

Training Opportunities



ESMBOOTCAMP: ESM Boot Camp

- Tuesday, Sep 3, 2024 10:00 AM to Thursday, Sep 5, 2024 05:00 PM (Centre County)
- Location: Larson Transportation Research Building, 215 Transportation Research Building, University Park PA, 16802
 Instructor: Tim Ziegler, Eric Chase & Dave Creamer
- This course is intended to improve the capacity of new CD staff to implement better projects at the county level.
- · Additional Details:

Day 1: 10am - 5pm

Day 2: 8am - 5pm

ESMBOOTCAMP: ESM Boot Camp

- Tuesday, Sep 17, 2024 10:00 AM to Thursday, Sep 19, 2024 05:00 PM (Centre County)
- Location: Larson Transportation Research Building, 215 Transportation Research Building, University Park PA, 16802
 Instructor: Tim Ziegler, Eric Chase & Dave Creamer
- This course is intended to improve the capacity of new CD staff to implement better projects at the county level.
- · Additional Details:

Day 1:10am - 5pm

Day2: 8am - 5pm

Day3: 8am - 3pm

Coming soon

Coming soon

DSA Notifications



• DSA notifications need to be sent to dsatesting@psu.edu

QAQC



- Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QAQC)
- Discussion
 - What does "quality" mean?
 - Why is this an important function of the SCC?

QAQC

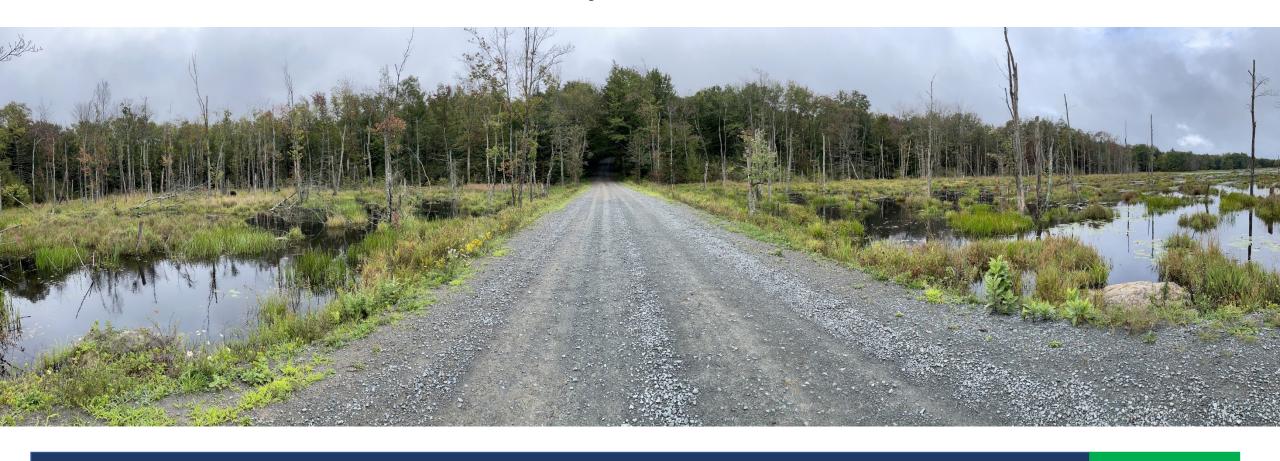


- Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QAQC)
 - The SCC is responsible for making sure funding is spent appropriately
 - Funding needs to be properly accounted for
 - Funding needs to be spent on eligible expenses
 - Educational opportunity:
 - Allows SCC to assess district staff understanding of Program goals, policies, technical skills, etc.
 - Districts are educated about what they are doing well and areas for improvement
 - Districts provide feedback to SCC on how the Program is working





Better Roads, Cleaner Streams



Outline



- QAQC overview and process
- Summary of Round 4 QAQCs (2021-2023)
- Updates for Round 5 QAQCs (2024-2027)

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- Summary of Round 4 QAQCs (2021-2023)
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- Each County Conservation District reviewed once every 3 years
- QAQC Round 1: Every County visited 2003-2011
- QAQC Round 2: Every County visited 2015-2017
- QAQC Round 3: Every County visited 2018-2020
- QAQC Round 4: Every County visited 2021-2023
- Total QAQCs: 259
- QAQC Round 5: Starts 2024



- Review is conducted in multiple remote and in person sessions
- Review consists of 3 main parts:
 - Financial
 - Administrative / Functionality
 - Projects





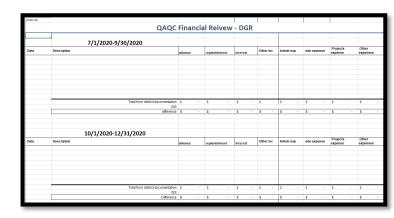
Participants:

- District staff responsible for administering the Program
- District manager
- District staff that assist with Program
- State Conservation Commission
- Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies
- Quality Assurance Board
- District Board
- DEP Field Representative
- Project participants



