

McKenzie County Hosts North Dakota Local Technical Assistance Program's "Glue For Gravel Roads – Making Gravel Roads Great Again" Workshop

By Denise Brown, NDLTAP Training Coordinator



More than 30 participants from across oil country converged on McKenzie County last week and learned how to add nature's glue to existing gravel surfacing and "Make Gravel Roads Great Again!" The county, township and city attendees gained knowledge about how they can we make poor and tired gravel perform better by adding a small percentage of clay to hold gravel surfacing together.

Curt Glasoe, Western Technical Support Representative – was pleased with the participation from oil producing region. Curt passed on that, "Numerous oil producing counties have already shifted toward gravels with a clay binder and this class will help others make the change. Reduced blade maintenance and longer life for dust suppressants means cost savings for the counties. **Reduced dust and loose rock results in safer roads.** Safer roads save lives. Getting our families and friends home safe every night falls in line with the NDDOT's Vision Zero, an effort that NDLTAP strongly supports."



"McKenzie County was proud to host the "Glue For Gravel Roads Workshop". The class provided methods to improve gravel road surfaces and extend the life of our Mag Cl dust control applications. We are anxious to implement what we learned." Tommy Glover, McKenzie County Road Superintendent.

After the classroom training was complete the crew headed out to the field to apply the classroom learning, building a 3-part gravel road test section. Bentonite clay was added to the existing gravel, demonstrating proper blending and laydown operations. Kelly McCollam, DMC Wear Parts, demonstrated new quick-change cutting edge technologies that makes easy work of cutting road surfaces, blending clay into the mix and reducing fuel consumption. Todd Pendleton, Roadworx, then showed the crew how to apply Mag Chloride and explained how clay binder in gravel surfacing enhances dust treatments.

The “Glue for Gravel Roads Workshop” instructor was STEVE MONLUX. Steve worked 30 years for the U.S. Forest Service as a materials and geotechnical engineer on low volume roads in Montana and Idaho and many other western states. Since retirement in 2000, he has provided consulting services for counties, state LTAPs, Tribal Governments, the FHWA and the Forest Service. His specialties include gravel surfacing, dust abatement, road stabilization, construction fabrics, pavement management, quality assurance, and contract administration.

“Our ‘*Glue For Gravel Roads*’ workshop is part of the NDLTAP **Gravel Road Warrior** Series. The field demonstrations and test sites provided the hands on learning and proof that the classroom technology hand-offs work in the real world. Stay tuned, NDLTAP and the NDDOT are drafting an Aggregate Surfacing Special Provision. We will be vetting the draft specification past the state’s road superintendents in June. Specifying gravel with binder results in better, more economical and safer roads. Become a Gravel Road Warriors today and help us to improve the state’s 60,000 miles of gravel roads.” Dale Heglund, NDLTAP Program Director.







