions about what they value in the watershed and what their concerns were. Additional questionnaires were available at other public outlets and local businesses to capture the values of visitors to the region. Much of 2004 consisted of analysis of questionnaire responses, collection of data available for the watershed, and writing up this information into sections (Cultural and Recreational Resources, Biological and Water Resources and Land Use

Resources) and combining it as a draft plan. In early 2005 an editor was hired to pull the components of the document together and put the final touches to formatting and content. Three more public meetings were held in July 2005 to present the draft document to the public for further input. Public comments were taken and revisions were made so a final document could be presented at three final public meetings held in October 2005. The final plan is now available online at: <http://www.npcweb.org/pinecreekfinal.html>

Since the plan has been completed, the steering committee held a one-day strategic planning session. This session reconfirmed the commitment of the members of the steering committee to remain intact and move to form a more structured organization to ensure the plan moves forward. So in March 2006 the steering committee formed the Pine Creek Watershed Council and has begun to work on implementing the plan. Since the partners of the steering committee completed the plan themselves, grant funds were left over from the planning phase, so DNCR has given the group permission to use the remaining funds to begin to implementation of two of the management options: development of a Pine Creek Watershed website and begin to collect oral histories of people who live, work, and recreate in the watershed.

The Pine Creek Watershed website will be structured around the various chapters of the plan. There will be links to websites of partners, local businesses, and other organizations in the watershed. The website will be a place for visitors to locate information about the watershed before they arrive.

The goal with the oral histories' component is to get a start on collecting oral histories from elder residents/contributors in preparation for a final product. There is a rich history that needs to be recorded such as tales of living, working, and recreating in the valley, accomplishments and lives of those working in the CCC Camps, and confirmation and accounts of the prisoner of war camp located in the watershed during WWI. These stories need to be recorded while we still can. Excerpts of these recordings will be available on the Pine Creek Watershed website by the end of 2006.

To date several exciting things have already happened as a result of this project. First, several groups have already begun to use the management options as a basis for local projects to be implemented. Second, one of the steering committee members has been appointed to a seat on a state advisory board providing recommendations to the Governor's Office for a tourism initiative involving the Pine Creek watershed called PA WILDS. In addition, an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement has been adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of twelve counties creating a PA

WILDS Planning Team. This Planning Team is utilizing many concepts from the Pine Creek Plan and has committed to working with the Pine Creek Council of Governments, made up of five municipalities (two additional municipalities have been invited to participate) in the lower part of the watershed. The COG has developed a Scope of Work to address seven critical issues identified in the Rivers Conservation Plan and by the COG as issues needing to be addressed to make PA WILDS a success for travelers and local residents. Another accomplishment resulting from this plan was the concurrence with many of the management options by the consultant for the PA WILDS Initiative. This would lead many to believe that these management options were driven by state politicians or agencies, but the plan and its management options truly are the product of local residents. The number one consideration along the way was the social carrying capacity of the local area and what was acceptable to maintain the rural way of life, and quality of life for residents and visitors.

"The Endless Mountains Resource Conservation and Development Council will lead a diverse group of stakeholders in the sound conservation and stewardship of the region's natural resources. The Council will promote the rural quality of life and its economic stability through organizational efforts, education of communities, technical expertise and sponsorship of projects."

CURRENT PROJECT:

Solar and Wind-Powered Water Pumping Systems for Rotational Grazing

EMRCD is working on a Solar and Wind-powered Watering System project in partnership with Pocono Northeast RC&D and Project Grass Northeast Chapter. The project is being funded by a grant awarded to Pocono Northeast RC&D through the PA Department of Environmental Protection's Energy Harvest Program. The project has funds available to install fifteen solar or wind-powered watering systems on farms located in the Project Grass Northeast Chapter service area interested in expanding grazing acreage. Eleven of the fifteen systems are being installed in the Endless Mountains RC&D region.