Financial Review

- Primarily conducted remotely
- Financial documentation is provided to SCC electronically
- SCC checks:
 - That documentation matches quarterly reports
 - That funds were spent on eligible expenses

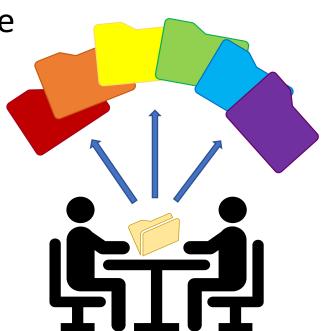


| | NB-DG Roads F | und | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|-------|---------------------------------|----------------------|------------|---|-----------|------------|
| From 07/01/2022 t | brough 06/30/25 | 023 | | | | | | |
| Sorted by: Date, Ty | pe, Number/Re | ef | | | | | | |
| Date 2 | Number | Payee | Account | Memo | Payment | c | Deposit | Balance |
| | | | | | | | | |
| 07/27/2022 | | | 1000 - FNB-General Fund Che | Reimb. Gen. Fund fo | 8,150.00 | X | | 202,879.22 |
| 07/27/2022 | | | 1000 FNB-General Fund Che | Q2-2022 Adm. Exp | 2,613.32 | X | | 200,265.90 |
| 07/29/2022 | | | Interest Income - Restricted DG | Interest | | X | 225.16 | 200,491.05 |
| 08/12/2022 | | | 1000 - FNB-General Fund Che | Advance Working Ca | | X | 93,911.00 | 294,402.06 |
| 08/30/2022 | | | 1000 - FNB-General Fund Che | Transfer for Advance | | X | 12,452.75 | 306,854.81 |
| 08/31/2022 | | | Interest Income - Restricted DG | Interest | | X | 403.48 | 307,258.29 |
| 08/31/2022 | | | 1000 - FNB-General Fund Che | Final pay. 2021 D& | 12,279.56 | X | | 294,978.73 |
| 09/30/2022 | | | Interest Income - Restricted DG | Interest | | X | 545.51 | 295,524.24 |
| 10/19/2022 | | | 1000 - FNB-General Fund Che | 3Q 2022 Admin/Edn | 3,244.53 | X | | 292,279.71 |
| 10/31/2022 | | | Interest Income - Restricted DG | Interest | | X | 599.61 | 292,879.32 |
| 11/30/2022 | | | Interest Income - Restricted DG | Interest | | X | 577.73 | 293,457.05 |
| 12/07/2022 | | | 1000 - FNB-General Fund Che | Replenish Working | | X | 23,042.88 | 316,499.93 |
| 12/29/2022 | | | 1000 FNB-General Fund Che | Final Pay. Fairmount | 44,982.32 | X | | 271,517.61 |
| 12/30/2022 | | | Interest Income - Restricted DG | Interest | | X | 609.32 | 272,126.93 |
| 01/09/2023 | | | 1000 - FNB-General Fund Che | Reimb, of 4Q Admin | 3,047.96 | X | | 269,078.97 |
| 01/31/2023 | | | Interest Income - Restricted DG | Interest | | X | 567.98 | 269,646.95 |
| 02/28/2023 | | | Interest Income - Restricted DG | Interest | | X | 496.45 | 270,143.40 |
| 03/06/2023 | | | 1000 FNB-General Fund Che | Q4-2022 replenishm | | X | 48,226.85 | 318,370.25 |
| 03/28/2023 | | | 1000 - FNB-General Fund Che | Advance Pay. Fairmo | 35,000.00 | X | | 283,370.25 |
| 03/31/2023 | | | Interest Income - Restricted DG | Interest | | x | 617.98 | 283,988.23 |
| 03/31/2023 | | | 1000 FNB-General Fund Che | Advance Payment La | \$9,895.06 | x | | 194,093.17 |
| 04/05/2023 | | | 1000 - FNB-General Fund Che | Advance Pay Hollen | 36,222.00 | X | | 157,871.17 |
| 04/12/2023 | | | 1006 - FNB-LV Roads Fund | Correction of 4/5/23 | | X | 36,222.00 | 194,093.17 |
| 04/28/2023 | | | Interest Income - Restricted DG | Interest | | X | 340.67 | 194,433.84 |
| 05/02/2023 | | | 1000 - FNB-General Fund Che | Q1 2023 DGR Admi | 3,343.26 | X | | 191,090.58 |
| 05/19/2023 | | | 1000 - FNB-General Fund Che | Q1-2023 replenishm | | X | 22,641.27 | 213,731.85 |
| 05/31/2023 | | | Interest Income - Restricted DG | Interest | | x | 434.65 | 214,166.50 |
| 06/30/2023 | | | Interest Income - Restricted:DG | Interest | | X | 422.47 | 214,588.97 |
| | | | Page 1 | | | | | |



Administrative/Functionality Review

- Conducted both remotely and in person
- SCC interviews district staff and local Quality Assurance Board (QAB)
- Hard files are reviewed to make sure required documentation is retained
- Review local policy and meeting minutes
- Key points:
 - Do district staff understand the Program?
 - Are district staff involved enough in projects?
 - Are district staff adequately engaging eligible road owners?





