



# National Watershed Coalition

National Watershed Coalition  
P. O. Box 556  
Chandler, OK 74834  
[www.watershedcoalition.org](http://www.watershedcoalition.org)

NWC Officers  
Don Underwood, Chairman  
Dan Lowrance, Interim Vice-Chair  
Mike Sykes, Past Chairman  
Lou Vee Bridges, Secretary Treasurer  
Dr. Dan Sebert, Executive Director

*The National Watershed Coalition is a nonprofit organization composed of national, regional, state, and local organizations, associations and individuals who advocate using watersheds as the planning and implementation unit when dealing with natural resource problems.*

*January 2009*

## *A Message from the NWC Chairman*

### *Dear Friends of the National Watershed Coalition*

Each year brings new challenges and opportunities to watershed project sponsors and their partners. The coming year promises to be filled with opportunity.



First and foremost, as a Coalition we continue to work with a major emphasis on improving the skills of project sponsors and partners to insure that they have the ability to meet their obligations and responsibilities. Through our meetings, publications, consultations, and NWC training opportunities we continue to improve the quality of project partnerships, project administration, project operation and maintenance, technical assistance and financial support.

2009 will bring us a new U. S. President and a new Congress. We know Congress and the new Administration are seriously looking for ways to stimulate the U. S. economy. That effort offers project sponsors some significant opportunities. We also know that both Congress and the Administration will be evaluating existing programs, such as the Watershed Program, for efficiency and effectiveness. This makes the coming budget process even more important than ever for project sponsors.

Project sponsors recognize the many benefits of the Watershed Program and the continuing need for project implementation. They are also keenly aware of the necessity for maintenance of the \$15 billion infrastructure the program has created as well as the need for rehabilitation of aging dams. It is more important than ever that we unite in an organized manner and tell our story and present a plan for the future of the Program. We must educate the incoming Administration and if we don't speak up, Congress will interpret that silence as a sign that there is no longer a need for our watershed work.

Your membership in the National Watershed Coalition strengthens our voice as well as yours. Through congressional testimony, continuing discussions with government officials at all levels, and the grass roots efforts of our individual members and affiliates we provide a voice for watershed project sponsors and associated stakeholders.

If you are not currently a coalition member, we invite you to join our nonprofit coalition made up of national, regional, state and local organizations and associations, as well as individual citizens.

If you are a current member, we thank you for your support and encourage you to renew your membership for 2009.

Your membership helps support our website ([www.watershedcoalition.org](http://www.watershedcoalition.org)) and our watershed E-News. So, I'm asking you to fill out the membership form attached and return it our office.

Thanks in advance for your support.  
**Don Underwood, NWC Chair**

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*Join us in Wichita for the 11th  
National Watershed Conference  
May 17-20- 2009*



Visit our website for more information on the conference, registration forms and hotel information.

[www.watershedcoalition.org](http://www.watershedcoalition.org)

*"The NWC is an organization that understands the challenges associated with conscientious and effective resource management by local government. Their training, education and advocacy efforts are on target. The affiliation of several Wise County, Texas officials, the Water Improvement District and the conservation district board with the NWC has been a valuable partnership. Our association with the NWC has certainly benefited county efforts to manage our water resources as well as protect life and property."*

**Judge Bill McElhaney, Wise County Texas**

*To receive Watershed E-News, send us your email address to [nwcdl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nwcdl@sbcglobal.net)*

National Watershed Coalition Membership Application  
Calendar Year 2009 (January 1- December 31)

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	
<b>Association / Organization</b>		
<b>Mailing Address</b>		
<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Zip</b>
<b>E-Mail Address</b>		
<b>Membership Category</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Individual - \$25 (US)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Organization/Association- \$75 (US)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Steering Committee \ Board of Directors - \$150 min. (US)</b>	
<p align="center"><b>Make checks for appropriate amount to the National Watershed Coalition and mail to:</b>  <b>National Watershed Coalition      P. O. Box 556      Chandler, OK. 74834</b></p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Visa</b>   <input type="checkbox"/> <b>MC</b>   <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Discover</b>   <input type="checkbox"/> <b>A. Express</b>   <b>Name on card</b> _____  <b>CC#</b> _____      <b>Ex. Date</b> _____  <b>Billing Address for Card</b> _____         </p>		

**Plans for 2009**

2009 will be an extremely busy year for the NWC. With our many ongoing projects and the challenges of a new administration and a new Congress as a backdrop we will hold our 11<sup>th</sup> National Conference in Wichita, Kansas.

At this "Gathering on the Plains" we will examine a broad variety of issues ranging from program and policy through technical issues and on to emergency preparedness and watershed restoration.

Kansas watershed sponsors will show case their watershed successes and challenges through tours and presentations. Keynote speakers will share national perspective. Keep in mind that Kansas hospitality is second to none.

In addition to the National Conference in May the Coalition will also host three regional Operation and Maintenance workshops (VA, MS and AR) and one national training session (OK) in 2009. These workshops entail both classroom and field time. Many of our past participants tell us that our training is the most relevant and practical training they have received.

Members of our instructional staff are all hands on practitioners and most are from the ranks of our NWC membership. Personal experience is key on their list of qualifications.

**In 2009 we will also...**

\_\_continue to work to keep USDA-NRCS informed and educated concerning the technical assistance and program support needs of watershed project sponsors.

\_\_continue our work with national leaders for approval of new projects, funding for existing projects and funding for the rehabilitation of aging dams.

\_\_continue to work with our partners to find ways to address operation and maintenance concerns across the country.

\_\_provide individual direct assistance to state watershed coalitions and state and local governments.

"The alliance represented by the NWC is extremely important to the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) and local conservation districts that serve as watershed project sponsors. The training, information and education efforts and their willingness to assist districts with watershed program issues makes the coalition an important asset for conservation districts. We not only support these efforts we rely on them to keep the watershed needs of districts in the forefront of both policy and funding discussions.  
**Bill Wilson, NACD Past President**

**Membership  
Renewal  
Form  
Enclosed**

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