

# Successes in Rural Road Maintenance and Ecology Symposium

April 4, 2017

## Speakers:

9:00-9:10 Eric Chase – Introduction/welcome

9:10-9:30 Wayne Kober – An overview of the DGLVR program history

9:30-9:45 Barry Scheetz – An overview of the Center history

9:45-9:55 Karl Brown – An overview of the DGLVR program as it pertains to the SCC

9:55-10:05 Steve Bloser – An overview of the DGLVR program as it pertains to the Center

10:05-10:15 Jason Hall – An overview of the DGLVR program as it pertains to the BOF

10:15-10:30 - Break

10:30-10:50 Eric Chase – Current research efforts and the Center

10:50-11:10 Amy Wolfe – Trout Unlimited involvement with the Dirt and Gravel Roads Program

11:10-11:30 Jamie Shallenberger – Marcellus Sediment Control Project

11:30-12:00 Rebecca Schneider – Improving management to reduce flooding, water pollution, and in-stream erosion and habitat degradation

12:00-1:15 Lunch

## Panel Discussion:

1:15- 2:15 Cumulative effects of roads on Watersheds – Jamie Shallenberger, Matt Royer, Karl Brown, Amy Wolfe/Phil Thomas, Rebecca Schneider

## Poster Session:

2:15-4:15

## Biographies

### Wayne Kober

Wayne is a 1973 graduate in the first graduating class of Environmental Resource Management at Penn State. His professional career includes over 35 years in transportation environmental management in the public, private, and non-profit sectors at the local, state, and national level. While Director of the PennDOT Bureau of Environmental Quality, he founded and chaired the Dirt and Gravel Road Task Force. After leaving PennDOT in 2000, he founded and served as the lead technical expert for the AASHTO Center for Environmental Excellence and supplied his expertise to state and federal transportation agencies around the country. Recently, while serving on the Board of Directors for the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership, he actively participated in the Keystone Transportation Funding Coalition and successfully advocated for substantially increasing the state transportation funding for dirt and gravel road maintenance and for alternative transportation funding for trails, bikeways, and green

ways. He has voluntarily served in many capacities on several associations, committee's, and commissions, but considers his Dirt and Gravel Road Program involvement as the most important contribution he has made to protecting and enhancing fish and wildlife resources in the Commonwealth.

### **Barry Scheetz**

Dr. Barry E. Scheetz is a retired Professor who spend over 30 years in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department at The Pennsylvania State. Barry was involved in the early days of the Program and was part of the original Task Force. As one of his many duties, he also served as the Assistant Director or Director of the Center for Dirt & Gravel Road Studies from its inception in 2000 until his retirement in 2014. Barry was deeply involved in developing and researching the Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance Practices that are the foundation of the Programs training and educational efforts. He was also instrumental in developing new materials for the Program such as the Center's Driving Surface Aggregate (DSA) to eliminate stream pollution caused by dust and sediment.

### **Amy Wolfe**

Amy Wolfe is the Director for Trout Unlimited's Eastern Abandoned Mine and Pennsylvania Coldwater Habitat Restoration Programs and manages a staff of four full-time biologists. She started her career with Trout Unlimited 17 years ago. Over that time, Amy has been responsible for dozens of watershed assessments, fish habitat and bank stabilization projects, dirt and gravel road improvements, and mine drainage remediation projects. In 2012, Amy launched an effort to inventory road-stream crossings to begin addressing aquatic organism passage and flood resiliency issues, with a specific emphasis on native brook trout streams. Amy's projects have been acknowledged with several Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence and notably, the President's Award for Fisheries Conservation from the American Fisheries Society. Most recently, Amy was honored with the "Woman of the Susquehanna" award by PennFuture and the National Wildlife Federation. She has a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Biology and Ecology from Lock Haven University. Originally from southeastern PA, she loves the mountains and streams in this area of PA and lives near Loganton with her husband and their three young children.

### **Jamie Shallenberger**

Mr. Shallenberger's passion for all things water resource related was forged and assured early in life. Jamie grew up in suburban Pittsburgh where he spent an inordinate amount of his youth prowling creeks, rivers, lakes, forests, meadows, and back lots in pursuit of fish, game, and general adventure. Following a stint as an Army medic, Mr. Shallenberger's lifelong curiosity and interest in water/landscape resources converged in the manner of a Geoscience B.S. degree from Penn State. And so began a 20+ year as an environmental consultant. In 2001, Jamie added an Ecology M.S. degree from SUNY – College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Since joining the Susquehanna River Basin Commission as Manager of the Monitoring & Protection

Program in 2014, Jamie almost never gets wet or dirty ... professionally. Yet his passion for water resources has grown stronger than ever. Feeling both fortunate and grateful to work for a small Agency where his passion is shared at all levels of the organization, Mr. Shallenberger now mostly focuses on managing the flow of resources, setting priorities, building/strengthening strategic relationships, and furnishing senior perspective and oversight to the 16 immensely talented, gifted, and motivated women and men who are the professional staff of SRBC's M&P Program.

#### **Dr. Rebecca Schneider**

Rebecca Schneider's program focuses on integrated, watershed-based, and sustainable water resource management in the face of climate change. Her research, extension, and teaching all revolve around different facets of this topic. Currently, her primary research program is focused on how networks of roadside ditches that criss-cross watersheds contribute to flooding, droughts, and degraded water quality in downstream waters. A second effort is investigating how restoration of organic matter in grassland and wetland soils can help to improve hydrologic and biogeochemical functions. She has also developed successful companion courses that teach the broader set of ecological issues associated with water resource management.

#### **Matt Royer**

Matt is an environmental attorney, with experience working for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. He currently serves as the director of the Penn State Agriculture and Environment Center, in the College of Agricultural Sciences. Matt has served as point man for the center's Conewago Creek Conservation Initiative, an integrated watershed approach to restoring waters to an unimpaired status through collaborative partnerships. He has been working with diverse partners across all landscapes -- agricultural, urban, commercial and municipal -- to develop and implement innovative approaches to reducing pollutant loads. More recently Matt has been focusing his efforts on PA in Balance to work collaboratively toward implementation of initiatives to meet our common goals of viable, vibrant agriculture and healthy rivers and streams.