Project Review:

- Most of the in-person visit is spent visiting completed project sites
- Projects chosen from sites in GIS
- District picks some projects and QAQC Team finalizes list
- Review of environmental impact reduction and project success





QAQC Report:

- Written after all remote and in-person visits are complete
- Document how the program is being run locally
- Lists what the district is doing well, if anything is outside of requirements, and suggestions for improvement
- District reviews the preliminary report and provides feedback
- SCC staff determines if any changes are needed prior to sending the final report



Ratings:

- **Exceptional** Local program is exceeding expectations in every category and on every project. Saved for the best of the best.
- Exceeds expectations the local Program goes above and beyond what is required
- Meets expectations The District is administering the Program well.
- Needs improvement Self-explanatory and provides a category between Meets Expectations and Doesn't Meet Expectations for those Districts that are borderline.
- <u>Does not meet expectations</u> Not meeting the requirements of the Program.



• Ratings:

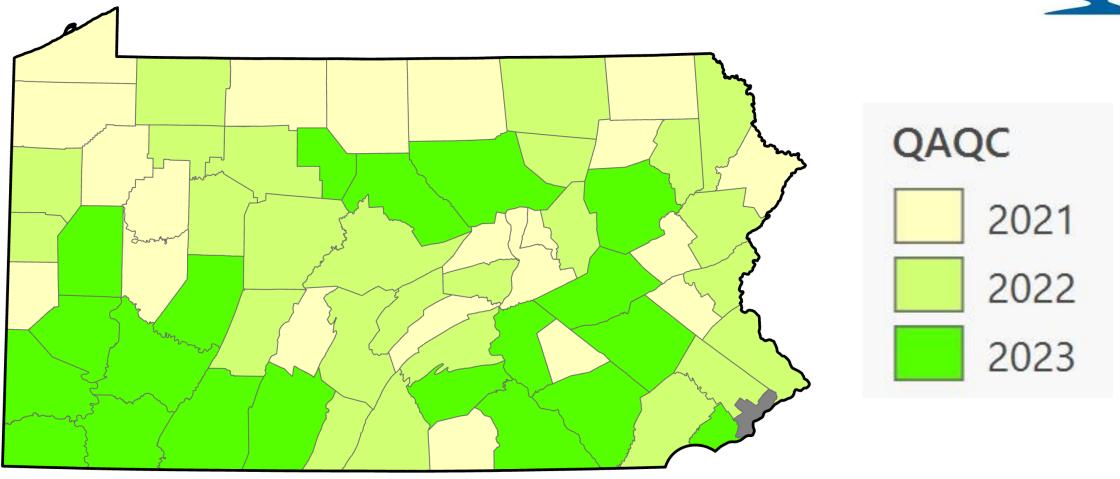
• Meets expectations - The District is administering the Program well.

Outline



- QAQC overview and process
- Summary of Round 4 QAQCs (2021-2023)
- Updates for Round 5 QAQCs (2024-2027)







