

RESOLUTION NO. 2013 - _____

Be it resolved by the Commission of the County of _____, State of Arkansas

A Resolution to be Entitled:

A Resolution of Opposition to the January 9, 2013 “designation” and “recognition” of the White River and its Watershed as the “Second National Blueway”; and special Opposition to a “Blueway” Memorandum of Understanding being entered into by federal and state bureaucrats pertaining to our lands and waters due to lack of proper notification or invitation, and due to failure to seek approval, involvement, or input of any kind from _____ County.

1. **WHEREAS**, on January 9, 2013 agents of the U.S. Department of Interior hosted in Little Rock an announcement/news release ceremony to announce that the White river and its watershed (17.8 million acres across 60 counties in Arkansas and Missouri) “had been named the nation’s second National Blueway”. The only two U.S. congressional delegates named as being present for the announcement were neither one a representative of the vast area of north Arkansas pertaining to the White River/Watershed. The three U.S. congressional delegates who do represent the White River/Watershed area of Arkansas, Senator John Boozman, Representative Steve Womack, and Representative Rick Crawford, were not present at the ceremony, and it is not known if even they were aware of or had been invited to the “naming/designating” of the supposed White River/Watershed “Blueway”. Also, no county officials of any of the affected area of Arkansas were meaningfully informed nor known to have been invited to be present at the ceremony; AND,
2. **WHEREAS**, the federal law requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Clean Water Act (CWA) and other federal statutes require that all conservation programs be balanced with equal protection of the customs, cultures, and economies of the areas conserved or preserved; yet the language of the Blueway Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) contract plainly lists “cultural preservation” and “sustainable economic opportunities” to be provided for only “to the extent compatible with agency missions, goals, objectives, and priorities”, while the overall language of the MOU contract is solely about grandiose schemes to “conserve” and “preserve” the *entire* watershed including “**working lands and waters**”; AND,
3. **WHEREAS**, no definition of “**working lands and waters**” is given in the MOU; AND,
4. **WHEREAS**, affected Arkansas counties which have adopted Comprehensive Land Use and Management Plans according to the provisions of federal law at 40CFR 1501.7(a)(1), et al, were neither informed, notified, or invited to participate in the “Blueway” process as is required by federal law, AND,
5. **WHEREAS**, such violation of federal law by federal agencies to not balance conservation and preservation with protection of custom, culture, social, and economic vitality, *plus* their failure to fulfill federal law requirements to inform, include, and involve county officials in all plans and proceedings of federal/state programs and projects, etc. – in our understanding thereby *nullifies* and *voids* all their bureaucratic attempts and efforts which have taken place up to this present time, for the purpose of “designating” or “naming” of White River/Watershed as a “National Blueway”; AND ,
6. **WHEREAS**, the whole appearance of and the general list of participants in this ill-conceived “blueway” attempt is so reminiscent of and similar to the now infamous effort of 1996 (by the U.S. Department of Interior, U.S. Fish & Wildlife, Arkansas Game & Fish, and other state and federal agencies) to submit the same general area (Ozark Highlands/White River Basin) to the U.S. Man and Biosphere (MAB) program which had the same goals, objectives and strategies as does this “Blueway” newcomer; (the 1996 MAB attempt was aborted when former Governor Huckabee demanded AG&FC to withdraw);

-continued on next page

continued from first page

SO THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE County of _____, State of Arkansas, on this _____ day of _____, in the Year of our Lord 2013, THAT:

A) _____ County has every intention to continue present conservation practices as is mandated by laws that are consistent with historic and balanced provisions of the Constitution of the State of Arkansas and will therefore, neither recognize, cooperate, participate or partner with, nor submit to any so-called “Blueway” designs of any type or kind- due to the violations of federal law noted above; and due to the failure of the Department of the Interior, and its affiliates as outlined in the MOU, to consult with the elected officials of each affected county within the proposed “Blueway”, as required by law, in their attempt to manage the lands and waterways which are encompassed by said counties.

B) _____ County calls on Governor Beebe to demand immediate withdrawal of Arkansas Game & Fish Commission, Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, and Arkansas Waterways Association from participation in or support of the White River Watershed National Blueway.

C) _____ County calls on our U.S. Congressional Delegation to demand immediate withdrawal of federal agencies from imposing a National Blueway System of any type or kind upon White River Watershed; and to refrain from entering into a Memorandum of Understanding for any purpose, now or in the future, pertaining to lands, air, water, etc. of Arkansas unless county governments have been fully informed, involved, and consulted, and have agreed to so do based on widespread local support from the public and private sectors. And further, our county also calls on our congressional delegates to take special care in the future, to prevent any attempt of any other similar federally designed “collaborative framework” MOU contract in Arkansas again.

***BE IT THEREFORE SO RESOLVED.**

***Note: Upon adoption of this Resolution, the County Clerk of this county is to immediately forward a file-marked copy for publication in a newspaper of local circulation and also to forward file-marked copies to Governor Beebe and to each of Arkansas’ six U.S. congressional delegates— to both their state offices and to their Washington D.C. offices, and for informational purposes to all our district Arkansas legislative delegates. The County Clerk is then to provide written file-marked certification to the Quorum Court that such distribution has been accomplished.**