



Invasive Species Mitigation

“Dawson & Associates provided the Alliance with extensive insights into federal policies and procedures necessary for our ongoing invasive carp mitigation efforts. Their counsel and knowledge of individuals overseeing federal policy and the way those policies are developed and implemented is excellent.”

– Molly Flanagan
Vice President, Alliance for the Great Lakes

CLIENT

The Alliance for the Great Lakes is a nonprofit environmental organization promoting local, state and federal policies that protect the Great Lakes and the people in the region. The Alliance’s goal was to secure federal authorization and funding approval for the Brandon Road Lock and Dam project in Illinois.

BACKGROUND

Numerous government and industry studies have identified invasive bighead silver and black carp as a major threat to the U.S. Great Lakes, especially the region’s multi-billion-dollar fishing industry and its water quality. The Alliance contacted Dawson & Associates to help achieve their goal of stopping carp migration into the Great Lakes.

RESPONSE

The Dawson team supporting the Alliance included several former senior Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) officials including a former Director of Civil Works, a recent Commander of the Rock Island (IL) District, a former civilian chief engineer, and former senior real estate attorney.

The Alliance and Dawson team prepared a multi-phased engagement strategy. Given USACE responsibility for project approvals, the Dawson team relied upon its knowledge of Corps policies and internal business practices to prepare an extensive set of advocacy materials illustrating how the Brandon Road Lock and Dam fulfilled USACE project requirements.

The Dawson team also organized a regular communication channel, including in-person meetings, between Alliance officials and key personnel at Corps’ district and division offices, and at Corps Headquarters. Dawson also facilitated in-person meetings with decisionmakers in the Army Civil Works office and with personnel in the Office of Management and Budget responsible for crafting the Administration’s Civil Works budget. These engagements ensured Alliance insights and perspectives received due consideration within the government’s deliberative process.

USACE ultimately included \$3.8 million for the Brandon Road Lock and Dam gauntlet project in its annual work plan, which according to the Alliance provided all of the funding needed from the federal government for the first year of pre-construction engineering and design.