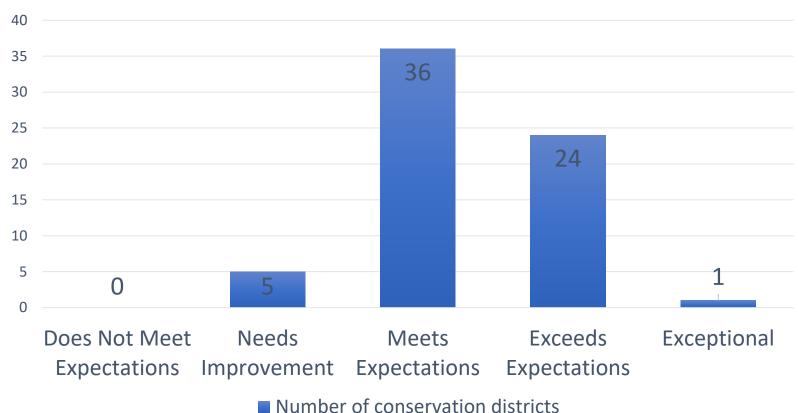
Overall Round 4 QAQC Ratings



■ Number of conservation districts

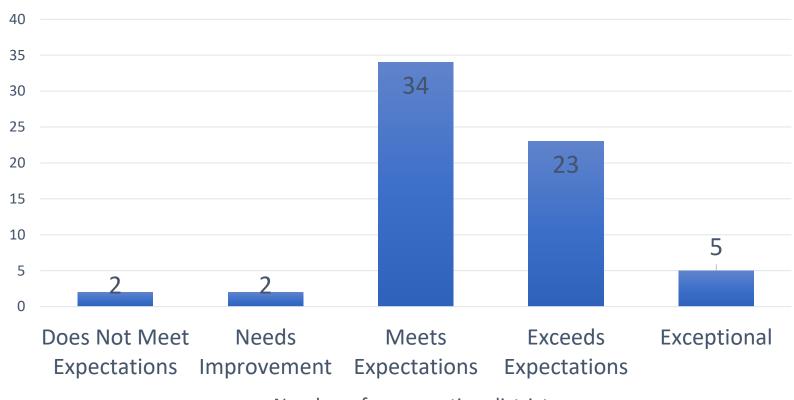


FinancialRound 4 QAQC Ratings





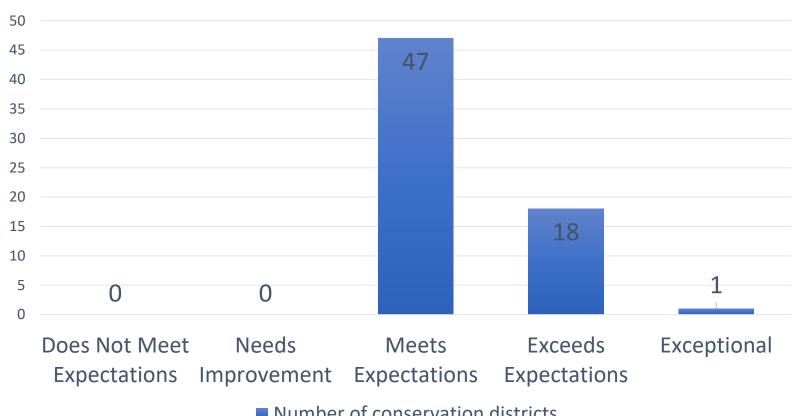
Administration/Functionality Round 4 QAQC Ratings



■ Number of conservation districts



Projects Round 4 QAQC Ratings



■ Number of conservation districts



- Individualized feedback provided to each conservation district in QAQC report
 - CDs should thoroughly review reports
 - By staff, management, QAB, and CD Board members
 - There are also some recurring themes statewide: details on following slides



- Recurring Themes: Required Actions
 - Follow stream crossing policy
 - Especially small streams
 - DSA and road fill requirements
 - Update local policies
 - Update cost allocation methods (CAMs)
 - Keep local and GIS account balances reconciled
 - Retain PA One-call serial number in project files

Pennsylvania SCC state Conservation Commission

Small Streams

When does the DGLVR stream crossing policy apply?

Admin Manual 7.1.2.3: Where the DGLVR Stream Crossing Policy Applies

The stream crossing policy outlined here applies to situations where streams, including intermittent channels, with <u>identified</u> <u>bed and banks are flowing into the road or the uphill</u> <u>ditch.</u> See section <u>7.1.3</u> for more information on Automatic and SCC-requested exemptions from the DGLVR Stream Crossing Standard. Contact the State Conservation Commission in questionable circumstances.

https://dirtandgravel.psu.edu/pa-program-resources/program-specific-resources/administrative-guidance-manual/7-additional-program-policies/#agm 7-1





Pennsylvania SCC state Conservation Commission

Small Streams

- 1.25x bankfull width requirement
- Automatic Exemption
 - No SCC approval needed for channels with a bankfull width of 4' or less and:
 - The defined bed and bank coming to the road does not extend more than 500' upslope of the road ditch, or
 - The drainage area of the bed and bank coming to the road is 20 acres or less.
- Complete the "Automatic Exemption from the DGLVR Stream Crossing Standard" form (Appendix I) and keep it in the project file. Automatic exemptions still need to be reported in the SCC notification system.







Written SCC Approval for Exemptions

 Circumstances may exist where a conservation district would like to request an exemption from the DGLVR Stream Crossing Standard from the SCC on a larger stream that does not qualify for an automatic exemption. These situations must be handled individually, and a signed "SCC Exemption from the DGLVR Stream Crossing Standard" form must be obtained from the SCC and kept in the project file.



Written SCC Approval for Exemptions

- Examples of some conditions where an exemption from the DGLVR Stream Crossing Standard may be requested:
 - Small channels that fall outside the automatic exemptions above.
 - Crossings with extensive outlet drops that would make establishing connectivity impossible or prohibitively expensive for the amount of habitat improvement it would provide.
 - Other stream crossings with special circumstances. A signed "SCC Approval for Exemption from the DGLVR Stream Crossing Standard Request" form must be kept in the project file.



Stream Crossing Resources



- Stream Crossing Page of the Center's website
 - https://dirtandgravel.psu.edu/stream-crossing-replacements/
- Policy, Standard, and Technical Manual
- Stream Crossing Replacement Certification Training
- Recorded webinars:
 - https://dirtandgravel.psu.edu/education-training/webinars/past-webinars/

Please reach out to SCC or Center with any questions and for assistance with ongoing projects!

