

**EAST TENNESSEE DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**APRIL 11, 2017
MINUTES**

The East Tennessee Development District's Executive Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, April 11, 2017, at the ETHRA Offices in Knoxville, TN. The following Executive Committee members were present:

Terry Frank, Anderson County Mayor
Johnny Merritt, Mayor of Luttrell
E.L. Morton, Campbell County Mayor
Ron Woody, Roane County Executive
Tim Yates, Monroe County Mayor
Roland Dykes, III, Member at Large

Guests

Rick Yakubic, ETDD
Don Woods, ADC
Gary Holiway, ETHRA
Sarah Fansler, Knox County
Jack Qualls, Loudon County Development Representative
Bryan Hall, Monroe County Development Representative
Wade Creswell, Roane Alliance
Mike Arms, ATVG
Tammy Merritt, Congressman Fleischmann's Office
Faye Anderson, U.S. Census

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Terry Frank called the meeting to order.

MINUTES

Chairman Terry Frank presented the minutes of the March 14, 2017 meeting to the Executive Committee for approval. Member at Large Roland Dykes III made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, it was seconded by Monroe County Mayor Tim Yates, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report for the month ending February 28, 2017 was presented by Roane County Executive Ron Woody. Monroe County Mayor Tim Yates made the motion to accept the report as presented and it was seconded by Campbell County Mayor E.L. Morton and it was approved by all.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Terry Bobrowski, ETDD Executive Director, gave his Director's report:

Grants Update

There are several items to report on:

There are several items to report on. First, we are in a slow period in terms of grant applications. There are no major grant programs that are active right now so we are busy catching up with the grant administration side of our work program. Just to recap our busy season, our staff submitted 18 CDBG applications to ECD Nashville on February 24th of 2017. We submitted applications for Jefferson City, Loudon County, Campbell County, Scott County, Caryville, Jefferson County, Parrottsville, Baneberry, New Market, Dandridge, Madisonville, Monroe County, Harrogate, Union County, Roane County, Morgan County, Cocke County and Sweetwater. The state received about 155 applications from across the state so the program remains very competitive. I expect them to fund around 60 projects this year. We should hear about the winners in September.

We also submitted several Clean Tennessee Energy Grants. In 2011, TVA provided Tennessee with \$26.4 million to fund environmental mitigation projects. This amount was split up into \$5.28 million over a five year period. This is the 5th and final year of the program. We submitted applications for Union County and Cocke County. The applications were due on February 28, 2017.

We were also pleased to see the HOME program accepting applications again this year. This program has not been available for the past several years and we are glad to see it come back. Due to issues regarding codes adoption at the local level many communities were not able to submit this year. We hope that these issues will be resolved in the current legislative session. We ended up submitted applications in the amount of \$500,000 for Union County and Winfield.

We are also finishing up our Emergency Repair Program for the Elderly effort for FY 2017. We have expended over \$260,000 of grant funds for housing repairs and we have about \$20,000 left to allocate before the end of the fiscal year. This is a very popular program and we work with small housing providers in your communities to get these grant funds out there working to benefit the elderly population.

One point I would like to emphasize is the position that the White House is taking for many of these public assistance programs. For the FY 2018 budget that was recently submitted to Congress for consideration, the CDB program, the ARC program and the Economic Development Administration were all zeroed out. No funding was requested for any of these programs. Also zeroed out are USDA water and wastewater grant and loans, the pre-disaster mitigation grant program through FEMA and many of EPA's infrastructure grant programs. In total, the proposed 2018 federal budget shows \$54 billion in cuts to domestic programs. Also, cuts are proposed to the existing 2017 budget that is currently being funded by a continuing resolution that expires on April 28th. The proposed cuts total \$17.9 billion dollars and are concentrated in the same domestic programs that include CDBG, EDA, EPA and USDA.

The CDBG program remains the only viable public infrastructure program that is available to communities so it is extremely important that we advocate for this program whenever we have discussions with federal legislators. We have heard that the Trump budget will zero out the CDBG program as well as the ARC program and the Economic Development Administration. I have not seen the actual budget yet but it is clear that our traditional infrastructure grant program will be at risk.

Retail Academy Update

We are very pleased that the State Department of Economic and Community Development is moving forward with several of their rural development initiatives. One initiative is the asset planning grant program for distressed counties. Each of our five distressed counties will be receiving up to \$50,000 from ECD for a small economic development project that addresses a local need. ETDD is preparing all five grant applications and the grant proposals range from the construction of a river access facility to hooking up college age students to broadband.

Another exciting opportunity for Tier 4 counties is the chance to participate in the Retail Academy training course. The course will involve an intense one day training session that will include:

- Demographic Research – historical, current, and projected demographics – to include market trade areas by radius and drive time geographies

- Retail Gap Analysis
- Retail Peer Analysis – By identifying communities across the United States that “look” like the market area, you are able to determine both retailers and retail concepts that have proven their interest in similar communities and market areas.
- Community Marketing Guide – Including a Retail Aerial Map; Consultant will make no changes to the community fliers after this contract expires within one week of the workshop date; if participating cities want changes made to their fliers post workshop there will be a fee associated with the work.
- Identification of Retail Prospects
- One annual International Council of Shopping Centers membership per community
- Education on Retail Recruitment Implementation

The value of the training is \$10,000 per community and ECD is picking up the entire tab. ETDD will be managing the training session at the local level and will be the actual contracting agency for the service delivery. The session will take place on June 6th at the McGee Tyson conference facility.

Legislative Overview

Looks like the State Legislature will be finishing up its work by the end of April. Our annual appropriation of \$150,000 plus an additional \$50,000 appears to be secure within the budget proposal and we expect passage without a problem.

The broadband expansion bill pushed by the Governor is now a reality – the bill provides \$30 million dollars over three years to rural electric cooperatives to expand broadband availability in their service areas.

The Governor’s transportation bill which raises the gas tax by 6 cents over three years is still working its way through committees although a new proposal in the House appears to be imminent. Hopefully, a meaningful funding mechanism will be approved soon that will address the \$10 billion transportation project backlog.

Calendar Matters

Several meetings are coming up that I wanted to make sure that you are aware of:

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for May 9th back here at the ETHRA offices.

We have also scheduled our Annual Awards Banquet for Thursday, July the 13th – we will be going to a new facility called the Venue in Lenoir City for our event this year.

Other Business

We have with us here today Ms. Faye Anderson with the US Census Bureau. As you are aware the next decennial census will take place in 2020 and an accurate count is extremely important to local governments. I believe the per capita amount for state shared taxes is about \$117 dollars now so every person counted is money in the bank. Please join me in welcoming Ms. Faye Anderson.

Ms. Faye Anderson spoke briefly about 2020 Census Local Update of Census Addresses operation (LUCA). She explained why LUCA participation is important to the 2020 Census. Also, what's new and how to prepare for it.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business the meeting was adjourned.