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## **New watershed group selects first director**

The Beaver Watershed Alliance hired Jason L. Kindall to be the new nonprofit organization's first executive director.

Kindall, a Goshen, Ark., resident, was picked from a field of more than 40 applicants for the position, said Bob Caulk, the watershed protection organization's board president.

Kindall starts work for the Alliance on a full-time basis in January.

"We had excellent candidates, but what stands out about Jason is his demonstrated passion for education and conservation - the foundations for voluntary efforts to protect the water we all drink," Caulk said. "He'll communicate effectively with stakeholders and the public. He'll establish partnerships, and he already recognizes both action in the watershed and education about it are keys to protecting Beaver Lake and its watershed."

Most recently, Kindall has worked as associate director of the Ozark Natural Science Center, a non-profit residential field science school in Madison County. He was the organization's education and research director from 2006-08.

Kindall holds two bachelor's degrees from Arkansas Tech University in Russellville. He earned a master's degree in wildlife sciences and is finishing a doctorate in natural resources from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. Kindall also serves on state and national boards in conservation education and is a peer reviewer for a national wildlife science journal.

Hiring an executive director was the last of the six start-up steps for the Beaver Watershed Alliance. The first five steps were writing the organization's bylaws, naming 20 permanent board members from a diverse group of stakeholders, applying to become a non-profit organization, writing a start-up plan and receiving start-up funding.

"My first charges are to establish the business and operational side of the Alliance, to develop a strategic plan with the board and stakeholders, and to build on the existing partnerships established by the founding board," Kindall said.

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## **ABOUT US**

The Beaver Watershed Alliance, created in January 2011, is a community-supported, nonprofit organization that brings together representatives from eight diverse stakeholder groups. Those stakeholders include representatives of the agriculture community, business, conservation groups, construction, technical, government, recreation, and drinking water suppliers.

Formation of the Beaver Watershed Alliance was recommended by the “Beaver Lake Watershed Protection Strategy” that was prepared for the Northwest Arkansas Council in 2009. The organization will take specific, targeted steps to protect water quality in Beaver Lake and its tributaries as the area grows. Areas of emphasis are voluntary and educational programs and projects, communication among diverse stakeholders, and water quality of impaired stream and lake areas.