

Road Owning Entities Hear About Dirt & Gravel and Low Volume Road Program

The Snyder County Conservation District (SCCD) invited public road owning entities (e.g.: municipalities, county governments, government agencies) to an informational meeting to hear about grant program opportunities for eligible dirt & gravel and low volume trafficked roads. The session was held at the Shade Mountain Winery, 16140 Route 104, Middleburg and opened with a catered breakfast for almost forty (40) attendees.

The main speaker was Tim Hornberger, SCCD Resource Conservation Technician, who manages the county's Dirt, Gravel, Low Volume Road (DGLVR) program. He gave an overview of the program, as well as examples of county and nearby projects.



Left: Tim Hornberger, SCCD Resource Conservation Technician, (standing, blue shirt) explains how project applications are ranked. Right: Placement of Driving Surface Aggregate (DSA) with a paver from Mid-State Paving during the Shale Pit Road 2014 rehabilitation project in Spring Township.

Since the program's inception in 2000, SCCD has worked with six Snyder County municipalities in repairing and rehabilitating almost ten miles of dirt & gravel roads. Contracts totaled over \$760,000.00.

The Dirt & Gravel Roads program helps cost share road improvements made 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.

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.



Contact [Tim Hornberger](#), SCCD Resource Conservation Technician, for more information about the ESM course, application process, roads that may be eligible or the program in general. His phone numbers is 570-837-3000, extension 113.

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The SCCD's Quality Assurance Board (QAB) would like to remind all municipalities, agencies and other road owning entities the following information regarding the DGLVR program. The following has been added to our QAB policies and was adopted on January 5, 2016.

Ranking and Scoring: "Funding priority shall be given to those applicants that provide factual data to the QAB of a need to correct a site that possesses a potential or an ongoing pollution occurrence. The Snyder County Conservation District will accept applications up to September 1st for the following year's projects on a rolling basis. If there are any remaining funds, a second round of applications will be accepted up to March 1st. Higher ranking will be given to those applicants that exhibit severe stream impacts such as bank and ditch erosion, loss of road fines, outlet stability, distance to stream, road slope and shape, condition of cross pipes/culverts and saturation of area. Other priorities are given to in-kind contributions of labor, materials and/or equipment."

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Additional Website Link:
Center for Dirty & Gravel Road Studies: www.dirtandgravel.psu.edu

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