Endless Mountains RC&D has been contracted by Pocono Northeast RC&D by a fee for service agreement to complete the education and outreach opportunities for this grant. EMRCD worked with Four Winds Renewable Energy in holding a workshop for NRCS and Conservation District staff to demonstrate how the systems work and how they are installed, so they can provide energy saving options to farmers interested in using solar water pumps for their watering system. Endless Mountains RC&D hired an intern from Lycoming College to visit all fifteen farms, selected to participate in the project, to GPS watering system locations and complete soil testing on the expanded acreage to determine the soil quality and organic matter. The final component to this project is assisting Project Grass Northeast Chapter and the State Project Grass Steering Committee in planning and hosting the 5th Annual Statewide Project Grass Conference to be held at Penn College, Williamsport, PA on October 20-21, 2006.

For Information Contact:

Endless Mountains RC&D Council
RR#5, Box 5030-D
Towanda, PA 18848-9354
Phone: 570-265-5288 ext. 5



Counties Served:
Bradford,
Lycoming,
Susquehanna,
Sullivan, Tioga,
And Wyoming

Headwaters RC&D

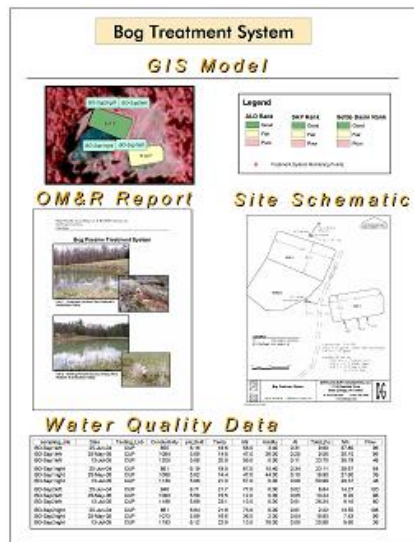


Provide the local leadership necessary to improve the economic, environmental, and social well-being of the people of Northcentral Pennsylvania

Watershed Improvement

Headwaters RC & D (HRC D) improved fisheries, recreational opportunities, and educational outreach through its watershed improvement activities. Encouraging and supporting watershed associations, treating acid/alkaline mine drainage (AMD), and sponsoring watershed workshops, HRC D continued its commitment to improving basic life quality to the area.

With the Tungungwant Watershed Association (TWA), HRC D has begun work stabilizing the stream bank near a municipal drinking supply for Lewis Run.



tool using

GIS that allow non-technicians to know when to call experts for assistance. The system uses a basic green-yellow-red indicator, based on assessment data, to flag prospective passive treatment systems before they fail.

Trails from Rails

Headwaters continued its strong support for trails throughout the region. Recently, the Snow Shoe Rails to Trails Association (SSRTA) organization was awarded a \$100,000 trail improvement grant that added to the \$800,000 previous secured to improve bridges, trails, and repair a rail tunnel.

NW Pennsylvania Grazing Conference

Continuing its long-standing commitment to grazing as an economical and ecologically beneficial alternative to feeding livestock, HRC D sponsors a regional conference that brings speakers and registrants from all parts of Pennsylvania.

Biomass Energy Feasibility Study

Working with Cameron County Conservation District, the North Central Regional Planning Commission, and PA Department of Economic and Community Development, HW has contracted with Millennium Power to study the feasibility of using area woody biomass to generate electricity.

Under a Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) grant, Mill Creek Coalition of Jefferson and Clarion Counties, with EADS consulting, developed a watershed-wide OM&R planning

The Future: Developing Projects

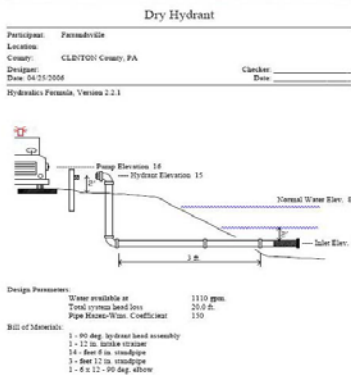
In recognition of changing priorities, HRCD has recently begun to reassess and refocus its efforts. Seeking to broaden its base and return to previous emphases on regional activities, HRCD has begun to extend its outreach and partner base.

