

“Funding For MS4 Stormwater Projects” Workshop Schuylkill Action Network

April 7, 2019

“State and County Program Funding Assistance for MS4 Activities”

Presented by Montgomery County Conservation District



Presentation Outline

- I. Montgomery County Conservation District Mission, History & Background
- II. State Programs available to help fund MS4 Activities
- III. County Programs available to help fund MS4 Activities

Conservation District Mission

Our mission is to protect and improve the quality of life of the residents of Montgomery County and surrounding communities by providing, in cooperation with others, timely and efficient service, education and technical guidance for the wise use of our soil, water and related resources.



www.montgomeryconservation.org

Conservation District History and Background

- Conservation districts were started to improve water and soil conservation, in response to the ecological disaster of the Dust Bowl in the 1930s. Montgomery County Conservation District was formed in October 16, 1956, at the request of local farmers and community members.
- Conservation Districts work in partnership with federal and state agencies, and cooperate with local organizations, to implement resource protection programs.
- Conservation Districts are led by a voluntary board of directors consisting of farmer members, public members and a member of county government. Public board meetings are held monthly.
- Conservation districts administer various resource protection and education programs under delegation agreements through the State Conservation Commission. We encourage voluntary compliance with regulations and refer any enforcement actions to the PA Department of Environmental Protection.

State Programs

State dollars for preservation, conservation and recreation activities are typically allocated among a handful of programs and funds. Then they are disbursed through various grant programs that are mostly administered by state agencies.

The *Nonpoint Source Pollution Prevention in Pennsylvania* website is a joint project of the PA Department of Environmental Protection and the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts: <https://www.nonpointsourcepa.org/>



State Programs

Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Roads (DGLVR) Program *(Administered by County Conservation Districts)*

In April 1997, the Pennsylvania Dirt and Gravel Road Program was enacted into law as Section 9106 of the PA Motor Vehicle Code, with \$5 million in annual funding for “environmentally sensitive road maintenance.”

The program goal is to fund safe, efficient, and environmentally sound maintenance of sections of dirt and gravel roads and paved low volume roads (500 or fewer cars per day) which have been identified as sources of dust and sediment pollution.

This program is run through the State Conservation Commission in cooperation with Penn State University.

State Programs

Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Roads (DGLVR) Program (continued) *(Administered by County Conservation Districts)*

Grant money is available for environmentally improvements to gravel roads and “low volume” roads (paved roads with 500 or fewer cars per day) throughout Montgomery County.

Municipalities and other road-owning entities can apply for the grant money to improve the quality of their gravel and paved low volume roads while making an environmental improvement.

Projects can include drainage improvements, stormwater management, road base improvements and surface stabilization, swale improvements, stream crossing/bridge replacements, in-stream fish habitat projects, dust suppressants and more.



State Programs

Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Roads (DGLVR) Program (continued) *(Administered by County Conservation Districts)*

Applicant eligibility criteria to participate in this grant program:

Attendance at training course; *“Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance”* (ESM)

- Taught by *Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies*
- Two-day classroom session focused on providing the knowledge and tools necessary for road owners to maintain roads in a more environmentally sensitive & cost-efficient manner.
- 8 am to 4 pm for two days and includes lunch

Last LOCAL ESM training this year, to be eligible to apply:

Nov. 19th & 20th

Hilton Garden Inn Exton/West Chester

<https://www.dirtandgravel.psu.edu/>

Interested in participating or learning more?

Contact Jessica Buck, District Manager @ MCCD
610-489-4506 x14

jbuck@montgomeryconservation.org

County Programs

No-Till Drill Seeder

(Administered by Montgomery County Conservation District)

Esch 5505 No-Till Drill

Available for free rental for no-till planting!

- 5ft 6in no-till drill, 5.5" row spacing
- Ideal uses include:
 - Pasture renovation
 - Cover crops
 - Interseeding
 - No-till planting
 - Pollinator & wildlife habitat
 - No-mow/low-mow grass meadows
 - Basin naturalization



<http://montgomeryconservation.org/agriculture/rental-equipment/>

County Programs

Montgomery County 2040 Implementation Grant Program

(Administered by Montgomery Co. Planning Commission):

The Montco 2040 Implementation Grant Program is intended to assist municipalities in making targeted physical improvements that achieve real progress toward the goals of the plan. The program focuses on supporting local projects that specifically further the goals of the county comprehensive plan and the plan's themes of Connected Communities, Sustainable Places, and Vibrant Economy.

While the program is open to a wide array of projects fitting within the comprehensive plan, specific Focus Categories that highlight recent county planning initiatives are announced prior to each funding year. Projects that fall under a Focus Category receive greater consideration during the application review. Grant amounts are available between \$10,000 and \$200,000, but a realistic average award is around \$100,000. The grant program has awarded over \$5.5 million to 56 projects in 35 municipalities in Montgomery County

<https://www.montcopa.org/2453/Montco-2040-Implementation-Grant-Program>

County Programs

Conservation Planting Trailer

(Administered by County Conservation Districts in Southeast PA)

The Conservation Planting Trailer Project is managed by the Southeastern PA Resource Conservation and Development Council (SEPA RC&D). The Project focuses on assisting groups and organizations in Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery Counties in restoring the region's riparian buffers and other environmentally sensitive areas, by loaning them the various tools and equipment necessary to plant native trees, shrubs and other vegetation. The trailer is fully stocked with tools and equipment and can be stored and locked overnight at your project site.



<http://montgomeryconservation.org/watershed-management/tool-trailer/>

MS4 Additional Information/Resources:

- Quick Resource Guide to the MS4 Program. Funding for the development of this booklet was provided by the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission Water Resource Center and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Environmental Education Grants Program.
<http://files.dep.state.pa.us/EnvironmentalEd/Environmental%20Education/EnvEdPortalFiles/MS4%20Resource%20Guide.pdf>
- The Pennsylvania Stormwater Best Management Practices Manual.
<http://www.elibrary.dep.state.pa.us/dsweb/View/Collection-8305>
- PA DEP's municipal stormwater NPDES permits page.
<https://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Water/CleanWater/StormwaterMgmt/Stormwater/Pages/default.aspx>

Other MS4 Workshops/Events of Interest:

2019 Villanova University Biennial Stormwater Management Symposium.

<https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/engineering/research/resilient-water-systems/vusp/2019SWMSymposium.html>

- Municipal Workshop: Managing Stormwater by Engaging Private Landowners: Success Stories and Strategies. **Oct. 15, 2019.**
- Stormwater Management Symposium: Building Resilience into Stormwater. Oct. 16 & 17, 2019.

MS4 Great Ideas 2019 PSATS Stormwater Conference. Malvern, PA.

Nov. 15, 2019. <https://connect.psats.org/trainingevents/ms4-great-ideas>

Questions?

Montgomery County Conservation District

610-489-4506 x 15

www.montgomeryconservation.org



MONTGOMERY COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Thank you for attending this Workshop!