Stream Crossing Resources



Webinars:

- February 8, 2024: Stream Crossings Status Update and Emerging Issues
 - Status update on the implementation of the new stream crossing standard. Included a review of some recent issues encountered on projects and conservation district responsibilities.
- January 5, 2023: Stream Crossing Exemptions and Notifications
 - This webinar reviewed the notification and exemption process for stream crossings with some examples.
- May 27, 2022: Stream <u>Technical Manual</u>: <u>Overview</u> and Q&A on DGLVR Stream Crossing Replacement Technical Manual
- May 26, 2022: Stream <u>Standard</u>: <u>Overview</u> and Q&A on DGLVR Stream Crossing Design and Replacement Standard
- May 25, 2022: Stream Policy: Overview and Q&A on DGLVR Stream Crossing Replacement Policy

DSA & Road Fill



7.2.3 Exception to using DSA on Fill Projects

 Driving surface aggregate meeting the Commission's Standard and Specification is the only approved road surface material that may be purchased (for DGR projects) with Program funds. The only exception to this is on road fill projects. Road fill projects are defined as projects which install an average compacted thickness of 12-inches or more of fill material, not including the driving surface, to allow for proper drainage and/or strengthen the existing road base. Road fill projects must be capped with DSA or an alternative aggregate at a minimum depth of 6-inches. Shale or bank-run gravel may not be used as the final driving surface. This exception is not meant to replace DSA with fill

Considerations

- Depth of road fill used needs to be sufficient to support drainage
- DSA can still be used to surface road fill projects
- The road fill exception should not be used to avoid DSA placement
- Alternative surface materials should be well-bound
- Project phasing

Financial Resources



NEW Financial Training

- Highly recommended for CD staff involved in DGLVR funding: budgeting, bookkeeping, writing checks, spending requirements, etc.
- This training covers topics including:
 - DGLVR financial policy
 - tracking funds
 - GIS financial tools
 - reconciling the GIS and conservation district DGLVR accounts,
 - budgeting and spending requirements
 - financial portion of Quality Assurance / Quality Control (QAQC) visits.
- Registration: https://dirtandgravel.psu.edu/education-training/program-administration/financial-training-registration/
 - May 22 (Westmoreland County)
 - July 24 (Centre County)
 - October 17 (Luzerne County)
 - December 4 (Venango County)

Financial Resources



- New templates and financial guidance documents provided in financial training
- Available online:
 https://dirtandgravel.psu.edu/education-training/program-administration/
- Reach out to Ken and SCC for financial assistance!

Financial Course Resources

Course Downloads

Presentation (O MB): MP4 format (coming soon)

Presentation Downloads

- Adobe PDF (14.5 MB)
- MS Powerpoint (7.09 MB)

Supporting Documents

All documents in PDF format unless otherwise noted.

- CAM Spreadsheet (44.5 KB): Conservation districts must use a cost allocation method (CAM) to determine what
 portion of shared expenses are eligible DGLVR administration and education expenses. This spreadsheet includes
 examples of 3 different CAMs that meet DGLVR CAM policy. This can also be used as a template spreadsheet to
 assist conservation districts in developing their own CAMs. (Excel spreadsheet)
- DGLVR payments to conservation districts (261 KB): This document provides guidance on how DGLVR funding moves from the State Conservation Commission (SCC) to PA County Conservation Districts.
- DGLVR payments to grant recipients (262 KB): This document provides guidance on how DGLVR funding moves from PA County Conservation Districts to DGLVR grant recipients.
- DGLVR GIS QR reconciliation template (58.5 KB): This spreadsheet template can be used by conservation districts
 to help fill out the DGLVR quarterly report and/or reconcile their local DGR and LVR account balances with the GIS
 account balances. (Excel spreadsheet)
- DGLVR GIS QuickGuide (780 KB): This provides guidance to conservation districts on filling out quarterly reports
 in the DGLVR GIS. It includes screenshots from the GIS with at-a-glance notes and reminders.



- Recurring Themes: <u>Project Recommendations</u>
 - More outlets and drainage disconnection
 - Shallow cross pipes with grade breaks
 - More road fill
 - Achieve sheet flow
 - Road crown
 - More stable headwalls/endwalls
 - Use underdrain, storm sewer, and infiltration practices appropriately
 - Stream crossing design/implementation

Project Resources



ESM Spotlight webinars

- March 2, 2023: ESM Practice Spotlight: Sectional Fill
 - While the Program utilized road fill to correct drainage problems on entrenched roads, sometime a complete fill job is not possible. This webinar covered a "sectional fill" approach that can sometimes be used to raise certain sections of road and obtain drainage outlets.
- March 23, 2023: ESM Practice Spotlight: Shallow Crosspipes
 - Based on recent QAQCs, the practice of "shallow crosspipes" is still underutilized around the state. This webinar reviewed the topic in detail, providing advantage and instruction for installation.
- February 15, 2024: ESM Spotlight Underdrain, Infiltration, and Storm Sewers
 - Building off a presentation done at the 2023 workshop, the Center has developed a new technical bulletin about the use of underdrain, infiltration, and storm sewer systems. This webinar reviewed the new technical bulletin which will be made available.