No-Till

With a renewed interest locally and statewide in no-till and strip-till, HRCD has begun exploring how it can best serve the needs of its area without duplicating efforts of the Cooperative Extension System, conservation districts, and other governmental and non-profit organizations.

TWA-Boondocks

HRCD is developing a project that would couple TWA with Boondocks, a McKean County program providing juvenile offenders on probation a work-education program in the summer, with stream bank stabilization, stream assessment, and watershed education efforts. This particular program targets stream-related projects developed in conjunction with state, local and watershed association personnel. HRCD is also exploring the possibility of enhancing and promoting this program as a model for its area.



Statewide Grants

HRCD will continue to implement the Penn Soils' Dry Hydrant Grant to assist communities in establishing increased access to water for fire fighting.

For Information Contact:

Headwaters RC&D Council

478 Jeffers Street
Building 3, Suite D
DuBois, PA 15801-2438
Phone: 814-375-1372 ext. 4
Info@HeadwatersPA.org

HeadwatersPA.org

(old website www.parc.org/headwaters.htm)

New partnerships

HRCD has begun to actively reconnect with old partners with whom it has lost contact to re-energizing regional networks of information and cooperation. It is also seeking to include previously missed partners who share goals and objectives. One example is the Quiet Creek Farm, an organic herb farm that also provides state-



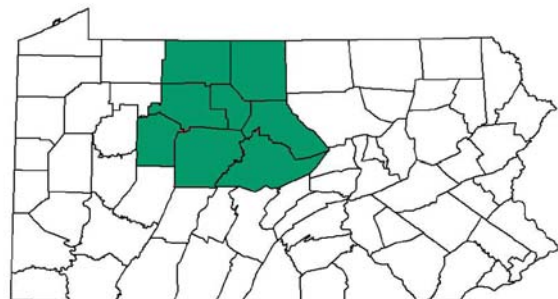
certified natural resource and sustainability education to K through 12 students in Jefferson County.

Community Planning Workshops

In anticipation of the changes expected from the relatively recent Pennsylvania Wilds designation for its area, HW began developing planning workshops targeting local individuals and agencies.

Headwaters Charitable Trust (HCT)

Founded by HRCD in 1987, HCT helps ensure that HRCD continues to do its important work. HCT owns or has rights to some of the Trails in the Headwaters area, as well as some lands that it acquired in order to maintain or rehabilitate for conservation purposes.



Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Jefferson, McKean, and Potter Counties

Penn's Corner RC&D



Solar Powered Livestock Watering Systems

Penn's Corner and the Southwest Project Grass Chapter received a Pennsylvania Energy Harvest grant in the amount of \$100,000 to install solar powered watering systems on grazing farms in the southwest Project Grass service area. Producers receive 75 percent cost share up to a maximum of \$6,300 per project. A total of fifteen projects will be funded.



Solar powered water pumps are a very promising technology that can reduce fuel consumption on livestock farms and make it cost effective and practical for livestock to harvest their own feed on pasture, and not rely on the grazer to feed them. Unlike grazing during the first half of this century, today's livestock grazers use intensive rotational systems that increase forage utilization while maintaining the regenerative capabilities

of their forages. They use much more fencing, both permanent and temporary, to maximize forage consumption by livestock on small paddocks. However, the most limiting factor to optimum use of this system is the availability of water. Since it is cost prohibitive to run water lines or electricity to the far reaches of most farms, it is necessary to find alternative ways to develop water supplies in these remote areas. The use of solar power has great potential in Pennsylvania to enhance our ongoing grazing management program.



Mission: To help people help themselves by providing environmental, economic, and social benefits to the region's communities and by developing productive working relationships to balance natural resource conservation and development.

