

## NEWS RELEASE

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### For Immediate Release

#### **EPA Approval Announced for Beaver Lake Watershed Alliance Strategy**

Jason Kindall, Executive Director of the Beaver Watershed Alliance, today announced EPA approval of the Alliance's Beaver Lake Watershed Protection Strategy. Originally commissioned by the Northwest Arkansas Council in 2009, the Beaver Lake Watershed Protection Strategy is the guiding document for water conservation and watershed stewardship for Beaver Lake. The Beaver Watershed Alliance has adopted the document and spearheaded the spring 2012 revision and submitted the document for U.S. EPA acceptance.

"We are thrilled to announce the acceptance of our Water Protection Strategy for the Beaver Lake Watershed. Programs with accepted plans are given priority in funding for Clean Water Act section 319(h) and other EPA projects. The acceptance also carries some weight with other federal programs as well," states Kindall. "Ours is the first accepted by EPA for Arkansas."

Key Beaver Lake Watershed Protection Strategy Elements are:

1. Establishing a Beaver Lake Watershed Council (now the Beaver Watershed Alliance)
2. Implementation of core best management practices
3. Development of a developer and contractor's lake protection certification program
4. Establishing an education and stewardship program
5. Devising a monitoring and adaptive management program

The *Beaver Watershed Alliance (The Alliance)* was formed in 2010 to establish programming to maintain high quality drinking water in Beaver Lake and improve water quality on the Beaver Lake Watershed. *The Alliance* represents a diverse stakeholder group from conservation, education, water utilities, technical and science, business, agriculture, recreation, and local government groups working together for the cause of clean water.

The Beaver Lake *watershed* is 1,192 square miles in area, and primarily includes portions of Benton, Carroll, Madison, and Washington counties along with 17 incorporated municipalities. A small portion of the watershed is located in Crawford and Franklin counties to the south. The lake itself is approximately 44 square miles in surface area, extends approximately 50 miles end-to-end, and has an average depth of 60 feet throughout.

For more information on the EPA approval and *The Alliance* and its impact on Northwest Arkansas' clean water, visit [www.beaverwatershedalliance.org](http://www.beaverwatershedalliance.org), or contact Jason Kindall at 479.966.9391.

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