



Robert John Dawes

Experience

Executive Director/Founder, Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds Alexandria, PA. — 1999 to Present

Pragmatic innovator with 30 years' experience coordinating funding for site-specific environmental restoration, with a proven track record of results in improved eco-system function.

Established Foundation for PA Watersheds as a 501(c)3 & 509(a) philanthropic and policy organization with a mission of investing in local communities and best management practices for on-the-ground restoration that improves water quality. FPW's grants are the catalyst for leveraging agency and private philanthropic dollars and guiding those funds toward local restoration projects with [quantifiable outcomes](#). To date FPW has issued over 1400 small grants that have leveraged over \$151 million dollars in private and public agency funds.

Responsibilities

- Directs fundraising and program development for Foundation for PA Watersheds.
- Manages and reviews grant slate implementation for nearly 100 grants per fiscal year.
- Administers and oversees the Pennsylvania Abandoned Mine Lands Campaign.
- In partnership with the former director of OSMRE, identifies and obtains funding from Congress in support of OM&R of passive treatment systems for remediating acid mine drainage throughout Appalachia.
- In partnership with PA DCNR, supervises Cold Water Heritage Fisheries grants for planning and implementation.
- In partnership with the PA Fish and Boat Commission, supervises the Unassessed Waters Program through designated colleges and universities throughout the state of PA.
- Working in partnership with the Pennsylvania delegation, Advocates for HR-4248 reauthorization and HR-2156 RECLAIM Act.

Recent Accomplishments

- Passage of HR-4248 and HR-2156 out of the House of Representatives during the 116th Congress.
- Designated chair of the Pennsylvania Abandoned Mine Lands Campaign, which led to the reauthorization, in 2006 with mandatory spending, bringing 1 billion dollars for mine reclamation to the state.
- Designated mediator by the Secretary of Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection between industry and environmental groups for improvement of state rules and regs for coal ash placement.
- Designated recipient for strategic investment of \$3.5 million dollars in water quality improvement practices, resulting from environmental litigation through Sierra Club and PennEnvironment against a coal fired power plant in the Little Conemaugh watershed.

Experience

Manager of the Western Pennsylvania Watershed Program, Consultant to The Heinz Endowments Environment Program

Pittsburg, PA — 1994 to 1999

Supervised larger grants for The Heinz Endowments Environment Program. These strategic investments were targeted toward sustainable forestry, watershed restoration, as well as watershed preservation specifically, The French Creek Project. Led The Heinz Endowments in the incubation and growth of the donor advised fund, The Western PA Watershed Program.

Responsibilities

- Managed, administered and reported to The Heinz Endowments Program Director, Andrew McElwaine on more than \$3 million dollars in watershed restoration and preservation grants, annually.
- Cultivated other foundation partners in collaboratively funding watershed improvement and preservation projects throughout the state of Pennsylvania.
- Convened and hosted disparate stakeholders such as small watershed organizations, The Coal Association, and The United Mine Workers of America to collectively secure increased federal funding for the state of Pennsylvania for abandoned mine land reclamation.

Accomplishments

- Hired staff and board leadership resulting in the creation of Pennsylvania's foremost environmental law clinic - PennFuture.
- Convened and hosted the Pennsylvania Congressional delegation to collectively increase appropriations from the Abandoned Mine Lands Fund for the state of Pennsylvania. Appropriations were increased from 20 million to 22 million.
- Established graduate program at Penn State University focused on watershed restoration, known as The Center for Watershed Stewardship. This program requires a capstone restoration project.

Environment Program Advisor to The Heinz Endowments in Memory of Senator John Heinz

Pittsburg, PA — 1993 to 1994

Appointed by Teresa Heinz and Frank Tugwell to provide strategic information regarding watershed management, agricultural best management practices, and sustainable forestry. Other disciplines represented were transportation, environmental education, sustainable energy, land conservation, and green infrastructure.

Responsibilities

- Researched, prepared, and delivered information on current efforts and best practices in agricultural best management practices.
- Hosted site visits detailing the need and significant benefits of best management practices and their improvement of water quality.
- Shared first-hand experience and knowledge gained as an agriculturist and grass-fed Angus beef farmer.

Accomplishments

- With the guidance of the advisory helped establish a dedicated grant program funded by The Heinz Endowments, known as The Environment Program.
- With the guidance of the advisory, created a donor advised fund known as The Western PA Watershed Program.

Provided Congressional Testimony Before House Energy & Mineral Resources Committee

June 2017

Provided [testimony](#) on the need for continued funding of mine reclamation activities, and stressed the ability for reclamation to result in job creation.

Board Chair of The Environmental Integrity Project

2016 to Present

Chairs three annual meetings focused on the advancement of Environmental Integrity Project's (EIP) mission. EIP is a nonpartisan organization that empowers communities and protects public health and the environment by holding industry accountable for existing Clean Air and Clean Water Act regulations.

Board Chair of The Progress Fund

2015 to Present

Chairs 4 annual meetings focused on the advancement of The Progress Fund's mission. The Progress Fund is a regional Community Development Financial Institute, focused on job creation related to recreation and agrotourism throughout Pennsylvania and parts of Ohio and West Virginia.

Board Chair FracTracker Alliance

2012 to Present

Chairs 4 annual meetings focused on the advancement of FracTracker Alliance's mission. FracTracker Alliance supports groups across the United States, addressing pressing extraction-related concerns with a lens toward health effects and exposure risks on communities from oil and gas development.

Gubernatorial Appointee to the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) to the Chesapeake Bay

2010 to Present

Appointed by Governor Ed Rendell, serves as an active member and participant working to shape Bay restoration policy throughout the seven Chesapeake Bay jurisdictions. Represents residents and stakeholders of the Chesapeake Bay watershed in the restoration effort and advises the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership on all aspects of Chesapeake Bay water quality improvement. Previous CAC Chair from 2016 to 2018.

Member of the Chesapeake Bay Funders Network (CBFN)

2010 to Present

Works collaboratively with other private and public foundations in support of a shared vision for policies and projects supporting Bay restoration.

Gubernatorial Appointed Commissioner to the 21st Century Commission on the Environment

2009 to 2010

Appointed by Governor Tom Ridge, served as an alternate commissioner working to establish the Growing Greener Program for the State of Pennsylvania.

Recognition

Lifetime Achievement Award - Pennsylvania Environmental Council

2017 - [Supporting materials.](#)

Environment Community Humanity and Ownership (ECHO Award) - Department of Interior, OSMRE

2014 - [Supporting materials.](#)

Trustee Award - The Audubon Society

2011 - Recognition for outstanding effort to further the cause of restoration in the state of Pennsylvania.

Critical Impact Award - Council on Foundations

2009 - For innovation in leadership, bold vision, and significant impact.

Conservation Leadership Excellence Award - Pennsylvania State Conservation Commission

2007 - For outstanding leadership and commitment to the reauthorization of the federal AML Trust Fund.

Presidents Award - Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts

2007 - For outstanding leadership in the AML Campaign.

Western PA Environmental Award - Pennsylvania Environmental Council

2007 - For appreciation and work on the AML Campaign.

William W. Jeanes Senior Award - Susquehanna River Basin Commission

2007 - [Supporting materials](#)

Karl Mason Award - Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

2006 - [Supporting materials](#)

Governor's Award for Watershed Stewardship - Tom Ridge

2006 - Recognition for stewardship and environmental excellence.

Education

Masters in Education, Penn State University – 1970

Bachelors of Science, Penn State University – 1969

Personal Interest

Farm management utilizing best management practices (BMPs) and breeding a herd of registered Angus cattle.