Goals

- * *Reduce pollution*
- * *Improve land use*
- * *Assure economic viability*
- * *Improve resource development*
- * *Protect wildlife*
- * *Advance environmental education*
- * *Nurture cultural growth*

Recent Projects:

Grassland Evaluation Contest

In May 2005 Penn's Corner and Project Grass held their 3rd annual statewide Grassland Evaluation Contest in State College, PA. The contest is open to high school age 4-H and FFA students. The goal is to educate youth on the value and benefits of grazing and to offer college scholarships to members of the highest scoring teams. The first place team for the third year in a row was Cambria County 4-H. The second place team was Clinton County 4-H. The highest scoring individual was Mathew Veneskey from Cambria County. Mathew enrolled in Cornell University in the fall of 2005. A total of \$3500 was awarded in college scholarships funds

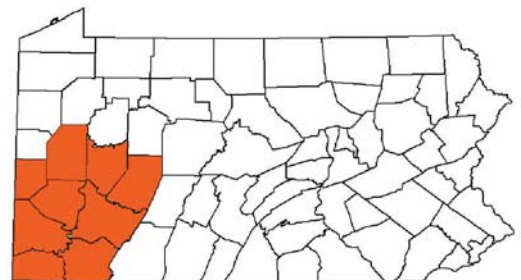


Southwest PA Tillage Conference

In January 2005 Penn's Corner RC&D helped sponsor the 2nd annual Southwest Tillage Conference in Greensburg, PA. It was a great success with approximately 110 participants. The theme was "How to Increase Yields, Reduce Costs, and Save Time This Spring." The two keynote speakers were Tony Vyn, a Soil Scientist at Purdue University and Ed Quigley, a Huntingdon County dairy farmer. The planning committee is currently planning the program for the 2007 conference.

Mine Drainage Remediation Projects

Penn's Corner has received \$383,203.00 in Office of Surface Mining funds to complete three mine drainage projects – 1) Brinkerton (Westmoreland County), 2) Wilson Run (Westmoreland County), and 3) Cessna Run (Indiana County).



For Information Contact:

Penn's Corner RC&D Council

214 Donohoe Road, Suite C
Greensburg, PA 15601-921
Phone: 724-834-9063 ext. 3
Fax: 724-832-9721

Counties Served:

***Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Greene,
Indiana, Fayette, Washington, and
Westmoreland***



Penn Soil RC&D

**Make \$omething
More From Your Milk**

Penn Soil RC&D Initiates Statewide Value-Added Dairy RC&D Project

The Penn Soil Resource Conservation and Development Council introduced the concept of a statewide value added dairy processing project at the PA State Association's annual meeting in August, 2004 and has since been making steady progress since. This three phase project is intended to assist PA dairy farmers become aware of the economic potential of shifting their operations from producing milk for a wholesale commodity market to becoming more involved in adding value to their milk at the farm and becoming more involved in direct marketing to the consumers of dairy products.

Dairy farmers are always interested in receiving better prices for the milk that they produce, but they usually have to settle for whatever price is being paid for the blend milk price according to the federal milk marketing order. Farmers who "add value" to their milk have found that consumers are willing to pay a premium for locally produced farmstead products, including cheese, yogurt, butter, ice cream, and farm-bottled milk. By comparison, the value of 100 pounds of milk shipped as a wholesale commodity could be worth about \$15, while the same milk converted to a value added product such as farmstead cheese or ice cream could be worth as much as \$150-200.

The three phases of the project are considered to be: 1. Create awareness of the economic potential of value added dairy processing. 2. Assist PA farmers in determining the feasibility for their own operation to create interest in pursuing value-added dairy opportunities. 3. Develop technical and financial resources to assist interested farmers to make the transition to expand their business into value-added dairy markets.

