Dirt Gravel and Low Volume Road Program

WEBINAR 2/29/24 Starts 9am

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2024 Maintenance

estions? Discussion?

SCC Justin Challenger jchallenge@pa.gov

onnsylvania

DGLVR Program Update

<u>CDGRS</u>

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DGLVR Program Update

Purpose

Discussion and questions on future directions of DGLVR Program with Justin Challenger, new DGLVR Director.

SCC Structure

Listening Sessions

QAQCs

Workgroup and moving forward







Justin's Background

- Dauphin Conservation District, 2006-2014
 - E&S 102, Dirt and Gravel Roads, etc.
- State Conservation Commission (DGLVR), 2014-2022
 - Redevelop and implement QAQC process
 - Assist in implementation of entire DGLVR Program for SCC
- State Conservation Commission 2022 to present
 - Director, financial & technical assistance programs
 - Oversee ACAP, CEG, REAP, CDFAP, Agri-link, Contracting, Budget, District Operations, etc.
 - DGLVR duties added recently



Changes to SCC organization for 2025

- Creating new Division
 - Current Vacancy: Director of Farm Viability and Natural Resource Division
 - Will oversee CEG, REAP, Agri-link, Sustainable Ag, etc.
 - Develop and oversee PA Ag Conservation Stewardship (PACS)
 - Chesapeake Bay program liaison
- DGLVR
 - plans to add a management level position to oversee 2 DGLVR field staff





SCC Structure / Staffing Plan (DGLVR)

Doug Wolfgang, SCC Executive Secretary I Justin Challenger, Director Financial & Technical Assistance Programs





SCC Structure / Staffing Plan (DGLVR)

Doug Wolfgang, SCC Executive Secretary Justin Challenger, Director Financial & Technical Assistance **Programs NEW position, DGLVR Manager (not finalized yet) Two Conservation Program Specialists (currently Andy and Sherri)**

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Listening Session

- At the 2024 ACAP Ag Conservation Conference we received feedback that managers would like time at these conference for direct interaction with SCC management.
- Instead of waiting for 2025, we incorporated this idea into the 2024 DGLVR Workshop
- At 2024 DGLVR Workshop, Doug and Justin held a "listening session" for CDs all morning during class sessions.
- Some of the major points/highlights....



 The general theme throughout the morning session was Districts felt the program was becoming too administratively burdensome, and that more flexibility with program policy is needed



- Spending:
 - DGR funds and LVR Funds
 - Administration and Education



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 - Prevailing Wage, One Call
 - Reduce overall burden of policies on CD
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 - Stream Crossings, especially exemptions
- More CD input and involvement.

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QAQC Changes

- More Flexibility
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Moving Forward

• Will work on it this winter, some changes for 2025

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QAQCs

Workgroup and moving forward







- Advisory Workgroup
 - History
 - Current Workgroup
 - Current Tasks
 - Workgroup Future



- Advisory Workgroup
 - <u>History</u>
 - **1997-2013:** One Advisory Workgroup (1-2 members still around)
 - 2014: New Funding and LVR
 - <u>3 workgroups</u>
 - Policy and Planning
 - Education and Outreach
 - Low Volume Roads
 - ~2018: LVR group dissolved
 - ~2021: Policy and Education combined back into one workgroup



- Advisory Workgroup
 - Currently
 - One Advisory Workgroup
 - Meets "as needed", 1-2 times a year
 - Met 11/25 to discuss the workgroup and plan moving forward



District Members

- Dave Taylor Wyoming CD
- Erica Tomlinson Tioga CD
- Morgan Schuster Bucks CD
- Joe Quatrini Bradford CD
- Lindsay Trojanowski McKean CD

Partners

- Radosna Vesnic PSATS
- Scott Koser TU
- Brenda Shambaugh PACD
- Linda Mackey DEP
- Tom Welker PennDOT
- Ben Lorson Fish & Boat Commission

- Rob Cronauer Westmoreland CD
- Anna Itle Cambria CD
- Brooke Russick Indiana CD
- Lori Glace Juniata CD
- Shaun Wessel Jefferson CD



- Advisory Workgroup
 - Currently working DGLVR admin manual suggested revisions and recommendations to improve Workgroup.
 - Districts suggested they would like more involvement in writing program policy.
 - Plan for 2025 is for the workgroup members to create a <u>"district led" admin manual red line version</u>.
 - Suggested changes will be discussed at our next policy and planning meeting proposed for early 2025.



Advisory Workgroup

- If you would like to be apart of the "district led" admin manual revisions, please contact someone on the policy and planning committee.
- Additionally, the group will work on formalizing membership and duties of the committee

- Advisory Workgroup
 - Future of Workgroup
 - <u>This Winter</u>: Work on suggested Policy Updates
 - Long Term:
 - More involvement, more input
 - Evaluate membership for good CD representation
 - Develop plan to rotate membership
 - Small "topic-specific" subgroups as needed

- More input from CDs
- More flexibility in Program
- CD input on policy this winter
- QAQC changes and simplification
- Revamp of advisory Workgroup

Reach out to CDGRS/SCC at any time!





Current Workgroup Members

- Bradford, Joe Quatrini
- Bucks, Morgan Schuster
- Cambria, Anna Itle
- Indiana, Brooke Russick
- Jefferson, Shaun Wessel
- Juniata, Lori Glace
- McKean, Lindsay Trojanowski
- Tioga, Erica Tomlinson
- Westmoreland, Rob Cronauer
- Wyoming, Dave Taylor