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2011 Annual Report

Serving the Counties of: Augusta, Clarke, Frederick, Page, Rockingham, Shenandoah, and Warren; and the Cities of Harrisonburg, Staunton, Waynesboro, and Winchester



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FISCAL YEAR 2010-11

IN REVIEW

- 8 projects started, 9 projects completed, 23 projects ongoing
- Livestock Exclusion (Flex Fencing) Project. For the second 3-year cycle, eligibility to participate was expanded to all 7 counties in the RC&D Area. Project supported by Chesapeake Bay Funders Network and Virginia Environmental Endowment. (Ongoing)
- Creating a Culture of Conservation from Farm-to-Table project launched in partnership with Virginia Cooperative Extension, Water Stewardship, Lexington/Rockbridge Grows, Shenandoah Valley Buy Fresh Buy Local, Shenandoah Valley Local Food and Farm Working Group, Washington and Lee University. Project supported by a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. (New)

Among the completed projects were: support for establishing the Waynesboro Farmers Market (3 years); Muddy Bike Urban Garden Project (3 years); Harrisonburg Farmers Market SNAP eligibility; Biological Control of Invasive species; Shenandoah RC&D Area Tour; and fiscal agent for T&E Meats.



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



This past fiscal year was both highly productive and brought new challenges for the Shenandoah RC&D Council. We continued to implement several significant, multi-year projects and expanded our efforts to promote access to healthy, locally grown food. A major hurdle that we continue to address is the loss of Federal funding that provided basic support for our Council since 2003. Specifically, the Council is no longer staffed by and co-located with the USDA as of April 15, 2011. We have temporarily contracted with Valley Conservation Council for administrative services, while we transition to becoming a fully independent, self-supporting organization over the next few years. Our sponsors and Council members remain committed to the work of the Council. Our priorities remain the same, including promoting sustainable agriculture, wise use of our natural resources, improvement of our water quality, and managed growth for the Shenandoah Valley.



THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS FOR IN-KIND AND DIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS

Agua Fund, Inc.
Chesapeake Bay Funders Network
Joan Comanor
John Eckman
Dee Hockman
Khimaira Webhosting
National Association of RC&D Councils
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Virginia Environmental Endowment
Virginia Department of Forestry

COMPLETED AND ONGOING PROJECTS



In this photo, Shelley Long, manager for the Woodstock farmers market is helping to distribute Buy Fresh Buy Local guides.

Farm to Table

The Shenandoah Valley RC&D Council is utilizing a grant from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation to promote a culture of conservation from farm to table. The grant involves numerous partners including Virginia Cooperative Extension, Water Stewardship, Inc and Lexington/Rockbridge Grows, among others. Water quality will be improved in the Valley and the Bay by highlighting farmers who have implemented best management practices and encouraging consumers to support these farmers by purchasing their goods.

Herd Health Video

This video is intended to describe for farmers the benefits to herd management and health from keeping their livestock out of streams. The information will be presented in practical terms and include statements from Valley farmers about their own experiences. The video will be available in Fall 2011. This project was funded by NRCS through the RC&D program.



Forestry Mulcher

Shenandoah Valley Agricultural Research and Extension Center and Shenandoah RC&D (as a sponsor) held a "Pines, Bio-mass and Land-clearing: Options for Producers to Consider" stop at McCormick Farm (Rockbridge County) in August. The highlight of the whole day for many participants was a demonstration - made possible through the financial support of the Shenandoah RC&D - by William Pepper of Woodland Renovation, Inc. of a Forestry Mulcher. This relatively new technology is a superior land-clearing method in terms of resource conservation and soil fertility.

High Tunnel for Sustainability Education, Local Foods Production and Outreach at Massanutten Regional Governor's School

Funding was provided for a school project to cover most of the costs to construct a high tunnel, also known as a hoop house, to demonstrate how food and specialty crops may be grown year-round in a controlled environment. The project will be used to document the utility of such structures in producing a sustainable supply of quality food, and demonstrate to local residents and institutions the value of this approach. Food produced will be used in the culinary arts program at Triplett Tech and at the Governor's School. Funding provided by Agua Fund.

Raised Garden Beds at Shenandoah County Alms House (Poor Farm)

Funding was provided to the Shenandoah Alliance for Shelter (SAS) to construct 5 raised garden beds and necessary gardening equipment and supplies for the homeless residents of the Shenandoah County Alms House. This project will provide an opportunity for homeless people to have access to fresh, local food; regain some sense of self-sufficiency; and improve their knowledge of good nutrition and healthy living. This project is carried out in partnership with Shenandoah Cooperative Extension, Master Gardeners, and SAS. Volunteers from Strasburg High School special needs students participated in getting the beds established. Funding provided by Agua Fund.



Raised garden beds at Alms House

BENEFITS of RC&D PROJECTS

- Businesses Retained - 7
- Businesses Expanded - 7
- Jobs Created - 3
- Jobs Retained - 1
- Citizens Served - 247,027
- Workshops, Events - 14
- Animal Agriculture operations assisted - 11

MISSION

The Shenandoah RC&D Council's mission is to sponsor and promote projects and programs that improve the quality of life and sustainable use of natural resources in the Shenandoah River Watershed, by providing volunteer leadership, technical assistance and financial resources.

OFFICERS

- Joan Comanor, Chairwoman
- Dave Frackleton, Vice-Chair
- Jim Boland, Secretary-Treasurer
- John Eckman, Immediate Past Chair



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Cash Received From:

Grants (Restricted):	\$ 341,575
Grants (Released):	\$ 107,920
Dues:	\$ 1,500
Interest:	\$ 1,202
Reimbursements:	\$ 1,500
Total:	\$ 332,444

Expenses in FY2011:

Projects:	\$ 315,935
Administration:	\$ 16,091
Total:	\$ 332,026

The finances of the Shenandoah RC&D Council were reviewed by Yancey, Miller, Helsley and Bowman, CPA's PLLC. Shenandoah RC&D Council is filing IRS Form 990 for 2011. The Shenandoah RC&D Council was designated by the USDA and received in FY2010-11 about \$110,575 in technical support through the Natural Resources Conservation Service until April 15, 2011. At that point, Federal funding for the program was eliminated.