The project began with an eight module detailed educational program called **MAKE SOMETHING MORE FROM YOUR MILK**. This workshop was a cooperative effort between Penn Soil RC&D and the PA Association for Sustainable Agriculture (PASA) held in conjunction with PASA's annual Farming for the Future Conference. Over 100 people attended the workshop which included an overview of sanitation regulations, labeling and processing logistics, developing a brand, and the elements of a good business plan. In the afternoon, six concurrent sessions gave participants an opportunity to delve more deeply into specific value-added products. These sessions were led by farmers who have already successfully entered the value-added business producing bottled milk, raw milk, ice cream, yogurt, and cheese. Another module concerning raw milk was also developed to add to the series

The **MAKE SOMETHING MORE FROM YOUR MILK** educational video series is designed to help those interested in learning more about value added dairy processing. The video series provides detailed information related to production and marketing of value added dairy products as presented by both educators assisting farmers and farmers who are successfully producing and marketing their own farm produced retail products including raw milk, cheese, yogurt, bottled milk, and ice cream. This program will be particularly useful in assisting producers in evaluating their potential to develop or expand a value added dairy processing enterprise of their own.

The entire program was videotaped thanks to financial commitments from Penn Soil RC&D, PDA, PA DEP, and Northwest Project Grass, and it has been compiled into finished educational video units which will be utilized for educational programming across the state. The nine modules are available for sale as individual units or as a complete set.

Other Completed Projects

Allegheny Wild & Scenic River Complex



This project improved access by recreational boaters and fishermen to the Allegheny River in Forest County. Penn Soil RC&D worked on behalf of the Hunting & Fishing Museum of Pennsylvania to secure a \$20,000 grant from the U.S. Forest Service to make improvements to an existing boat launch ramp and an adjacent parking area.

Tionesta Visitors Center



Penn Soil RC&D worked on behalf of Tionesta Borough to secure three separate grants totaling \$35,000 from the U.S. Forest Service to assist the Borough in renovating a converted gas station for a visitor center. The project included replacing inefficient large plate glass windows and doors with new more energy efficient glass, making the entrance handicapped accessible, and constructing a portico to improve the overall appearance of the center.

NWPG Solar Energy Pumps



Penn Soil RC&D partnered with Northwest PA Project Grass and PA DEP to receive a \$55,000 Energy Harvest Grant to assist ten farmers in expanding their managed grazing systems by installing solar powered water pumping systems to promote better distribution of grazing for livestock.

The mission of Penn Soil RC&D is to provide the local leadership necessary to develop and implement a plan that will improve the economy, environmental and social well-being of the people through accelerated planning and development of the natural resources in the project area consisting of Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, and Warren Counties.

Council Goals

- * Protect the quality and quantity of our water resources
- * Improve the overall condition of our local communities
- * Revitalize community and recreational facility needs
- * Control erosion and sedimentation
- * Install Best Management Practices to reduce pollution
- * Develop and implement new and expanded projects for forest based resources that improve economic benefits



Counties Served:

Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest,
Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, and Warren

For Information Contact:

Penn Soil RC&D Council

265 Holiday Inn Road, Suite 3

Clarion, PA 16214

Phone: 814-226-8160 ext. 5

Fax: 814-226-4521

website: www.pennsoilrcd.org



Energy Production, Pathogen Control, and Odor Reduction from Livestock Waste

Also known as the Zimmerman Project, this project is focused on the construction of an anaerobic digester which will collect and convert biogas into electrical energy. It is intended to show that anaerobic digestion of livestock waste is a feasible means of producing a renewable energy source.

Anaerobic digestion is the process by which organic waste materials, such as manures, are decomposed in an oxygen-free environment to produce heat, biogas, and other organic materials. The biogas that is produced in this process is approximately 55-70% methane, which can be captured and burned to produce additional heat, or the energy can be converted to electricity through the use of a generator.

Anaerobic digestion systems can provide numerous benefits which include reduction in the amount of greenhouse gas emissions, utilization of a waste product, improved nutrient management, and reduction of offensive odors. Anaerobic digesters can benefit the economy and can provide incentives for farmers to install and operate systems as a source of bioenergy.

This project is being installed on an existing beef and poultry operation where there are 1,000 head of beef and approximately 90,000 broiler chickens. The digesters will be fed a mixture of the beef and poultry manure. The manure mixture will be blended, preheated, and sent through a thermal processor system. The thermal processing is designed to kill all pathogens that might be present within the manure. The manure will then be cooled and conveyed into the digester tanks where it will be contained for a period of time to produce methane. The methane will be collected and converted in a diesel engine/generator into electrical energy that will be used on farm. Any excess generated could be sold back to the grid as “green energy.”



