

**EAST TENNESSEE DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**JANUARY 9, 2018  
MINUTES**

The East Tennessee Development District's Executive Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, January 9, 2018, at the ETHRA offices in Knoxville, TN. The following Executive Committee members were present:

Johnny Merritt, Mayor of Luttell  
E.L. Morton, Campbell County Mayor  
Ron Woody, Roane County Executive  
Roland (Trey) Dykes III  
Donald Mull, Mayor of Alcoa  
Crystal Ottinger, Cocke County Mayor  
Dale Perdue, Scott County Mayor

**Guests**

Don Woods, ADC  
Jack Qualls, Loudon County Development Representative  
Gary Holiway, ETHRA  
Lana Moore, Senator Lamar Alexander's Office  
Bryan Hall, Monroe County Economic Development  
John LeCroy, TDEC  
Tammy Merritt, Congressman Chuck Fleischmann's Office  
Tammy Hopper, Claiborne County  
Mark Potts, Mayor of Jefferson City  
Bill Darden, Congressman Phil Roe's Office

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Johnny Merritt called the meeting to order.

## **MINUTES**

Chairman Johnny Merritt presented the minutes of the November 14, 2017 meeting to the Executive Committee for approval. Campbell County Mayor E.L. Morton made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, it was seconded by City of Alcoa Mayor Don Mull, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer's Report for the month ending October 31, 2017 was presented by Member at Large Roland (Trey) Dykes III. Campbell County Mayor E.L. Morton made the motion to accept the report as presented and it was seconded by Roane County Executive Ron Woody and it was approved by all. The Treasurer's Report for the month ending November 30, 2017 was presented by Member at Large Roland (Trey) Dykes III. Loudon County Economic Development Director Jack Qualls made the motion to accept the report as presented and it was seconded by Scott County Mayor Dale Perdue and approved by all.

## **APPOINT A NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Chairman Johnny Merritt stated 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 6, 2018. Chairman Johnny Merritt appointed the following members to the Nominating Committee:

Morgan County Executive Don Edwards, Chair  
Alcoa Mayor Don Mull  
Anderson County Mayor Terry Frank  
Scott County Mayor Dale Perdue  
Hamblen County Mayor Bill Brittain  
Luttrell City Mayor Johnny Merritt

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:

#### **CDBG Grants**

Mr. Bobrowski reported the 2018 applications will be due in Nashville on February 23<sup>rd</sup> of 2018. We are working on about 16 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 Parrottsville (fire truck), Anderson County (fire hall), Rocky Top (fire truck), Caryville (fire truck), Dandridge (water), Cocke County (water), Jefferson City (wastewater), Harrogate (wastewater), Loudon City (water), Loudon County (fire truck), Madisonville (fire hall), Claiborne County (water), Union County (ambulance), Cumberland Gap (wastewater), Tazewell (housing and New Market (tbd).

#### **FEMA Fire Fighters Grant Program**

The FEMA Fire Fighters Grant Program continues to be a very popular program for our rural volunteer fire departments. Fire Departments can use these funds to buy equipment such as turn out gear, buy trucks or make safety modifications (sprinklers, exhaust systems, generators) to fire halls. Grants are very affordable, usually in the 90 – 95% range with only a small local share required. This year we are working on 5 applications for fire departments located in four different counties. The applications are due on February 2, 2018 and will be reviewed by an independent review team in Washington over the next 9 months or so. They review the applications in batches so they make funding announcements throughout the coming year

#### **ARC Grants**

Mr. Bobrowski stated that our grant staff also worked very hard to prepare ARC pre-applications for 2018 funding. The pre-applications were due by December 8, 2017 and we worked with twelve applicants on their projects: Claiborne County (expo center), City of Loudon (downtown redevelopment), Rockwood Utility Board (wastewater), Union County (wastewater), Arthur-Shawnee UD (water tank), Plateau Utility (water line), Oneida TCAT (training equipment), Scott IDB ( planning study), Hiwassee College (classroom equipment), Dandridge (water tank), and two other small non-profits that proposed housing projects.

## **Home Program**

Mr. Bobrowski expects 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**

Mr. Bobrowski stated that 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 the Roane County Heritage Commission, New Salem Baptist Church in Sevierville, Candoro Heritage Center in Knoxville, Scott County jail restoration and the Dunbar School.

## **Recreation Grants**

Last month we learned that the Local Parks and Recreation Grant program would again be available this year. Approximately \$3.5 million dollars will be available state wide. Applications are due in Nashville on April of 2018. Eligible applicants are cities and counties in Tennessee. There is no minimum grant request and the maximum is \$200,000. All grants require a 50/50 match. Grants can be used to purchase park property, buy recreation equipment, build ballfields, build bathrooms, address ADA deficiencies and other activities that are associated with public recreation. We are currently preparing grant applications on behalf of about 11 communities. Let us know if you are interested in the program.

