Dirt, Gravel & Low Volume Road News

Dirt Gravel and Low Volume Roads Newsletter of the McKean County Conservation District

Issue 1 2025

2024 Project Highlight

In 2024 the McKean County Conservation District completed four projects through the Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road Program. One project was a low volume road project and three were dirt and gravel road projects. Three projects were completed in Wetmore Township and one was completed in Hamlin Township.

Dwights Road Wetmore Township

This is a low-volume road project in Wetmore Township on Dwights Road. The project involved replacing an undersized and unsafe double pipe stream crossing over Hubert Run., a cold water wild trout fishery. The stream crossing consisted of two elliptical arch pipes mitered to slope that were 7.1' wide. These existing pipes were causing the stream channel to over widen and erode the stream banks and bed creating large amounts of sediment pollution to the stream. Not only was this crossing an environmental hazard but it was also a safety hazard. The bottom of the pipes were severely eroded making it a danger for traffic crossing.

Wetmore Township received $58,501.69 through the program which they matched with an in-kind contribution of $96,041.48 to replace the existing crossing with a 19' wide bankfull structure. The project also involved installing 3 stream bed stabilization structures to ensure the longevity of the crossing.

A very special thank you to the Kane Volunteer Fire Department and Kane Lawn and Garden for their assistance with this project.

Before: Failing stream crossing on Dwights Road, Wetmore Township

After: New stream crossing on Dwights Road, Wetmore Township

If you believe you may have a potential project that we can help fund, please contact Lindsay Trojanowski at (814)887-4002 or email lktrojanowski@mckeancountypa.gov

Carbide Tipped Blade Available for Free to Municipalities

The Conservation District owns a carbide tipped blade that is available for use by all municipalities so they can properly grade their road. There is no charge for use of this equipment. Compared to straight blades, carbide tipped blade systems more effectively cut hard surfaces and will typically cut deeper with each pass. Carbide bits shatter rocks rather than pulling them out of the road, the bits also grind off embedded rocks, allowing restoration of the road to the desired cross section and improving adhesion of gravel overlays. Carbide–tipped blade systems offer numerous benefits over traditional straight grader blades for maintenance grading operations.

This is the preferred tool for maintaining a road surface. If your municipality is interested in using the District's carbide tipped blade contact Lindsay Trojanowski, Resource Conservationist at 814-887-4002 or lktrojanowski@mckeancountypa.gov

2025 ESM Training Dates and Locations

The Center's Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance (ESM) Course is a two-day classroom session focused on providing the knowledge and tools necessary for road owners to maintain roads in a more cost-efficient and environmentally sensitive manner. The course runs from 8AM to 4PM for two days and includes lunch.

Potential Grant Applications: In order to be eligible to apply for Program funds, the person in charge of work plan development and project implementation from the road-owning entity must have attended environmentally sensitive maintenance (ESM) training within the past five (5) calendar years. This training, and all past ESM trainings, counts as eligibility to apply for BOTH Dirt and Gravel and (paved) Low Volume Road funds for a period of five (5) calendar years.

Below is a list of nearby in-Person ESM Training dates and locations. For a complete list of trainings please click Here

May 14 & 15 (Mercer County)
May 28 & 29 (Huntingdon County)
June 4 & 5 (Adams County)
July 9 & 10 (Luzerne County)
July 30 & 31 (Butler County)
August 13 & 14 (Tioga County)
August 27 & 28 (Erie County)
September 3 & 4 (Washington County)
October 7 & 8 (Berks County)
October 28 & 29 (Monroe County)