QAQC Round 4 Summary



- Recurring Themes: <u>Administrative Recommendations</u>
 - Conservation district should conduct more education and outreach
 - More involvement throughout project lifecycle
 - Create and file as-built drawings at the end of projects
 - Print and include project expense tracker in hard file

Administrative Resources



- Recorded webinar: January 17, 2017: CD Education and Outreach Ideas
 - Education and outreach ideas and efforts for Conservation Districts to improve interactions with municipalities and other potential applicants.
- ESM Bootcamps being scheduled for 2024
 - Designed for Conservation Districts staff administering the field portion of the DGLVR Program.
 - This multi day training event is held largely in the field to provide basic knowledge in Environmentally Sensitive Road Maintenance.
 - Includes training on development and oversight of DGLVR Projects
 - https://dirtandgravel.psu.edu/education-training/esm-boot-camp/
- Recorded webinar: June 13, 2023: DGLVR Project Work Plan Application
 - Since debuting the idea at the 2022 workshop, we have been working with developers to create a "Project Sketch Application" in the DGLVR GIS system. The propose of this application is to allow CDs (and applicants and others) to create simple project layout maps to accompany grant applications for the DGLVR Program. This webinar served as a demonstration/mini-training on the sketcher, and CDs were provided access to the sketcher app immediately after the webinar.
 - Can be used for grant applications, updated workplans, and as-built drawings
- Upcoming Webinar: April 25th, 9am: Tips for Keeping Up with Spending Requirements: Conservation districts are required to spend each annual allocation of DGR and LVR funds within 2 years to be eligible for future allocations. This webinar will share tips and tricks to help districts establish a local annual grant cycle to get ahead of these spending deadlines.

Administrative Resources



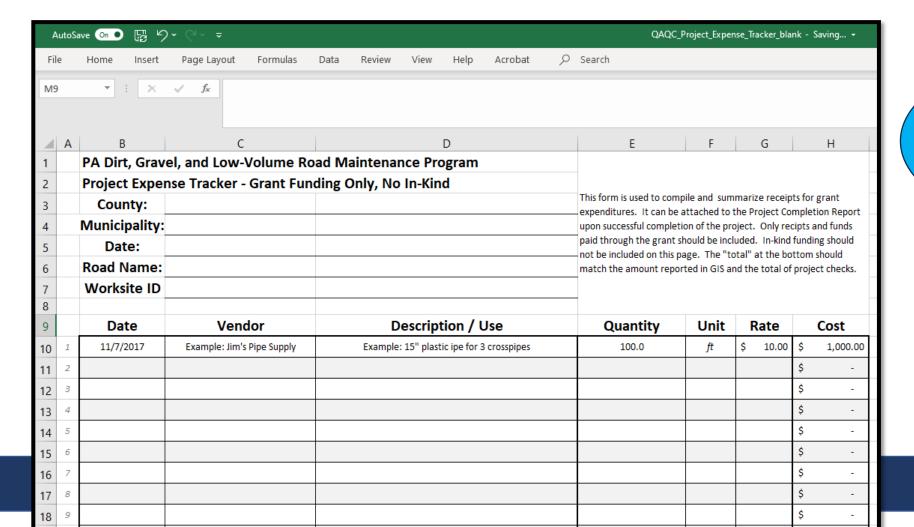
ESM Bootcamps being scheduled for 2024

- Designed for Conservation Districts staff administering the field portion of the DGLVR Program.
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Administrative Resources



Project expense tracker



Template Available as an Excel Document

QAQC Round 4 Summary



- Recurring Themes: <u>Commendations</u>
 - Dedicated conservation district staff
 - Sites with environmental impacts are being funded
 - Good basic understanding of and implementation of ESM practices
 - Stream crossings incorporating updated guidance

QAQC Round 4 Summary



THANK YOU to conservation districts for doing a good job!

Outline



- QAQC overview and process
- Summary of Round 4 QAQCs (2021-2023)
- Updates for Round 5 QAQCs (2024-2027)

- No major changes proposed for Round 5
- Review is conducted in multiples remote and in person sessions
- Review consists of 3 main parts:
 - Financial
 - Administrative / Functionality
 - Projects

