

**EAST TENNESSEE DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
JANUARY 10, 2017  
MINUTES**

The East Tennessee Development District's Executive Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, January 10, 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  
Don Mull, Mayor of Alcoa  
Tim Thompson, Development Representative  
Crystal Ottinger, Cocke County Mayor  
Terry Wolfe, Mayor of Bean Station  
Bill Brittain, Hamblen County Mayor  
Dale Perdue, Scott County Mayor  
Roland Dykes, III, Minority at Large

**Guests**

Rick Yakubic, ETDD  
Don Woods, ADC  
Gary Holiway, ETHRA  
Lana Moore, Senator Lamar Alexander's Office  
Cindy Boshears, Congressman Fleischmann's Office  
Tammy Merritt, Congressman Fleischmann's Office  
Jack Qualls, Loudon County Development Representative  
Bryan Hall, Monroe County Development Representative  
Joe Woody, USDA Rural Development  
Chris Edmonds, TCAT Morristown

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Terry Frank called the meeting to order.

## **MINUTES**

Chairman Terry Frank presented the minutes of the December 13, 2016 meeting to the Executive Committee for approval. Union County Mayor Mike Williams made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, it was seconded by Minority at Large Roland Dykes, III, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer's Report for the month ending November 30, 2016 was presented by Roane County Executive Ron Woody. Union County Mayor Mike Williams 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.

A copy of the 2016 audit in its final form is included in your packets. Feel free to take the copy with you. We will also email copies to all of our legislators, the Speaker of the House, Lieutenant Governor, Comptroller and the ECD Commissioner. The final audit is also on our web page.

## **APPOINT A NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Chairman Terry Frank made the comment that each year the Chair appoints a Nominating Committee to recommend a slate of officers to the full Board during the annual business meeting that will be held on March 14th, 2017. I would like to appoint the following members to the Nominating Committee:

Alcoa Mayor Don Mull, Chair  
Monroe County Mayor Tim Yates  
Morgan County Executive Don Edwards  
Scott County Mayor Dale Perdue  
Hamblen County Mayor Bill Brittain  
Anderson County Mayor Terry Frank, ex officio

The Nominating Committee will be provided with historical data regarding past officers by ETDD in the near future. The Nominating Committee will meet immediately prior to the February ETHRA/ETDD Executive Committee meeting and report its recommendations to the full Committee.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

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

### **Grants Update**

There are several items to report on:

The 2017 applications will be due in Nashville on February 24<sup>th</sup> of 2017. We are working on about 18 applications right now, which is a really high number from our region. The state typically funds between 60 and 70 applications per year. We currently are working with 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 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. 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.

### **Clean Tennessee Energy Grant**

We are also working on 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. Eligible applicants include cities, counties, utility districts, and other entities such as airport authorities to purchase, install or construct energy projects that involve the utilization of alternative energy sources, improve energy conservation or improve air quality. Examples of projects include HVAC improvements, insulation, lighting upgrades, use of biomass, geothermal or solar power and other similar projects. We are currently working on applications for Union County and Cocke County. Applications are due on February 28, 2017.

### **Home Program**

We expect that THDA will announce that they will be accepting HOME program applications again this year. This program has not been available for the past several years and we are glad to see it come back. The HOME program provides grant funds for owner occupied housing rehabilitations for low and moderate income persons. We spoke with THDA Director Perrey last month and he assured us that the issues regarding codes adoption at the local level will either be resolved by the Attorney General or the Legislature in the very near future.

## **Historic Preservation Grants**

We are also working on a small number of historic preservation grants. These are small grants that are offered each year by the Tennessee Historical Commission to advance preservation activities. Typically, the grant funds are used to make minor improvements to structures that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Since the grants are small – in the \$25,000 range – the projects are comprehensive but still meaningful. The deadline is January 29<sup>th</sup>. We are working with Harriman, the Glenmore Mansion folks, Cocke County and possibly Jefferson County.

