

R. John Dawes

As Executive Director of the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds since 1994, Dawes has supervised small grants to over 150 environmental and watershed associations throughout the state. The intent is to provide seed money to allow a local group to access agency funding through the Dept. of Environmental Protection, the Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Office of Surface Mining, the Environmental Protection Agency and the US Army Corps of Engineers. This has resulted in over \$168 m. in project cost. The majority of this small grants foundation budget is for abandoned mine reclamation.

For five years Dawes was consultant to the Heinz Endowments Environment Program where he supervised grants to regional watershed groups pursuing a DCNR Rivers Conservation Plan. Other duties included participation in sustainable forestry round tables, and the facilitation of a state-wide watershed advocacy group called POWR—the Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers.

Professional affiliations:

- Alternate Commissioner on the Governor’s 21st Century Commission on the Environment
- Board member of Penn Future
- Board President of the Progress Fund
- Former, President of the Board of POWR, the Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers
- Member of the Chesapeake Bay Funders Network
- Gubernatorial Appointee, then Chair of the CAC of the Chesapeake Bay Commission
- Member of the White House Committee--Sustainable Water Resources Roundtable on Indicators
- Chair of the PA AML Campaign—reauthorization of this fund took place on Dec. 9,2006 bringing \$1B to Pennsylvania for historic mine reclamation
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Dawes is the author of a research paper on the value of planted riparian zones resulting in the funding of the largest privately funded initiative for streamside planting in the state.

Dawes graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a Bachelor’s Degree in Education, 1969 and a M.Ed., 1970. Since 1970, he has owned and managed a purebred Angus farm in Huntingdon County where conservation practices have been implemented, including streambank fencing, forest stewardship planning, a 10kw windmill for electric power production, and spring development using photo-voltaic panels. The farm won the 2007 Governor’s Award for Conservation.

Most recently, May, 2017 Dawes was recognized by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council with their “Lifetime Achievement Award” for facilitation of watershed restoration throughout the state.