

**EAST TENNESSEE DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
NOVEMBER 14, 2017
MINUTES**

The East Tennessee Development District's Executive Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, November 14, 2017, at the ETHRA offices in Knoxville, TN. The following Executive Committee members were present:

Johnny Merritt, Mayor of Luttrell
E.L. Morton, Campbell County Mayor
Terry Wolfe, Town of Bean Station
Dale Perdue, Scott County Mayor

Guests

Don Woods, ADC
Sarah Fansler, Knox County
Jack Qualls, Loudon County Development Representative
Gary Holiway, ETHRA
Lana Moore, Senator Lamar Alexander's Office

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Johnny Merritt called the meeting to order.

MINUTES

Chairman Johnny Merritt presented the minutes of the October 10, 2017 meeting to the Executive Committee for approval. Loudon County Development Representative Jack Qualls made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, it was seconded by Scott County Mayor Dale Perdue, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report for the month ending September 30, 2017 was presented by ETDD Financial Officer Rick Yakubic. Loudon County Development Representative Jack Qualls made the motion to accept the report as presented and it was seconded by Town of Bean Station Mayor Terry Wolfe and it was approved by all.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

Mr. Bobrowski mentioned just a quick note on the financial report that Oneida is the only remaining assessment that has not yet been collected. We have collected the assessment from all of the other 71 jurisdictions. We have also collected semi-annual payments from all 33 communities that we provide local planning services to.

Grants Update

Mr. Bobrowski reported that ECD recently released the list of grants that were approved from the 2017 application round. ETDD is now working with the following communities to start their new projects: Campbell County (fire truck), Jefferson County (water line), Morgan County (water line), Monroe County (water line), Roane County (hazmat trucks), Scott County (ambulance) and Sweetwater (housing rehabilitation). The 2018 applications are due in Nashville on February 23rd of 2018. If you have a CDBG project in mind it is not too early to contact us for assistance. We are currently working with 22 communities on their 2018 applications.

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 level 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.

The State has announced that ARC pre-applications will be due on December 8th this year. ARC funding is targeted towards Distressed Counties but any community can submit a pre-application for consideration. The program is geared toward funding infrastructure projects such as water lines or water tanks but has funded non-construction projects in the past. Pre-applications are relatively easy to prepare so please contact us if you are interested. We are working on 15 community projects that range from downtown redevelopment in Loudon County to broadband expansion in Grainger County.

We also received word from the ARC that the District will receive a planning grant in the amount of about \$133,000 to support the activities of the District. We have received this grant for the past 46 years and it is an important part of our annual budget.

TDOT has announced that they are accepting applications in the near future for their Community Transportation Planning Grant. This grant can be used for a variety of purposes including pedestrian and biking master plans, corridor studies and mobility plans. A 10% match is required. Also from TDOT, their annual competition for Special Litter Grants is now open. These grants range from \$20,000 to \$200,000 and can be used for dumpsite cleanups, litter enforcement, adopt a street programs and other efforts designed to reduce roadside litter. No match is needed.

Our historic preservation planner is working on six applications for grant funds from the Tennessee Historical Commission. Four grants relate to rehabilitation of historic buildings and two grants relate to surveys and programming.

Then there is our annual recreation grant program with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. This is the only grant that funds recreation facilities and equipment. This grant is only available every two years. There is a 50% match associated with this program and is typically due in April.

Other smaller grant programs that we are working with include the community health grant programs, the broadband access grant program, the fire fighters grant program and the downtown revitalization grant program. All of these program applications are due after the first of the year.

Finally, we are assisting Monroe County and Grainger County with their asset based planning grants from ECD.

Solid Waste Planning Assistance Update

Mr. Bobrowski gave us a quick note on our solid waste planning assistance service. We are actively engaged in helping all of our communities achieve the state mandated 25% reduction in their waste

stream to the landfill. One of the big ways that we do that is to encourage and assist communities to apply for grant funds through TDEC that relate to recycling. Last month we helped 19 communities with grant applications that relate to purchasing recycling equipment, constructing new collection centers or developing new recycling education programs. We also prepare 5 year needs assessment for each county in our district on a five year rotating basis. This year we are working with Sevier County, Roane County and Claiborne County. We also prepare annual reports for communities that detail their efforts to reduce solid waste streams. We normally work with at least 8 counties to get their report in on time in March of each year.

Infrastructure Survey Program Update

Each year we collaborate with the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations to produce the annual infrastructure needs report. The report is mandated by an act of the state legislature and is in its 16th year. The survey is conducted for each county and information is collected on transportation needs such as roads and bridges, utilities, schools, recreation, public buildings, industrial sites and public health facilities. Last year, the total value of all infrastructure needs in the State of Tennessee totaled over \$43.4 billion dollars. Within ETDD, the infrastructure needs total \$7.98 billion dollars for our sixteen counties. We use the infrastructure survey for short term and long term planning, providing a framework for funding decisions, increasing public awareness of infrastructure needs and fostering better communication between agencies and decision makers. The survey is now underway and we expect to complete the process by April of 2018.

Calendar Matters

Gary and I have spoken and since there is no pressing business for December we will cancel that meeting and resume in January 2018. Also, for a long term hold, we will be holding our Annual Business meeting on March 6th at Rothchilds in Knoxville. This is the first Tuesday of the month rather than the second Tuesday. Commissioner David Purkey will be our keynote speaker. Also, the February 2018 Executive Committee meeting will be moved to 6th, the first Tuesday, instead of the 13th which is the normal second Tuesday meeting date.

We are looking forward to the annual legislative breakfast on December 1st at 9 am here at ETHRA. I hope all of you can make it.

Other Business

A resolution is contained within your packets that authorizes the three persons listed to purchase and manage certificates of deposits on behalf of the East Tennessee Development District. We have five existing CDs with First Tennessee Bank with varying maturity dates. This resolution will allow

us the purchase new CDs and renew existing CDs. This is a one-time requirement – once this document is on file we will not have to do this again. A motion is needed to approve the resolution.

Loudon County Development Representative Jack Qualls made the motion to accept the resolution and it was seconded by Town of Bean Station Mayor Terry Wolfe and it was approved by all.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business the meeting was adjourned.