

Patrick D. Bowen

Patrick D. Bowen has demonstrated a long-term commitment to partnering financial assistance, technical know-how and dedication to on-the-ground conservation programs to help countless private landowners improve water quality. Whether through direct action, or working behind the scenes, his vast knowledge of federal and state conservation programs and his ability to work with people have resulted in significant improvement of conservation practices and water quality throughout West Virginia.

He is a third generation conservationist, following his Civilian Conservation Corps-member Great-uncle, his Grandfather, a Mississippi conservation district member, and his Father, who was a Soil Conservation Service (SCS) employee until 1980.

Mr. Bowen started working with SCS/Natural Resources Conservation Service in 1981. During his career, he has been instrumental in obtaining more than \$24 million in financial assistance for landowners and the application of more than 5,000 conservation practices.

He worked hard for the passage of the Farmland Protection Act of 2000 and the transfer tax funding amendment in 2002. He was instrumental in the formation of the W.Va. Association of Farmland Protection Boards, and helped organize the first W.Va. Agricultural



Land Protection Authority Board of Trustees, which in 10 years developed 18 funded county Farmland Protection Boards that have eased 153 properties and returned \$45 million to our landowners, including \$25 million in state money and \$20 million in federal money.

Mr. Bowen also has an extensive history of creative and measurable environmental conservation projects to his credit.

He was the federal liaison and primary author of the W.Va. Agricultural Non-Point Source Assessment Report and Management Program, which attracted more than \$25 million in federal funds to implement agricultural water quality practices across the state.

Of particular note is his leadership of the state's Clean Water Act Section 319 Team in the early 1990s. A partnership between NRCS and EPA, the project brought in funds to implement water quality practices along streams under Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) orders. The project was so successful, two streams were eventually removed from the state list of impaired streams – a rare feat.

He has been a strong proponent of nutrient management planning, promoting the process as the best way for producers to protect the environment, make money and avoid regulatory enforcement actions.

He initiated discussions about exporting poultry litter from sensitive watershed to nutrient- and organic-deficient areas to address concerns about nutrient loading in the Potomac Headwaters/Chesapeake Bay Drainage. The results were a multi-agency water quality office, a litter marketing and distribution program, a value-added composting demonstration and a state subsidy for litter transportation costs.

Mr. Bowen has been a member of the Soil and Water Conservation Society since 1981 and served as President of the West Virginia Chapter in 1987. That organization presented him with the Harold and Kay Scholl Excellence in Conservation Award in 2004. The National Awards Council for Environmental Sustainability gave him its Certificate of Environmental Achievement in 1996, and the USDA Soil Conservation Service/Natural Resources Conservation Service has presented him with numerous awards recognizing his outstanding achievements.

Mr. Bowen is an Eagle Scout and a Trustee for the Mountaineer Area Council BSA Endowment Fund and the Austin Bowen Memorial Campers Opportunity Fund. He is currently helping to plan the National Boy Scout Jamboree that will be held in southern West Virginia in 2013.