Mission Statement

To enhance and improve the ecological, cultural, and economic characteristics of the Pocono Northeast RC&D area through projects and programs that promote the management, protection, and sustainable utilization of the area's resources.

Current Projects

Manufactured Soils for Reclamation and Watershed Enhancement

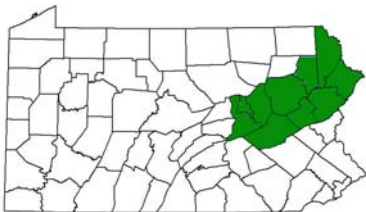
This grant was received from the Philadelphia Water Department to evaluate the option of blending biosolids with other materials to produce an environmentally friendly and beneficial soil amendment. This soil amendment then could be applied to nutrient deficient soils such as mine land or other disturbed soils to provide nutrients for good vegetative growth to reduce soil erosion and metal leaching.

Stormwater Management and Education Initiative

This project was developed to assist municipalities and local communities with stormwater education and management. The RC&D Council developed a questionnaire that was provided to all 347 municipalities within the Council area to gather information and feedback on stormwater. As a result of the survey a handbook was developed covering stormwater management that will be provided to all of the municipalities.

Solar and Wind-Powered Water Pumping Systems for Rotational Grazing

Partnering with both Project GRASS Northeast and Endless Mountains RC&D Council, PNERCD received a DEP Energy Harvest Grant to fund the installation of fifteen solar or wind-powered water pumping systems to improve rotational grazing practices throughout the Project GRASS Northeast and RC&D Council Areas.



Counties Served:

Carbon, Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Montour, Northumberland, Pike, Schuylkill, and Wayne

Goals

- ◆ **Land & Water Conservation**
- ◆ **Resource & Energy Development**
- ◆ **Community Resource Development**
- ◆ **Nonprofit Organization & Management**



For Information Contact:

Pocono Northeast RC& D Council

1300 Old Plank Road
Mayfield, PA 18433
Phone: 570-282-8732 ext. 4
Fax: 570-281-5379

website: pnercd.org

Southern Alleghenies RC&D

Southern Alleghenies Regional Bioenergy Initiative



A proposal of the Southern Alleghenies Conservancy and the Southern Alleghenies Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council

Regional Bioenergy Initiative

The Southern Alleghenies Regional Bioenergy Initiative is a project to evaluate the feasibility and to prepare a plan for the development of a sustainable bioenergy production facility, utilizing the best available technologies, for the efficient conversion of locally produced biomass and surplus animal manure into energy and marketable by-products. Planning for the bioenergy production facility will include detailed assessments of regional soil fertility needs and preparation of a crop yield improvement strategy focusing on utilization of organic sources of nutrients rather than on petroleum-based fertilizers.

This project will also support Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy with the development of a viable alternative for nutrient transfer, within the Southern Alleghenies Region, from areas of excess concentration to areas in need of additional nutrients such as reclaimed strip mine lands and low-fertility pasture and crop land. The project was officially adopted as an area-wide RC&D project in July, 2005.

Expected Project Benefits:

- Demonstrate renewable energy technologies
- Provide a low-cost alternative for coal-fired power plants to reduce air emissions through co-combustion with biomass
- Improve local economies and farm income
- Create of new jobs and economic development opportunities
- Improve soil fertility and productive capacity
- Assess of low-grade forest resources and improve utilization of forest residues
- Establish local biofuels growers associations
- Assess potential co-location of biofuels and anaerobic manure digester facilities to supply green power to produce green power

This facility will utilize locally produced biomass as the primary feedstock for the production of renewable energy. In addition to the feasibility determination, this study will also evaluate existing and emerging renewable energy technologies and provide recommendations to the project sponsors for implementation based, in part, on economic and long-term sustainability considerations.

