The Grand Lake O’ The Cherokees Watershed Alliance Foundation Inc. is a citizen-based non-profit corporation established to represent water quality interests in the watershed. The Grand Lake watershed is about 10,300 square miles in the states of Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma.

The Foundation serves as a forum to identify water quality challenges; to help with solutions; and to energize stakeholders and citizens to become involved in their watershed. A focus of the foundation is to help establish and work with existing and future watershed improvement organizations within the watershed. The watershed will partner with local watershed improvement organizations. It will work with local, state and federal governments as well as stakeholders in the watershed.

The makeup of the Board of Directors will insure that each state within the watershed has a representative number of citizen Board members to insure the watershed is truly represented on the Board. In addition to the president of the Foundation, there will be one corporate executive vice president from each of the four states. Further, each of the four state Governors has ex officio status on the Board, which is a voting status. Each local water quality improvement organization will also be a member of the Foundation Board of Directors. Finally, the Chairman of the Stakeholders Committee will be a member of the Board.

The Foundation has two key operating committees. The first is the Stakeholders Committee where citizens representing diverse interests will serve and have an active voice in the watershed. The second is the Watershed Plan Committee which is the forum used to coordinate the preparation of a Watershed Plan for the total watershed.

Currently, the Grand Lake watershed does not have an approved watershed plan. The Foundation is committed to assisting and coordinating the preparation of a Watershed Plan that will be approved by each of the four states and submitted to the EPA.

The Foundation will be a source of private funding that is necessary to make water quality improvements in the watershed. It will also provide education to stakeholders and the public about matters important to water quality.