## **2017 Legislative Agenda**

Mr. Terry Bobrowski recognized Chair Johnny Merritt of the Legislative Subcommittee.

First I would like to thank the other members of the Legislative Subcommittee:

Ken Yager, State Senator  
Kelly Keisling, State Representative  
Crystal Ottinger, Cocke County Mayor  
Mike Williams, Union County Mayor  
Rollen Bradshaw, Loudon County Mayor  
Tim Burchett, Knox County Mayor  
Robin Mason, Claiborne County Development Rep  
Rodney Davis, Jefferson County Development Rep

And Terry Frank, Anderson County Mayor

In your packets you will find a copy of ETDD's federal and state legislative recommendations. The recommendations were sent to the members of the legislative subcommittee for review and their comments have been incorporated into the recommendations. I'll briefly go over the recommendations:

The Federal Recommendations have not changed substantially from last year - we are still pushing for full funding of the ARC, the EDA and re-authorization of the SBA and support for a funding level of \$7.5 billion in loan guarantee authority, expressing support for the CDBG program, Chickamauga Lock funding, TVA non-power programs and support for full funding of the Y-12, ORNL and the Uranium Processing Facility in the Anderson/Roane county area.

In regard to our State Legislative agenda - we have examined the legislative agendas of TSCA, TML and TDDA and attempted to coordinate agenda items as much as possible. The ETDD agenda has not changed significantly from last year and includes expressing support for the passage of a funding solution to address long term transportation needs in the State.

Subcommittee Chair Johnny Merritt made a motion to approve the State and Federal Legislative recommendations, and it was seconded by Roane County Executive Ron Woody and approved by all.

## **Planning Assistance Service Overview**

Just a quick update on the planning advisory service. We started the service in 2011 so we are half way through our sixth year of operation. We have grown the program substantially from the start and we now serve 34 cities and counties in our region. We recently added Jefferson County to our list of communities that we serve. Two years ago we had a 10% increase in our contract fees, the first and only increase in the history of the program. The program is very stable, we typically do not lose community participation from one year to the next. Our staff has over 90 years of experience in local planning – all three staff members are former employees of the Knoxville field office of Local Planning back when the state funded the program.

I wanted to mention that last year we completed the certification of a special census that was performed by the Town of Farragut. Each municipality and county is eligible to conduct a special census to document perceived new growth between the ten year census counts. In the case of Farragut, their population increased from their 2010 census number of 20,676 to 22,674 as counted by the special census. This increase of 1,998 people will represent an additional \$229,770 of state shared tax dollars each year until the next census numbers are available.

## **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 February 14<sup>th</sup> here at the ETHRA offices. Also, the Tennessee Development District Association's legislative reception will be on Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at the Downtown Doubletree in Nashville. We will have a block of rooms reserved, if anyone wants to attend the event we would be happy to pick up room cost for the night of the 7<sup>th</sup> and per diem costs for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Just let me know and I will set it up for you.

For your calendars, the ETDD/ETHRA Annual Business meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, March the 14<sup>th</sup> – it will be held at Rothchilds on Kingston Pike in Knoxville. Also, mark your calendars for the Tennessee Development District Association Annual Conference - it will be held on March 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017 at the Embassy Suites in Murfreesboro. We are piggy backing with the Rural Development conference again this year – Rural Development starts on the 21<sup>st</sup> and ends on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. We have also scheduled our Annual Awards Banquet for Thursday, July the 13<sup>th</sup> – we are going to go back to the Museum of Appalachia for this event this year.

## **Other Business**

Chairman Terry Frank recognized Chris Edmonds with the Tennessee College of Applied Technology in Morristown to speak on the LEAP grant that has been awarded which brought a “work ethic diploma” program into five local high schools so that students could learn soft skills surrounding professional behavior. The program brings together businesses, higher education leaders, and local school systems in addressing their needs.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

With no other business the meeting was adjourned.