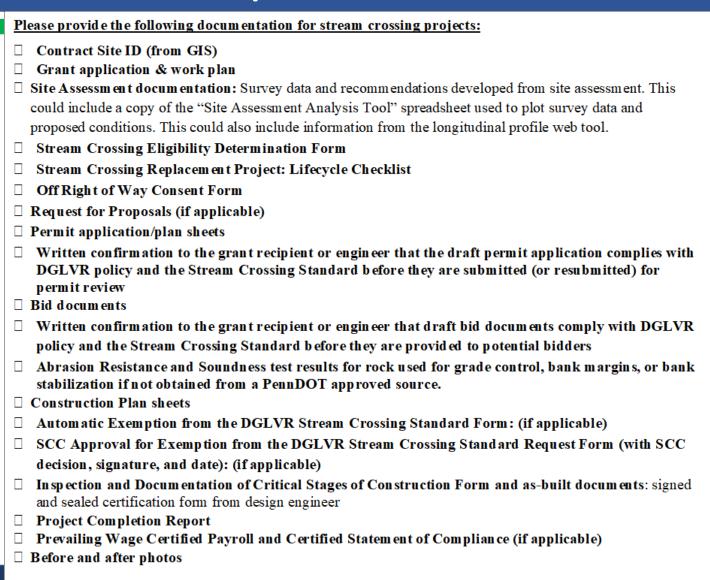




- Remote Components
 - Financial Review
 - Interviews
 - Administrative document review
 - Project selection
- In-person Visit
 - 1-3 days
 - Hard file review
 - Focus on site visits



- Reviewing Stream Crossings following the Standard
 - Visit after completion, before full QAQC visit
 - SCC will request documentation ahead of site visit
 - Separate report format/criteria for stream crossing projects contracted before the Standard and stream crossing projects following the Standard



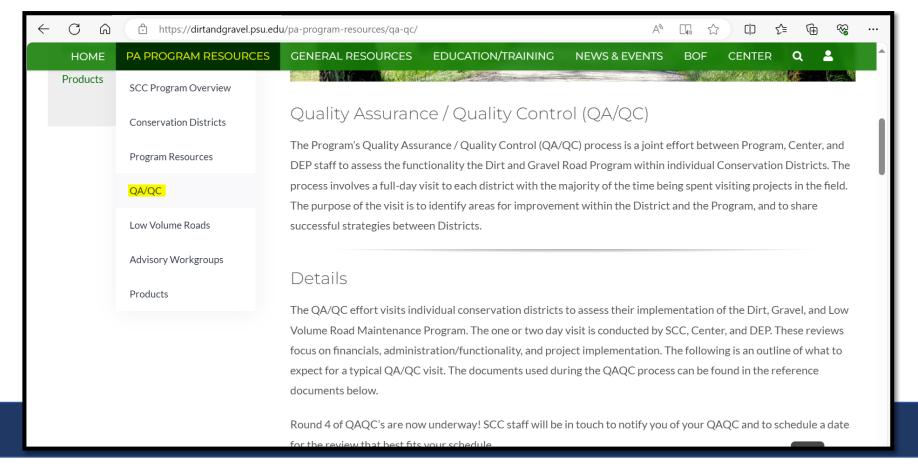




- Report
 - Ratings
 - Unchanged
 - Checklist format
 - Mostly the same but will be streamlined
 - Executive Summary
 - First few pages of report
 - Include ratings, summary, and commendations, recommendations, and required actions
 - unchanged



- Preparing for a QAQC
 - Pre-visit letter (email) includes checklist, overview of ratings, etc. (Attachments A-D)
 - All documents available online: https://dirtandgravel.psu.edu/pa-program-resources/qa-qc/



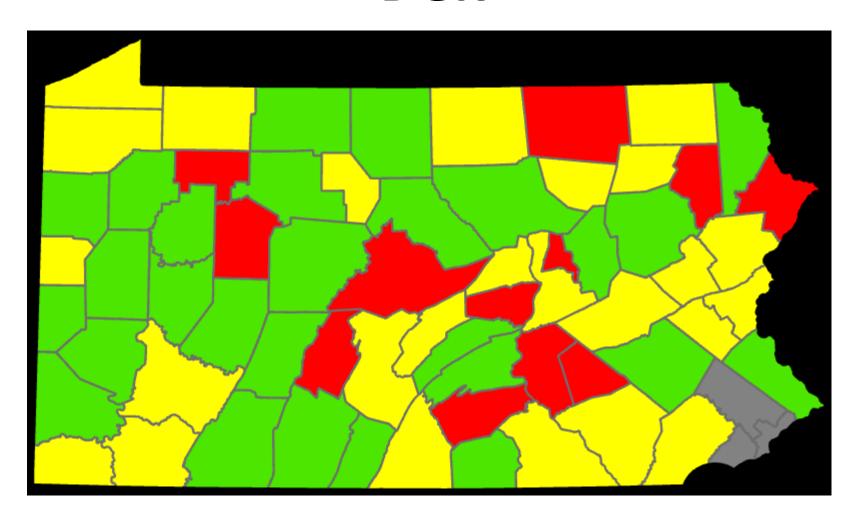


- How to do well on a QAQC?
 - Attend DGLVR trainings regularly
 - Keep up with webinars
 - Commit enough time to the DGLVR Program
 - Develop ESM practice expertise
 - Reach out when you need help
 - "You learn more by asking than assuming"

