The 2008 Dirt and Gravel Road Maintenance Workshop was held October 1-3 in Westmoreland County, PA, just outside the town of Ligonier. The Center and Program would like to thank all our local partners who made the workshop a success. Some highlights of the 2008 workshop include:

• **Quarry Visit:** A visit to a working quarry was capped off by watching a batch of Driving Surface Aggregate being made right in front of the group.

• **DSA Placement:** A live DSA placement job on a local township road included demonstration of a nuclear density gauge for in-depth discussion about proctor testing, optimum moisture, and proper compaction.

• **Asphalt Reclamation:** A visit to Linn Run Road in Forbes State Forest showed how old asphalt can be broken up and recycled into road base.

• **National Attention:** In addition to keynote speaker Gordon Keller, shown below, the Center and Program were excited to welcome visitors from the Maryland Department of Forestry, and the Arkansas Nature Conservancy.

• **Pipe Demo:** In-progress demo of a shallow crosspipe installation.

• **Much More** including a “peer-to-peer” session, 6 classroom presentations, a road diagnostic, local project showcase, German picnic, bonfire, photo contest, banquet, covered wagon re-enactment, and more.

All Workshop attendees and Conservation Districts should have received a “Workshop Proceedings” CD. It contains all handouts, pictures, and presentations from the workshop. Also available at [www.dirtandgravelroads.org](http://www.dirtandgravelroads.org) → Education → Workshops
**“DGRoads” GIS training**

**November 12, 2008: Penn Stater; State College; 10am – 3pm**

The Center will hold its annual GIS training next month. The training will entail a complete walkthrough of the customized “DGRoads” GIS program used by Conservation Districts to track projects and spending for the Dirt and Gravel Road Maintenance Program. The training is designed for new Conservation District hires, but anyone is welcome to attend as a refresher. While this is not a field assessment training like those held regionally last year, the GIS aspects of the assessment will be covered. If you have questions, or to register, please contact Kathy Moir at dirtandgravel@psu.edu, or 866-668-6683.

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**GIS Upgrade**

The Center and Program are moving forward with plans to upgrade the DGRoads customized GIS system. The current “ArcView 3.x” based system is antiquated and no longer supported. Current plans include the use of open-source software entitled “MapWindow GIS”. This software is easily customizable and FREE to both the Program and Conservation Districts. The Program plans to contract with the “Penn State Institute of Energy and the Environment” to develop the new customized application. The same programmers who designed the current DGRoads will be working on the new upgrade. If you have any questions, or are interested in being involved in “beta” testing of the new program, contact Mike Klimkos with the Program at 717-787-2103 or mklimkos@state.pa.us

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**Annual Summary Reports**

**DUE January 15, 2009 from Conservation Districts**

Annual Summary Reports for Conservation Districts involved in the Dirt and Gravel Road Maintenance Program are due on January 15, 2009. As in the past, the Annual Summary Report is accomplished by updating your DGRoads GIS system and sending the GIS files to the Center. GIS files should be updated to reflect the status of all projects as of the end of 2008. In addition this year, your assessment data including all new worksites will come in with the same GIS files used to create your Annual Summary Report. Look for more information and guidance from the Center as the deadline draws closer. Any District Staff new to the Dirt and Gravel Road Program should consider attending the training above.

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**Quality Assurance / Quality Control (QAQC)**

The QAQC began visiting individual Conservation Districts in 2002 to evaluate how the Program was working throughout the state. The Program and Center have found the vast majority of visits to be positive and encouraging that proper local procedures and practices are being implemented under the Dirt and Gravel Road Maintenance Program. The 10 visits scheduled for 2009 will complete the initial QAQC round of visits to all Districts. Planned visits are listed in page 3 margin.

**Kathy Moir**

**Background**

Kathy began working for Penn State in 1989 for the Materials Research Lab primarily setting up meetings, workshops and conferences. She has been with the Center since it began at Penn State in 1997. She is the primary office manager at the Center and her responsibilities include: organizing ESM trainings; handling certifications; organizing workshops; coordinating technical assist visits; handling budgets; and, most difficult of all, keeping the Center’s five “boys” in line.

**Personal**

Kathy grew up in the State College area, left for 10 years and returned to settle in “Happy Valley” with her husband, Rob. She is a mother of 5 (Kirstie, Bill, Katie, Lisa & Abby) and grandmother of 5+ (Megan – 5, Lucy & Owen – 3, Louie & Tommy – 2 & one on the way). She enjoys spending time with her family and friends and maintains her serenity through yoga and traveling.
County Re-Assessments Due January 15, 2009

Assessment Background:
Autumn is a great time for Conservation Districts to finish up their assessments. Pennsylvania’s sixty-six County Conservation Districts are currently in the midst of a two year assessment of unpaved roads. The assessment process involves the field-verification and inspection of unpaved roads to determine where sediment pollution is adversely affecting local aquatic habitats. More details can be found at www.dirtandgravelroads.org; click on “Assessment Page” link on the homepage.

Assessment Submittal:
For Conservation Districts, submitting your assessment data is as easy as submitting your Annual Summary Report, in fact, they are one in the same! Since your Annual Summary Report involves sending in your GIS files from your DGRoads GIS system, all of the new worksites identified during your assessment will also be included. For this reason, no special action is needed to submit your assessment data. Your assessment data will be automatically submitted with your regular Annual Summary Report. You are welcome to submit your assessment data for a quick review before January 15th to Steve Bloser at smb201@psu.edu

Assessment Results:
Going into 2007, there were approximately 12,000 identified pollution worksites statewide. We expect to see that number increase by as much as 30-50% after this new more thorough assessment is complete. What does this mean to the Program? That is a question that will be posed next spring to the Policy and Planning Workgroup, an advisory group to the Dirt and Gravel Road Program consisting mostly of Conservation District representatives. The assessment is unlikely to alter Conservation District allocations for FY 2009-2010.

Assessment Help:
Time is beginning to run out on the 18 month assessment window that began with trainings in the spring of 2007. All indications are that the assessment is going fairly well for most Districts with few problems reported. If you have questions or concerns about the re-assessment, please contact Mike Klimkos with the Program at 717-787-2103, or Steve Bloser with the Center at 814-865-6967.
Important Considerations

events calendar

The two-day ESM training covers many aspects of road maintenance and focuses on practices to reduce maintenance costs and environmental impact from unpaved roads.

Have questions or want to schedule an ESM training? Want to receive future newsletters?

Contact Kathy Moir at: 1-866-No-To-Mud (1-866-668-6683) dirtandgravel@psu.edu www.dirtandgravelroads.org

Two-Day ESM Training Schedule

Greene: November 5-6, 2008
Luzerne: April 7-8
McKean: June 16-17
Dauphin: August 11-12
Carbon/Northampton: week of Nov 16th

Lycoming: March 18-19, 2009
Tioga: May 19-20
Blair: July 14-15
Columbia: week of October 19th

Contact the Center to register for one of the above trainings at 814-865-5355.

2008 Other Events

Nov 12: DGRoads GIS training in State College (see article on page 2)

State Conservation Commission Meetings: 11/12/08 (Hbg)

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