

**EAST TENNESSEE DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
DECEMBER 11, 2018
MINUTES**

The East Tennessee Development District's Executive Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, December 11, 2018, at the ETHRA offices in Knoxville, TN. The following Executive Committee members were present:

E.L. Morton, Campbell County Mayor
Ron Woody, Roane County Executive
Roland (Trey) Dykes III, Member at Large
Mark Potts, Jefferson County Mayor
Terry Frank, Anderson County Mayor
Don Mull, Mayor of Alcoa
Joe Brooks, Claiborne County Mayor
Crystal Ottinger, Cocke County Mayor
Bill Brittain, Hamblen County Mayor
Glenn Jacobs, Knox County Mayor
Rollen Bradshaw, Loudon County Mayor
Brian Langley, Morgan County Executive
Jeff Tibbals, Scott County Mayor
Larry Waters, Sevier County Mayor
Jason Bailey, Union County Mayor
Ken Yager, State Senator
Kent Calfee, State Representative
Evelyn Gill, Member at Large

Guests

Rick Yakubic, ETDD
Gary Holiway, ETHRA
Sarah Fansler, Knox County
Mike Byrd, Grainger County Mayor
Bryan Hall, TRDA
Richard Kirkland, Monroe County Development Representative
Mike Arms, ATVG
Tammy Merritt, Congressman Fleischmann's Office
Lana Moore, Senator Lamar Alexander's Office
Stacy Chambers, Monroe County
Bert Robinson, TVA
Ron Williams, Mayor of Farragut
Omer Cox, Mayor of Oliver Springs
Jerry Johnson, Roane County

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman E.L. Morton called the meeting to order.

MINUTES

Chairman E.L. Morton presented the minutes of the October 9, 2018 meeting to the Executive Committee for approval. Hamblen County Mayor Bill Brittain made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, it was seconded by Member at Large Evelyn Gill, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report for the months ending September 30, 2018 and October 31, 2018 was presented by Jefferson County Mayor Mark Potts and ETDD Fiscal Officer Rick Yakubic. Scott County Mayor Jeff Tibbals made the motion to accept the report as presented and it was seconded by Claiborne County Mayor Joe Brooks, and it was approved by all.

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman E.L. Morton stated that the audit subcommittee met this morning to consider our 2018 audit. Chairman Morton reported that the overview by the audit committee is clean opinion, unmodified, no compliance issues reported by the auditor. The audit committee recommended the audit report to the Executive Committee for acceptance. A motion to approve the audit report was made by Roane County Executive Ron Woody, seconded by Cocke County Mayor Crystal Ottinger, and approved by all.

Final copies of the audit will be brought to our next meeting for anyone that wants a copy and it will also be available on our website.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

Mr. Bobrowski mentioned a quick update on the status of our assessments. Very pleased to report that all counties have paid their assessments and thanked everyone.

Grants Update

There are several items to report on:

CDBG Grants

Mr. Bobrowski reported that ETDD staff is working hard on the preparation of 2019 CDBG grant applications. The 2019 applications are due in Nashville on February 22nd of 2019. We are working on applications for Norris (wastewater), Jefferson County (water line), Campbell County (ambulances), Hamblen County (fire truck), Scott County (ambulance), Monroe County (waterline), Winfield (fire truck), Dandridge (wastewater), Rocky Top (fire truck), Anderson County (water line), Loudon (wastewater), Union County (water line) Sevier County (fire truck) and Rockwood (wastewater).

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. The program has not been well supported at the federal level and has consistently lost funding over the past several years although it received a small increase in funding this year. This translates into fewer and fewer grants at the local level and we have really started to feel the pinch in the last couple of years.

ARC Grants

The ARC pre-application process opened up in Late October. Pre-applications were due in Nashville on December 7th. We submitted eight grant requests for local communities – Union County (waste to energy), Russellville-Whitesburg Utility (water system improvements), Clinton Utilities (water line), Claiborne County (wastewater system for a school), White Pine (water interconnection), TASS (new wet well), Arthur Sewanee Utility (water tank), and Hamblen County (workforce development project).

Other Grants

Mr. Bobrowski reported we recently received word from TDEC concerning the release of funds from the Volkswagen settlement. Tennessee received about \$45 million dollars and intends to expend the funds on alternative fuel vehicles. The initial release of \$8.7 million provides funding for the purchase of school buses that have diesel, alternative fuel or electric engines. Up to \$750,000 is available for each project. Applications are due December 14th and we will be submitting applications for Oneida, Scott County and Campbell County.

