

### **Local Dirt & Gravel Road Improved within Snyder County**

In 2013, two Snyder County municipalities worked on two roads with technical and financial assistance from the Snyder County Conservation District (SCCD) and the PA Center for Dirt & Gravel Road Studies.

This year, Washington Township officials again were able to improve the final section of Shaffer Hill Road through funding from the Dirt & Gravel Roads Program. Best management practices (BMPs) installed on the road in 2011, 2012 and 2013 include cross pipes, ditch stabilization, rock lined outlets, seeding and mulching and the placement of driving surface aggregate (DSA). Over the three years, Washington Township received \$47,030.72 in cost share funds to complete the Shaffer Hill Road project.



*Above: A section of Shaffer Hill Road improved inside Washington Township during 2012.*

For the first time, Perry Township officials utilized funds from the Dirt & Gravel Roads Program to improve Hinkel Road in 2013. BMPs installed by the township include cross pipes, ditch stabilization, rock lined outlets, and the placement of driving surface aggregate (DSA). Perry Township received \$19,231.92 in cost share funds for the Hinkel Road improvements.



*Above: A section of Hinkel Road improved inside Perry Township during 2013.*

The Dirt & Gravel Roads program helps cost share road improvements by local municipal governments statewide. This program is sponsored through the [Center for Dirt & Gravel Road Studies](#) (at University Park, PA), the [PA State Conservation Commission](#) (SCC) and local conservation districts.

The Snyder County Conservation District (SCCD) has allocated over \$300,000 for twelve projects (totaling to a length of approximately 6 ½ miles of roads) to municipalities since 2000. Municipalities that have received funds include: Chapman Township, Center Township, Perry Township, Washington Township and West Beaver Township.

While municipalities and drivers appreciate the improved roads, local water quality is improved by reducing or eliminating road sediment from reaching nearby streams.

In order for a municipal government become eligible (or to remain eligible) for funds under the program, at least one municipal leader (such as a township supervisor) must attend a 2-day "Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance (ESM) of Dirt and Gravel Roads" course through the Center for Dirt & Gravel Road Studies. This must be done before an application can be accepted by the SCCD.

As of this time, these Snyder County townships have had at least one representative attend the ESM course: Adams, Beaver, Center, Chapman, Franklin, Jackson, Perry, Spring, Washington and West Beaver.

Contact [Craig Bingman](#), District Manager, for more information about the ESM course, application process, roads that may be eligible or the program in general. His phone number is 570-837-3000, extension 114.

Additional Website Link:

Center for Dirty & Gravel Road Studies: [www.dirtandgravel.psu.edu](http://www.dirtandgravel.psu.edu)

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