

**EAST TENNESSEE DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**OCTOBER 10, 2017  
MINUTES**

The East Tennessee Development District's Executive Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, October 10, 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  
Ron Woody, Roane County Executive  
Roland Dykes III, Member at Large  
Terry Frank, Anderson County Mayor  
Don Mull, Mayor of Alcoa  
Crystal Ottinger, Cocke County Mayor  
Dale Perdue, Scott County Mayor  
Kent Calfee, State Representative

**Guests**

Don Woods, ADC  
Sarah Fansler, Knox County  
Jack Qualls, Loudon County Development Representative  
Gary Holiway, ETHRA  
Madison Heinsohn, Congressman John Duncan's Office  
Cindy Boshears, Congressman Chuck Fleischmann's Office  
Jane Jolley, Senator Bob Corker's Office  
Lesly-Marie Buer, TN Department of Health

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Johnny Merritt called the meeting to order.

## **MINUTES**

Chairman Johnny Merritt presented the minutes of the September 12, 2017 meeting to the Executive Committee for approval. City of Alcoa Mayor Don Mull made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, it was seconded by Anderson County Mayor Terry Frank, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer's Report for the month ending August 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 Cocke County Mayor Crystal Ottinger and it was approved by all.

## **AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT**

The audit subcommittee met this morning to consider our 2017 audit. Chairman Johnny Merritt recognized Campbell County Mayor E.L. Morton to give a report. Mayor Morton stated that we have a recommendation from the board and he will let our ETDD Fiscal Officer Rick Yakubic give a report of the audit. Mr. Yakubic stated an overview by the audit committee is a clean opinion, unmodified, no compliance issues reported by the auditor. Next will be to have a management letter signed off that we agree with everything that is written. We will have a published audit after that and will be available on our website for your viewing. A motion to approve the audit report was made by Campbell County Mayor E.L. Morton, seconded by Member at Large Roland Dykes III, and approved by all.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

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

### **Grants Update**

Mr. Bobrowski reported that ECD recently released the list of grants that were approved from the 2017 application round. Last February, we submitted applications on behalf of eighteen jurisdictions and seven of those applications got funded. The state only funded 55 projects this year, which is less than 50% of the applications that were submitted so our region fared pretty

well. Funded were 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 23<sup>rd</sup> of 2018. If you have a CDBG project in mind it is not too early to contact us for assistance. We will be contacting those local governments that will be eligible to apply for 2018 CDBG funding in the very near future to talk about project development. We already have a list of about fifteen communities that we will be working with.

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.

Back in late August, TDEC announced that their annual recycling and used oil grant program will be available again this year. Applications are due October 16, 2017. ETDD will submit used oil grant applications on behalf of Norris, Grainger County, Scott County, Union County, Morgan County, Dandridge and the Campbell County Highway Department. ETDD will also submit recycling grant applications on behalf of Campbell County, Scott County, Union County, Jellico, Hamblen County, Morgan County and Caryville. We are submitting grant requests for new convenience centers for Anderson County, Campbell County, Grainger County, Union County Hamblen County and Morgan County. Six other applications are also being submitted for recycling education projects and measurement projects. We normally hear back from TDEC in late December concerning their funding decisions.

The State has not yet announced when ARC pre-applications will be due but they are normally submitted around the first week in December. 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 were able to submit two large applications for TDOT transportation alternatives grant funds this year. We assisted with a \$1.3 million dollar application from the City of Loudon for new sidewalks and lighting along their river front and also submitted an application for new sidewalks and lighting to serve an industrial area in the City of Alcoa. If approved, these improvements will serve the new \$1 billion dollar expansion of Denso that was announced recently.

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

Mr. Bobrowski was also pleased to report that THDA has renewed our funding for our Emergency

Repair Program for the Elderly program. We have \$300,000 in additional funding for this program.

### **Planning Assistance Service Update**

Mr. Bobrowski reported that in 2011 was when we started the planning advisory service so we are well into our seventh year of operation. We have grown the program substantially from the start and we now serve 33 cities and counties in our region. 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 110 years of experience in local planning – all four staff members are former employees of the Knoxville field office of Local Planning back when the state funded the program. We are talking with the City of Winfield and Morgan County about providing them with some level of service in the near future, probably on a case by case consultant basis.

On bit of sad news, our principle planner, Ms. Midge Jessiman has announced her retirement at the end of 2017. Ms. Jessiman has over 40 years of experience in the ETDD region as a community planner and she will be impossible to replace. We have started the position search process and hopefully we will be able to hire someone soon so that they can have the benefit of Midge coaching them for a month or so.

### **Calendar Matters**

The next ETDD/ETHRA meeting will be held on November 14<sup>th</sup> here at the ETHRA offices. Also, for a long term hold, we anticipate holding our Annual Business meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup> at Rothchilds in Knoxville. Sometimes this is in conflict with the County Day of the Hill and we will make adjustments if it is. Also, the February 2018 Executive Committee meeting will be moved to 6<sup>th</sup>, the first Tuesday, instead of the 13<sup>th</sup> which is the normal second Tuesday meeting date.

We are looking forward to the Fall ATVG conference in Gatlinburg on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> and the ECD Governor's Conference, also in Gatlinburg, on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

### **Other Business**

Mr. Bobrowski recognized Lesly-Marie Buer, Healthy Communities Coordinator with the TN Department of Health. Ms. Buer stated that this is a new position that was created to aid the health department in thinking about and supporting projects and initiatives that support 50 percent of our health. She explained she will be meeting with County Health Department Directors, local mayors, and additional regional and community partners in getting to know the communities and their needs.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

With no other business the meeting was adjourned.