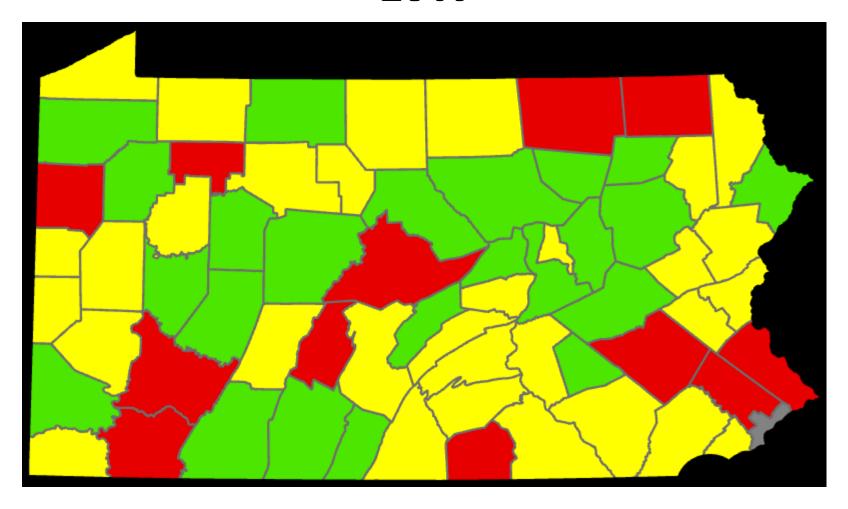
5-Year Spending Update

- All funding from agreement must be spent out by 6/30/2024
- Current CD Status as of 4/11/2024
 - Spent everything: 28 DGR, 27 LVR
 - Committed everything: 27 DGR, 26 LVR
 - Not committed: 9 DGR, 10 LVR

DGR



LVR



5-Year Spending Update - Financials

- Dirt and Gravel
 - Committed: \$3,515,679.81
 - Not Committed: \$226,924.00
- Low Volume
 - Committed: \$2,654,177.08
 - Not Committed: \$380,506.02
- Total
 - DGR: \$3,742,603.81
 - LVR: \$3,034,683.10
 - Total: \$6,777,286.91

How do I know how much I need to spend to meet my spending requirements?

Answer:

This information is available in the GIS.

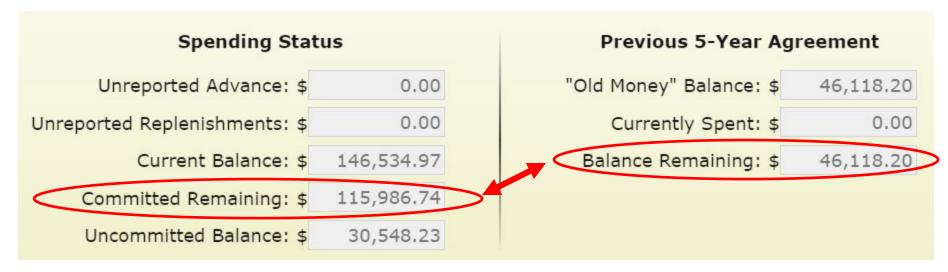




How do I know if I have all my "old money" contracted?

Answer:

If your Committed Remaining is greater than the Balance Remaining.



How do I know if I still have "old money" to contract?

Answer:

If your Committed Remaining is less than the Balance Remaining.



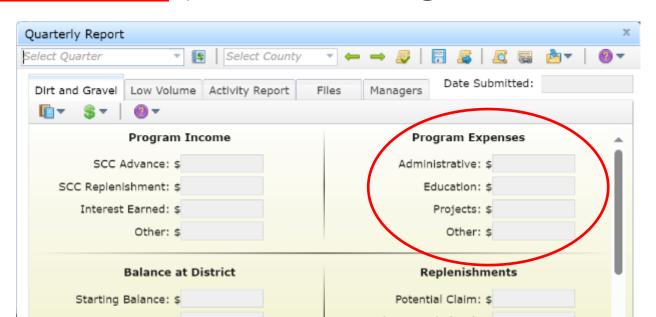
5-Year Spending Update

- If you are Green in both DGR and LVR, great job!
- If you are Yellow or Red in DGR and/or LVR, expect follow-up status calls/emails.

How do I make sure my spending is counted towards the spending requirement?

Answer:

Enter admin, edu, and project expenses in the GIS by 6/24/2024 (and don't forget to click save!)



What if I don't know how much money I need to spend or how to spend it?

Answer:

- Review GIS
- Review past webinars
- Reach out to Ken or the SCC for assistance

What if my expenses won't be ready to enter in GIS by 6/24/2024?

Answer:

Contact Ken or the SCC to discuss a plan

What if I know I'm not going to meet my spending requirements?

Answer:

Reach out to Ken or the SCC to let us know.





I WANT YOU TO DO WELL ON YOUR QAQC