

AGENDA
CRAIGHEAD COUNTY QUORUM COURT MEETING
November 25, 2013
7:00 p.m.

Assembly and Pledge of Allegiance

OPENING PRAYER

Judge Hill will brief the full court on any updates or information concerning any ongoing projects or business.

- I. Roll Call
- II. Approval of minutes; October, 2013 meetings.
- III. Committee Reports:

- a. Budget Committee Update

Note: Due to the Veteran's Holiday and no county business to be discussed, the Quorum Court cancelled the November Committee Meeting scheduled for 11-11-2013.

- IV. Old Business:
 - a. None

- V. New Business:
 - a. Ordinance to establish rates of taxation for tax year 2013, to be collected in 2014.
 - b. Resolution supporting creation of critical habitat for Neosho Mucket and Rabbitsfoot Mussel, supported through U.S. Fish & Wildlife and U.S. Dept. of Interior.

Ordinance No. _____

BE IT ENACTED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF CRAIGHEAD COUNTY, ARKANSAS, AN ORDINANCE TO BE ENTITLED.

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE RATES OF TAXATION TO BE LEVIED AGAINST PERSONAL AND REAL PROPERTY IN CRAIGHEAD COUNTY FOR THE USE AND BENEFIT OF THE CITIES, TOWNS, SCHOOLS AND OTHER ENTITIES IN CRAIGHEAD COUNTY FOR THE TAX YEAR 2013 TO BE COLLECTED IN 2014.

ARTICLE 1. The tax rate to be levied on all taxable personal and real property in the County of Craighead for the use and benefit of the various Cities, Towns, Schools, and other entities in Craighead County, Arkansas, for the Tax Year 2013 to be collected in the year 2014 shall be as follows:

<u>County</u>				<u>Jonesboro</u>			
County General	0.0040	4.00	Mills	Jonesboro Police	0.0005	0.50	Mills
County Road	0.0021	2.10	Mills	Jonesboro Fire	0.0005	0.50	Mills
County Library	0.0020	2.00	Mills	Jonesboro Library	0.0020	2.00	Mills
Total	0.0081	8.10	Mills	Total	0.0030	3.00	Mills
<u>Schools</u>				<u>City</u>			
Bay	0.0417	41.70	Mills	Bay	0.0016	1.60	Mills
Brookland	0.0390	39.00	Mills	Black Oak	0.0019	1.90	Mills
BIC	0.0330	33.00	Mills	Bono	0.0021	2.10	Mills
Jonesboro	0.0331	33.10	Mills	Brookland	0.0020	2.00	Mills
Nettleton	0.0390	38.95	Mills	Caraway	0.0018	1.80	Mills
Riverside	0.0411	41.06	Mills	Cash	0.0011	1.10	Mills
Valley View	0.0425	42.50	Mills	Egypt	0.0016	1.60	Mills
Westside	0.0354	35.42	Mills	Lake City	0.0016	1.60	Mills
GCT	0.0375	37.49	Mills	Monette	0.0018	1.80	Mills

Dated this ____ day of _____, 2013

Approved: _____

Ed Hill, Craighead County Judge

Attest: _____

Kade Holliday, Craighead County Clerk

RESOLUTION 2013-_____

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF CRAIGHEAD COUNTY, STATE OF
ARKANSAS A RESOLUTION ENTITLED:**

**A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE CREATION OF CRITICAL HABITAT FOR THE
NEOSHO MUCKET AND RABBITSFOOT MUSSEL THAT IS SUPPORTED BY GOOD
SCIENCE AND INFORMED BY AN ACCURATE ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT OF THE
EFFECTS OF SUCH DESIGNATION**

WHEREAS, on July 11, 2011, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (the Service), and the U. S. Department of Interior (Interior) entered into a stipulated agreement with the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) to settle multi-district litigation centered upon the U.S. Endangered Species Act, and

WHEREAS, none of the states affected by the listing were made aware of the settlement until it was announced allowing for no comments or defense by the Southern states, the subject of the suit, and

WHEREAS, The agreement included a “work plan” that set a schedule for the Service to make endangered and threatened species listing determinations for 374 fresh-water aquatic species in 12 southern and southeastern states with forty-six of those species being in the state of Arkansas, and

WHEREAS, A U.S. District Court Judge for the District of Columbia signed the agreement on September 9, 2011 beginning a review process for all 374 species that will run through calendar year 2018, and

WHEREAS, this is the single largest proposed listing of species under the Endangered Species Act since its adoption by Congress in 1973; amounting to, in effect, a potential increase in the number of species listed under the ESA by about twenty-five percent, and

WHEREAS, without any action taken by the several counties of this state operating through the Association of Arkansas Counties and in conjunction with other public and private industry stakeholders the potential critical habitat area for the Neosho Mucket and the Rabbitsfoot Mussel, alone, constitutes watersheds that cover some forty-two percent of the geographical area of the State of Arkansas, and

WHEREAS, “critical habitat” is a specific geographic area that contains features essential for the conservation of a threatened or endangered species, and

WHEREAS, once critical habitat has been designated the experience in other states has been that activities by private landowners that, purposefully or inadvertently, harms, harasses, wounds, kills, traps, capture or collects the protected species has led to direct federal involvement in those landowners private property, and

WHEREAS, private property owners in Arkansas will almost certainly find themselves facing similar circumstances as have been experienced by property owners in sister states.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, it is the position of Craighead County as regards all current and future listings, along with the designation of critical habitat, under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) to work closely with public and private entities to insure:

1. Only those species that are truly threatened or endangered are, in fact, listed, and
2. Any designation of critical habitat is limited to the minimum land area, supported by good science, necessary for the protection and welfare of the species, and
3. Both science and the overall economic impact of any listing and designation of critical habitat are taken into account before such listings and designation so as to minimize the impact of such on citizens and private enterprise—also known as the tax base for county government, and
4. The impact of listings and designation of critical habitat under the ESA do not act as a barrier to county government in supplying those fundamental services required by the Arkansas Constitution and state law.

Ed Hill, County Judge

Date

Kade Holliday, County Clerk

Date