Southern Alleghenies RC&D Mission:

To improve the quality of life and preserve the heritage of Pennsylvania's citizens and future generations by: conserving land containing significant natural, cultural and recreational resources; restoring and enhancing resources; and assisting public and private organizations with conservation projects.

Southern Alleghenies RC&D Goals:

1. Maintain and improve water quality and quantity throughout the Southern Alleghenies.
2. Manage and promote the cultural and natural resources of the Southern Alleghenies to provide for present and future needs.
3. To attain a positive and orderly management of our natural resources in concert with appropriate land use planning.



CURRENT PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS:

Penn England Farms Anaerobic Digester (Blair County)

The Southern Alleghenies RC&D and Conservancy, Blair County Conservation District, USDA Rural Development, Pennsylvania DEP and Penn England Farms all assisted in the development of the first methane digester in the Southern Alleghenies region. A feasibility study was completed in 2004 for the digester, which will have the capacity to handle all of the manure for 1200 dairy cows and will power a 150 KWH electric generator to supply most of the farm's electricity needs. Project sponsors were awarded a \$203,725 grant from the US Department of Agriculture and a \$255,000 grant from the DEP Energy Harvest Grant program. When the digester goes on line in the summer of 2006, it will be the largest on-farm digester in the region.

Riparian Invasive Plant Initiatives (Area Wide)

The Southern Alleghenies RC&D Council, Natural Biodiversity, Inc., and the Juniata Clean Water Partnership have collaborated on a regional initiative to develop a watershed-based action plan for the control and prevention of invasive species in the Raystown Branch of the Juniata River in south-central Pennsylvania. Within the plan, problem species and target areas will be identified and management strategies will be recommended. When the plan is completed, a ten-year implementation phase is anticipated which will involve both landowners and partnering agencies and organizations. Project sponsors submitted a request for \$98,000 in funding through the USDA Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative to conduct the project.

Fulton County Medical Center Innovative Stormwater Management Project (Fulton County)

The Fulton County Conservation District, Fulton County Medical Center, and McConnellsburg Borough are developing an innovative stormwater management demonstration project intended to improve water quality and ground water recharge through the use of porous asphalt pavement with subsurface storage/infiltration beds, landscaped bio-retention areas, and other innovative practices. Roof runoff will also be managed with similar practices. Conservation District staff assisted the engineering and design team with compliance and permit assistance, project planning, and grant writing.

For Information Contact:

Southern Alleghenies RC&D Council

702 West Pitt Street, Suite 7
Bedford, PA 15522-8800
Phone: 814-623-7900 ext. 5



Website: saconservancy.org

Counties Served: Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fulton, Huntingdon, and Somerset

Southeastern PA RC&D



Partnerships. That word best describes why the Southeastern PA RC&D Council was successful in 2005. The SEPA RC&D Council partnered with almost ninety different organizations and agencies on environmentally and community-beneficial projects.

Add in more than thirty sponsors who supported the Council financially and one can understand why SEPA RC&D was successful and why it was able to make things happen in the region.

By not competing with other nonprofit organizations and community groups, but instead by working with them in **partnership**, the Council has been able to enhance the region's natural and community resources. Each time the Council completes a project, it's reputation continues to grow as a responsible and competent organization. The Council prides itself on staying focused and operating in a fiscally responsible manner. Thanks to **partnerships**, the Southeastern PA RC&D Council has been able to work with new clientele, locate new funding sources, and participate in new opportunities to serve the region.

The Council is comprised of one part-time employee and a fifteen member Board of local volunteers. While they receive technical assistance for projects from an employee of the USDA- Natural Resources Conservation Service, this small group of people must rely on **partnerships** to fund and complete the projects.

SEPA RC&D is proud of its accomplishments and looks forward to continued success in serving the region by, of course, utilizing **partnerships!**



Leaders of the Southeastern PA RC&D

Vision Statement:
*An organization that others value for our ability
to effectively bring people and organizations together to get things done.*

Project Highlights:

Marketing Fundamentals: 5 Steps to Success for nonprofit organizations and municipalities. Attendees learned the seven important P's of creating a successful marketing campaign.

