

RESOLUTION NO. _____

Be it Resolved by the Quorum Court of the County of Boone, State of Arkansas

A Resolution to be Entitled:

A Resolution of Opposition to the January 2013 “designation” and “recognition” of the White River and its Watershed as the “Second National Blueway”; and especial 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 Boone 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 which 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 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 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 provision of federal law at 40 CFR 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 to withdraw);

SO THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY OF BOONE, STATE OF ARKANSAS, ON THIS 10TH day of June, in the Year of our Lord 2013, THAT:

A. Boone 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” designation of any type or kind due to the violations of federal law noted above; and due to the insult of

our county being ignored by state and federal agents as they scheme together to “manage” our lands and waters without seeking our approval or consulting with us,

B. Boone 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. Boone 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 land, air, water, etc. of Arkansas unless county governments have been fully informed, involved, and consulted, and have agreed to do so based on widespread local support from the public and private sectors. And further, our county also calls on congressional delegates to take special care in the future, to prevent any attempt of any other similar federally designed “collaborative framework” MOU contracts in Arkansas again.

BE IT THEREFORE SO RESOLVED.

DATE PASSED:_____SUBMITTED BY: JUSTICE GUYNN

DATE APPROVED:_____APPROVED:_____

COUNTY
JUDGE_____

ATTEST:_____

COUNTY CLERK