ECD has also announced the availability of broadband accessibility grants. They will be taking public comments on the proposed program until December 20th and I expect applications to be available in January of 2019.

The 2019 application round for FEMA Firefighter grants is now open. If you have a municipal or volunteer fire department that is interested in applying for these funds please give us a call.

Mr. Bobrowski also mentioned that we received \$200,000 from the TN Department of Agriculture to start a new micro loan program. The purpose of the program is to stimulate farm and agri-business income. We intend to provide low interest financing for the purchase of farm equipment and machinery in order to create new markets for locally produced farm products. Loans can be for up to \$25,000, 7 years maximum term and we anticipate the interest rate to be around 4%. Loans can be used for building, harvesting equipment, production equipment, fencing, irrigation equipment, grain storage and variety of other things. No rolling stock such as trucks or trailers are eligible. The program is up and running and we have started accepting applications.

Overview of CEDS Update

Each year the District prepares the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy document as a requirement of its planning contract with the Economic Development Administration. We have completed a draft of the 2018-2019 version of the CEDS document. Your packets contain an overview of the strategic goals and objectives and a brief list of some of the strategic projects that we are aware of.

In compliance with the program rules, the document was reviewed by our Economic Development Committee on November 5th and their comments have been incorporated into the document. So that pretty much finished up the CEDS for this year, the overall objective of the CEDS is to provide guidance to local leaders so that future investments in economic development projects and programs can best take advantage of regional assets. The document also provides to the Economic Development Administration, US Department of Commerce, and a baseline of strategic projects that are acknowledged as primary stepping stones to achieving the region's overall economic development objectives. Mr. Chairman, the 2018-2019 CEDS was recommended for approval by the Economic Development Committee and it now must be considered for adoption by the Executive Committee. A motion is needed for approval.

Loudon County Mayor Rollen Bradshaw made a motion to adopt the 2018-2019 CEDS and it was seconded by Anderson County Mayor Terry Frank. It was approved by all.

Trustee Changes for Retirement Programs

This is just a housekeeping matter – in your packets you will find two resolutions that relate to the appointment of me as a trustee for two of our retirement accounts and the removal of Don Woods as a trustee. Of course, Don Woods retired in June of this year and is no longer an active employee of ETDD. These are legacy accounts that only apply to Don Woods, myself and two other former staff members. I would ask that each resolution be voted on individually – first the Lincoln National Life resolution and then the American National resolution.

Chairman Morton asked the committee for a motion for the Lincoln National Life resolution. Cocke County Mayor Crystal Ottinger made a motion to accept the Lincoln National Life resolution as presented and it was seconded by Hamblen County Mayor Bill Brittain, and it was approved by all.

Chairman Morton asked the committee for a motion for the American National resolution. Claiborne County Mayor Joe Brooks made a motion to accept the American National resolution as presented and it was seconded by Morgan County Executive Brian Langley, and approved by all.

Executive Committee Update and New Board Members

Mr. Bobrowski updated the Committee on the status of our membership. We currently have Executive Committee members from all 16 of our counties but that will be changing soon. After many years of service on the Committee, Mr. Don Mull, Mayor of Alcoa will be leaving us. Also, after several years of faithful service Mr. Terry Wolfe will be leaving us as well. That will leave openings in Blount County and in Grainger County. I have started the nomination process in Grainger County and I expect to start the nomination process in Blount County this week.

Mr. Bobrowski also mentioned we have several new Board members as a result of the most recent election. We have new Mayors in Blaine, Rocky Top, Oliver Springs, Jellico, Newport (Trey Dykes), Bean Station, Jefferson City, Loudon, Greenback and Pittman Center. I am sorry to report that we have had two Mayors pass away recently – Virgil Cecil in Winfield and Bryan Atchley in Sevierville. We look forward to working with our new members in the future.

Calendar Matters

The next ETDD/ETHRA meeting will be held on January 8th here at the ETHRA offices. Also, for a long term hold, we anticipate holding our Annual Business meeting on March 12th at Rothchilds in Knoxville. County Day on the Hill will be March 4 & 5 2019 in Nashville and this will correspond with our statewide TDDA conference so there will be an opportunity for those interested to attend both events. We would be happy to host you at our conference hotel on the night of the 4th if you are interested.

Other Business

No other business

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.