

Biographical sketch for Dr Dan A. Sebert

Dr Dan A. Sebert has 50 plus years of professional experience and service in soil and water conservation work. He has served as a board member and an officer in several watershed and conservation related organizations at the local, state, and national level. He served as Chair on a local watershed project sponsor board. He was also inducted by his peers into the Oklahoma Conservation Hall of Fame, an honor he holds in common with Congressman Lucas. He was initially a charter board member, elected to serve as Secretary Treasurer for the National Watershed Coalition and later served as the Executive Director of the Coalition for more than 20 years. Dr Sebert currently serves as a Senior Consultant to the Coalition. He is an occasional visitor on Capitol Hill communicating the interests and needs of watershed project sponsors.

As an employee of the NWC he also conducts Operation and Maintenance (O&M) training for Watershed sponsors, helps Watershed Sponsors meet their responsibilities through leadership training and capacity building, and works with Watershed Sponsors to keep both USDA–NRCS and Congress informed of their technical and financial needs.

Dan previously enjoyed a 28-year career with the Oklahoma Conservation Commission where he was responsible for more than 2100 upstream flood control dams. Dr Sebert initiated both a training program for watershed project sponsors and their employees and an O&M equipment acquisition program with training for the operators and clients. With the support and assistance of agency leadership and his employees he created two dedicated shop facilities to house and serve as a base for watershed project O&M activities. The facilities, equipment and the employees that operate from them remain the envy of project sponsors across the country.

A portion of his time at the Commission was spent dealing with issues where interests of people and watershed projects sometimes collide. Courtesy, respect for the opinions of others and professionalism were the first choice for action. Dr Sebert also recognized the need for legal representation for project sponsors and he successfully advocated for an attorney dedicated to these issues. He made sure the attorney could work in concert with local district attorneys as well as the State Attorney General's office.

In 2004 Dan left the Conservation Commission and took on the National Watershed Coalition Executive Director position. He followed a legend, John W. Peterson of Burke, VA. In his capacity as Executive Director Dr Sebert implemented a National Watershed Training Program for sponsors across the country. It also drew engineering firms with a desire to better understand the program and the needs of sponsors as well as USDA NRCS employees to participate. That effort continues today, most recently in May of 2025 in Decatur, TX. In addition, Dr Sebert was successful in making the Coalition's efforts to educate and provide critical information to sponsors and their partners available via webinars. The success and engagement level of the webinars has grown to not only producing NWC webinars but also hosting webinars developed by our project partners.

To reach more sponsors across the nation Dan and the NWC's media director also completed a major website revision at www.watershedcoalition.org. The website continues to serve as an important source of information for sponsors and their partners.

Dan holds a PhD from Oklahoma State University. He and his wife operate a 400-acre ranch near Pawnee in northern Oklahoma. He enjoys three grown children and 4 grandchildren scattered across Oklahoma as well as 3 dogs, a barn cat, a registered Red Angus bull, a few old Red Angus cows and their heifer calves still living at home.

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