Notice and Clarification of 12/13/2023 Changes to DGLVR Spending on PA Game Commission (PGC) Roads

What has changed: The following wording was approved in PA House Bill 1300 on 12/13/2023.

"NO MONEY APPROPRIATED FROM THE MOTOR LICENSE FUND FOR MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT OF DIRT, GRAVEL AND LOW VOLUME STATE AND MUNICIPAL ROADS MAY BE USED ON LAND OWNED OR OTHERWISE UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION." Link: btCheck.cfm (state.pa.us)

<u>Why was this done</u>: The intent of this provision is to require the PA Game Commission to use its own funding for road improvement projects that occur on lands under Game Commission jurisdiction. Concerns with this provision were expressed by the SCC and debated in HB 1300.

How many projects has the PGC done under DGLVR? Since the DGLVR funding increase in 2014, the PGC has completed 37 projects through Conservation Districts on PGC-owned roads totaling ~\$1.7M.

Clarifications and Policy Interpretations Moving Forward:

What if a CD has a current contract with PGC? If a CD has a current signed DGLVR contract with the PGC as of 12/13/2023, the project should be funded and completed as planned.

What if a CD has a planned or pending contract with PGC? Unfortunately, if a contract is not already signed, the project is no longer eligible for DGLVR funds.

What about a municipal road that runs through PGC property? Since the municipality (or other entity) owns the road and right-of-way through PGC land and they will be the recipient of the grant funds, these roads are still eligible for funding. In such cases, off right-of-way work is still permissible within the existing policies of the DGLVR Program, since the PGC is not the recipient of the funds. In such cases, PGC materials, equipment, and labor can still be considered as in-kind contributions for DGLVR projects.

<u>Can CDs still work with PGC on educational efforts</u>? Yes, PGC staff have been frequent attendees at the DGLVR ESM Trainings. They may continue to attend ESM trainings (at no charge). Educational efforts at the CD level related to the PGC can also continue. This change only prevents PGC from receiving DGLVR funding.