

**EAST TENNESSEE DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 9, 2021
MINUTES**

The East Tennessee Development District's Executive Committee held a meeting on Tuesday March 9, 2021, at the Buddy's BBQ Banquet Hall in Knoxville, TN. The following Executive Committee members were present:

Roland (Trey) Dykes, III, City of Newport Mayor
Mark Potts, Jefferson County Mayor
Joe Brooks, Claiborne County Mayor
Jeff Tibbals, Scott County Mayor
Terry Frank, Anderson County Mayor
E.L. Morton, Campbell County Mayor
Glenn Jacobs, Knox County Mayor
Brian Langley, Morgan County Executive
Ron Woody, Roane County Executive
Larry Waters, Sevier County Mayor
Evelyn Gill, Member at Large

Guests

Joe Austin, ADC
Emily Craig, ETDD
Stacy Chambers, Monroe County Development Representative
Anna Beth Walker, Claiborne County Development Representative
Jane Jolley, Knox County Development Representative
Cindy Boshears, Congressman Fleischmann's Office
Riley Lovingood, Senator Bill Hagerty's Office
Gary Holiway, ETHRA

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Trey Dykes called the meeting to order.

MINUTES

Chairman Trey Dykes presented the minutes of the February 9, 2021 meeting to the Executive Committee for approval. Anderson County Mayor Terry Frank made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, it was seconded by Morgan County Mayor Brian Langley, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report for the month ending January 31, 2021 was presented by Scott County Mayor Jeff Tibbals. Mayor Jeff Tibbals 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.

CONFIRMATION OF SENATOR RICHARD BRIGGS AND REP. JEREMY FAISON

Chairman Trey Dykes announced that Senator Richard Briggs was recommended by the Senate Caucus to serve on the Executive Committee for another 2 years. We will need a motion to approve.

Claiborne County Mayor Joe Brooks made the motion to approve Senator Briggs to serve on the Executive Committee and it was seconded by Member at Large Evelyn Gill, and it was approved by all.

Chairman Trey Dykes announced that Representative Jeremy Faison was recommended by the House Caucus to serve on the Executive Committee for a term of 2 years and replaces Representative Kent Calfee. We want to thank Representative Kent Calfee for his service on the committee. We will need a motion to approve Rep. Faison on the committee.

Anderson County Mayor Terry Frank made a motion to approve Representative Faison to serve on the Executive Committee and it was seconded by Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs, and it was approved by all.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Rick Yakubic, ETDD Executive Director, gave his Director's report:

Mr. Yakubic thanked everyone for attending. He mentioned that Mr. Bobrowski has been very gracious to commit to coming to the office about once a week for the next few months during the transition to make sure everything is changed over. Mr. Yakubic mentioned that he has hired a new Fiscal Officer that started on the 8th. His name is Walter Alan Woods and goes by Alan. He has a BBA in Finance from ETSU, his MBA from UT and has an active CPA license in TN. We are very pleased to have him join our team.

Grants Update

ARC Grant

The following communities were invited to submit full applications. We are currently waiting on the Governor to make decisions on those projects. March 17th is the deadline for the applications.

1. Cocke County - Waterline Extension into the Parrottsville area
2. Claiborne County - Boat Dock for Fishing Tournaments
3. Loudon - Marina Construction
4. Grainger County - Construction of Classroom for Agriculture Students

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Mr. Yakubic reported that our staff is working hard to submit several CDBG applications and currently working with the following communities for their 2021 applications.