Highway Stream Signage Program which resulted in over 1,000 stream identification signs being installed at bridge crossings in the region.

Leadership Development, a workshop for RC&D Councils in Pennsylvania. It provided training and guidance on the roles and responsibilities of individuals serving on Boards of Directors.

Dry Fire Hydrant Program. Through this project local fire companies and municipalities are installing specialized piping systems to allow fire fighters to safely fill water tanks from ponds or streams.

Conservation Services and Products Directory. This guide will provide homeowners, developers, municipal officials, and others with a listing of plant material sources, erosion control products, consultants, engineers, and key governmental offices.



Southeastern PA RC&D Council Chair, Karen Holm signing another grant agreement



A delicious culinary student project



Serving: Berks, Buck, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Montgomery, and Northampton Counties

Mission Statement:

To improve the quality of life for people in the region by promoting programs that conserve and enhance the area's natural and community resources.



SEPA RC&D supported county Envirothon

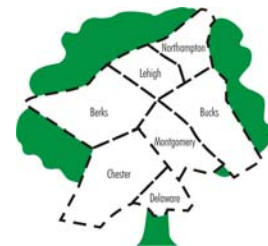
Council Goals

Goal I - Land Conservation: Encourage sustainability of land resources

Goal II - Water Resources: Promote sound management of surface and groundwater

Goal III- Community Enhancement: Support efforts to preserve the quality of life in the region

Goal IV - Administration: Operate in an efficient, effective and accountable manner



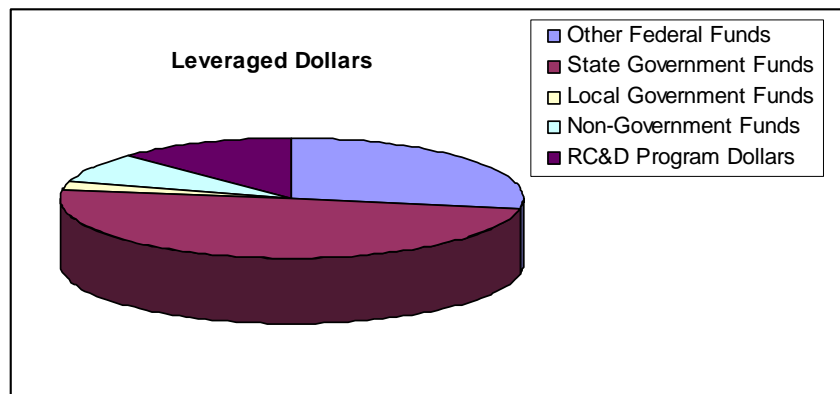
For Information Contact:
Southeastern PA RC&D Council
1000 East Walnut Street, Suite 704
Perkasie, PA 18944
Phone: 215-453-9527 ext.5
www.separcd.org



Pennsylvania Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils 2005 Accomplishments

Goal Areas	Totals
New Projects	126
Completed Projects	106
Other Federal Funds	\$2,540,546
State Government Funds	\$4,489,039
Local Government Funds	\$221,510
Non-Government Funds	\$732,410
Acres of Wildlife Habitat Improved	5,753
Acres of Waterbodies Improved	3,539
Miles of Streams Improved	197.8
Expanded Businesses	413
Businesses Financially Assisted	515
People Developed New Skills through Workshops/Trainings	12,889
Workshops and Training Sessions Held	361
Economic or Socially Disadvantaged People Served	838,084
Citizens Served	4,853,354

For every \$1 brought into PA through the NRCS RC&D Program another \$6.80 was leveraged from other funding sources.



Performance Goals	Totals
Agricultural Land Treated for which Wildlife Habitat is the Primary or Secondary Resource Concern-Acres	745
Watershed or Area-wide Conservation Plans Developed for Water or Air Quality-Acres	25,572
Watershed or Area-wide Conservation Plans Developed for Water or Air Quality- Number	1
Local Businesses Created in Rural Communities through RC&D Assistance-Number	14
Local Jobs Created in Rural Communities Through RC&D Assistance-Number	601