



DCSWCD staff show participants what measurements should be taken in stream channels in order to restore them to natural conditions after alterations result from severe flooding during their post-flood emergency stream intervention training program. Thirty-three contractors and highway municipalities registered for this year's program to learn how to identify and repair damaged sections of streams in need of immediate response following major flood events.

Soil and Water Conservation District Hosts Post-Flood Emergency Stream Intervention Training

The Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District (DCSWCD) began its second post-flood emergency stream intervention training program on Thursday, June 10. This program, designed in the years following the 2006 flood, demonstrates emergency restoration techniques to private and public contractors, as well as highway municipalities, working in damaged streams following flood conditions. In this course, natural stream design is emphasized as it is common for streams to be overly manipulated in emergency situations. By removing large amounts of sediment and debris or straightening stream channels, immediate relief may result in long-term problems or create unfavorable conditions upstream or downstream. The DCSWCD explains to participants which situations to address following flood conditions and how to resolve concerns without impacting the stream beyond what is necessary. Further, the training covers how to prioritize needs so workers and available resources can be focused on stream sections requiring immediate attention, and how to identify sections that can be left to naturally stabilize over time. Participants who completed the first year's training in 2009 gave the course highly favorable reviews.

The training program consists of three parts: the first is a classroom session followed by a visit to a site that will be worked on during the summer, the second requires a visit to the site during construction, and the last involves a site visit after construction is complete, followed by a classroom summary. The DCSWCD hosted the first classroom session, led by Stream Program Engineer, Tom Mallory, for 33 participants this year at the district office in Walton on June 10; dates for the remaining exercises are still to be determined. This training program is funded by: NY State Department of Environment Conservation's Water Quality Improvement Program, NYC Department of Environmental Protection through their contract with the DCSWCD Stream Management Program, and the Upper Susquehanna Coalition's stream project funds. For more information or questions regarding this program, please contact Graydon Dutcher of the DCSWCD Stream Management Program at (607)865-5223.