1. Claiborne County - Waterline Extension
2. Monroe County - Waterline Extension
3. Jefferson County - Ambulances
4. Blount County - Fire Truck
5. Jellico - Fire Truck
6. Caryville - Fire Hall
7. Harrogate - Wastewater Line Extension
8. Cocke County - Waterline Extension
9. Scott County - EMS Center
10. Norris - Wastewater Collection System
11. Campbell County - Fire Truck
12. Loudon - Wastewater Collection System
13. Oakdale - Ambulance
14. Roane County - Ambulance
15. Jefferson City - Wastewater Collection System

Recreation Plans

Mr. Yakubic reported that we are very excited to be able to off this to our communities. In the future as you make an application to the State for recreation, you must have a recreation plan, or you will not be able to apply. ETDD staff can assist our communities with that plan. ETDD assisted plans will provide an extra step that private consultants will not be providing. When we complete the recreation plan, that community will also be Benchmarked with the State of Tennessee that will provide additional points on any recreation grant with the State. The following communities have shown interest and contracts are being sent out.

1. Clinton
2. Jellico
3. Loudon
4. Madisonville
5. New Tazewell
6. Norris
7. Winfield
8. Sweetwater

Agribusiness Loan Program and COVID Loan Program

Mr. Yakubic informed the committee that we are still looking for applications for our new loan program from the TN Dept. of Agriculture. 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 \$75,000, 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.

We still have funds available within our COVID loan program as well. Virtually any use is permitted – real property acquisition, building construction, building rehabilitation, equipment purchases, working capital and others. Terms and interest rates are very flexible and attractive. Also, non-profits are eligible applicants.

COVID Loan Approval Consideration

Mr. Joe Austin, Development Officer from Areawide Development Corp., presented the loan to the committee. Mr. Austin gave a brief description about the loan program. The Development District was awarded a small capitalization grant by the US Economic Development Administration to establish a loan program to assist small businesses in our region. We have already approved two loans through this program, and our loan committee has approved a third one.

The loan is for Operation Sharing Tennessee in Oneida, Scott County. They are a non-profit organization that provide food and charitable items to the needy, youth, and elderly in the sixteen-county area. They receive their donations from large corporations, local businesses, and private citizens. A very reputable organization and well run. They are requesting a loan for \$200,000.00 to repair the roof on their building that they currently own. It will be done by B&B Roofing. Roof was in very poor condition when they took over the building. The loan proposal will be over a 15-year period at a 1% interest rate. Mr. Chairman, we will need a motion to approve the loan.

The committee had concerns with the possibility of a conflict of interest of the non-profit organization and the roofing company. Scott County Mayor Jeff Tibbals made the motion to approve the loan and it was seconded by Member at Large Evelyn Gill to include an amended motion for a requirement of a Non-Conflict of Interest Disclosure statement. It was approved by all.

GIS – National Scenic Byway Designation

Ms. Emily Craig with the East Tennessee Development District gave a brief description about her position at the District which is providing maps for grant applications, the Planning Advisory Service, and the Transportation Coordinator for RPO, and occasionally, special requests. Last summer, Campbell County Mayor E.L. Morton had asked if she could provide the mapping for the Cumberland Historic Byway to submit to the National Scenic Byway Program. Forty-nine applications were submitted, and the Cumberland Byway was one of those to achieve designation in the program. This will increase marketing opportunities and grant opportunities. This Scenic Byway stretches 175 miles. Ms. Craig went on to present her maps and any questions can be directed to her on how this nomination can benefit your community.

Calendar Matters

Our next Executive Committee meeting will be held here again on April 13th. Our Annual Business meeting is scheduled for May 11th at Rothchild's.

Mike Arms mentioned that the ATVG April meeting has been cancelled. There will be a regional dinner at Chesapeake's in Knoxville instead. The summer meeting will be held on July 8th in Huntsville.

Other Business

Mr. Yakubic presented a resolution to approve Walter Alan Woods, ETDD Fiscal Officer to be added to the banking and the signing of checks with First Horizon for ETDD.

Jefferson County Mayor Mark Potts made the motion to approve the resolution and it was seconded by Member at Large Evelyn Gill, and it was approved by all.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business, Chairman Trey Dykes entertained a motion to adjourn. Member at Large Evelyn Gill made the motion, it was seconded by Sevier County Mayor Larry Waters, and it was approved by all.