## **2019 Legislative Agenda**

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.

Campbell County Mayor E.L. Morton made a motion to approve the State and Federal Legislative recommendations, and it was seconded by Member at Large Roland (Trey) Dykes III and approved by all.

### **TDOT Improve Act Update**

We recently sponsored meeting by our North RPO and South RPO and prioritized projects that have been selected for funding by the Improve Act that was passed during last year's legislative session. In the South RPO, prioritized projects included:

In Cocke County:

Newport Bypass – construction

Oneill Road Interchange – construction

Cosby Highway near Winton Springs Road – ROW

In Monroe County:

Two sections of State Road 322, one construction and one ROW

In Roane County:

US Highway 70 from SR 322 to SR 29 – construction

In Sevier County:

Jake Thomas Connector – ROW

US 321 from Buckhorn Road to SR 416 – ROW

2 miles on Veterans Blvd – ROW

US 411 from Sims Road to SR 92 – Construction

The Newport Bypass was ranked by the RPO as the number 1 priority in this group. Also funded by the Improve Act are ITS improvements on Interstate 40 and improvements to the Welcome Center in eastern Cocke County.

In the North RPO, prioritized projects included:

In Campbell County:

Highway 63 from SR 297 to west of Stinking Creek Road – construction

Highway 63 from LaFollette boundary to Frontier Road – construction

Highway 63 from Frontier Road to Claiborne County Line – ROW

In Claiborne County:

Two sections of the Interchange at SR 245 – ROW & construction

SR 63 from Campbell County to Hall Road – ROW  
SR 63 from Old Town Creek to SR 32 - Construction

In Grainger County:

Two section of US Highway 11 from Rutledge to near Bean Station – construction  
Intersection at SR 131 – Construction

In Morgan County:

Two section of US Highway 27 from SR 62 in Wartburg to SR 328 – construction

In Scott County:

SR 29 from Wolfe Creek Road to Old US 27 in Robbins – ROW  
Rugby Highway from Morgan County line to SR 29 – construction

In Union County:

SR 33 from Knox County line to SR 144 – construction

The Union County was ranked by the RPO as the number 1 priority in this group. Also funded by the Improve Act are lane improvements on Interstate 75 and preliminary engineering on SR 62 from Oliver Springs to Petit Lane.

### **Planning Assistance Service Overview**

Mr. Bobrowski just mentioned a quick update on the planning advisory service. We started the service in 2011 so we are half way through our seventh 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 Claiborne County to our list of communities that we serve. We also serve two communities in Scott County, Winfield and Huntsville, on an as needed basis under an hourly rate arrangements. 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 form one year to the next. Although we recently lost the services of Midge Jessiman because she retired, our current staff has over 90 years of experience in local planning – three staff members are former employees of the Knoxville field office of Local Planning back when the state funded the program. We recently hired a new planner that will take over the smaller communities that Midge worked.

Mr. Bobrowski also mentioned that we are actively keeping up with the LUCA process as designed by the Census Bureau. LUCA stands for local update of census addresses. Many of our communities are providing address updates to the Census on their own. ETDD is preparing to assist other local communities that do not have the resources to manage the data flow to the Census Bureau. Although we are not quite sure of the exact nature of the assistance that we will be able to provide, we are re-configuring our in-house computer systems to accommodate the security

requirement that the Census Bureau is mandating. As the LUCA process gets underway we will be contacting our communities to begin the data collection process.

### **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 6<sup>th</sup> here at the ETHRA offices. This is the first Tuesday of the month rather than the second Tuesday so please note this on your calendars.

Also for your calendars, the ETDD/ETHRA Annual Business meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, March the 6<sup>th</sup> – it will be held at Rothchilds on Kingston Pike in Knoxville. Commissioner David Purkey will be our keynote speaker again this year.

We have also tentatively scheduled our Annual Awards Banquet for Thursday, July the 12<sup>th</sup> – we are going to go back to the Venue in Lenoir City for the event this year.

### **Other Business**

Mr. Bobrowski mentioned that the Director of our Areawide Development Corporation, Mr. Don Woods, has announced his retirement effective June 1<sup>st</sup> of this year. Mr. Woods has served the Development District and the ADC since 1975 and has been an outstanding public servant for over 42 years. Let's give him a round of applause for a job well done.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no other business the meeting was adjourned.