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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CUMBERLAND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ANNOUNCE LAND PARTNERSHIPS GRANTS

Cumberland County, PA – The Cumberland County Board of Commissioners awarded \$141,200 in Land Partnerships Grants in December 2015. The award included \$131,200 in Act 13 Marcellus Shale Legacy funds and a \$10,000 anonymous donation to the Land Partnerships Program. Land Partnerships is a countywide strategy addressing agriculture preservation, natural resource protection and creation of parks, trails & greenways. The grant program provides financial assistance to municipalities and non-profit organizations to implement local projects which satisfy the goals of the Land Partnerships Plan.

The requests for grant funding totaled approximately \$296,000, with individual requests ranging from \$8,000- \$61,500. Grant applications were reviewed and ranked by a grant review committee which then presented their recommendations to the Board of Commissioners for awarding the grant monies. This year's Land Partnerships Grant awards included 3 non-profit organizations and 4 municipalities. Highlights of the grant awards are as follows:

- **Central Pennsylvania Conservancy** - \$37,000 for the acquisition of approximately 30 acres of land at the headwaters to the Letort Spring Run
- **Mechanicsburg Museum Association** - \$20,000 for the development of a new park facility - Frankenberger Gardens
- **Silver Spring Township** - \$20,000 for improvements to a Nature Preserve to include access road, parking, signage and trail development
- **Cumberland Valley Rails to Trails Council** - \$12,200 for improvements to Allen Road segment of CVRT to include trail surfacing
- **Mt. Holly Springs Borough** - \$15,000 for construction of a walking trail around the parameter of Butler Park
- **Shippensburg Township** - \$22,000 for construction of trailhead/restroom facilities at mile 0 in downtown Shippensburg

- **West Pennsboro Township** - \$15,000 for improvements to township park – restoration of basketball and tennis courts including new fence and upgrade to sewer to restrooms

“The grant program has been extremely successful in seeding conservation and recreation projects across the County. It is a competitive program and the total requests for grant funding exceeded grant funds available by more than double this year,” commented Stephanie Williams, Greenway & Open Space Coordinator.

For more information about the Land Partnerships Grant Program in Cumberland County or to make a donation, visit online at www.ccpa.net/landpartnerships, or contact Stephanie Williams, Cumberland County Planning Department, at 717-240-5383.

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