

**EAST TENNESSEE DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 9, 2018
MINUTES**

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

E.L. Morton, Campbell County Mayor
Ron Woody, Roane County Executive
Roland (Trey) Dykes III, Member at Large
Mark Potts, Jefferson County Mayor
Terry Frank, Anderson County Mayor
Don Mull, Mayor of Alcoa
Bill Brittain, Hamblen County Mayor
Rollen Bradshaw, Loudon County Mayor
Larry Waters, Sevier County Mayor
Evelyn Gill, Member at Large

Guests

Rick Yakubic, ETDD
Gary Holiway, ETHRA
Sarah Fansler, Knox County
Bryan Hall, TRDA
Richard Kirkland, Monroe County Development Representative
David Lietzke, Grainger County Development Representative
Johnny Merritt, Mayor of Luttrell
Ed Harlan, TN Dept. of Agriculture
Mike Arms, ATVG
Cynthia Boshears, Congressman Fleischmann's Office
Tracey Edwards, Senator Bob Corker's Office
Joe Brooks, Claiborne County Mayor
Glenn Jacobs, Knox County Mayor
Brian Langley, Morgan County Mayor
Jeff Tibbals, Scott County Mayor
Jason Bailey, Union County Mayor

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman E.L. Morton called the meeting to order.

MINUTES

Chairman E.L. Morton presented the minutes of the September 11, 2018 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 Hamblen County Mayor Bill Brittain, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Chairman E.L. Morton noted that we need to take care of some administration in order to duly elect Mayor Mark Potts as the Board Treasurer. City of Alcoa Mayor Don Mull made a motion to elect Mayor Mark Potts and it was seconded by Roane County Executive Ron Woody and approved by all.

The Treasurer's Report for the month ending August 31, 2018 was presented by ETDD Fiscal Officer Rick Yakubic. Anderson County Mayor Terry Frank 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.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

Mr. Bobrowski mentioned a quick update on the status of our assessments. Very pleased to report that all counties have paid their assessments and are down to two cities. We expect to be 100 percent collected this year, and thanked everyone for sending in their membership fees.

Grants Update

There are several items to report on:

CDBG Grants

Mr. Bobrowski reported that ECD recently released the list of grants that were approved from the 2018 application round. Last February, we submitted applications on behalf of sixteen jurisdictions and ten of those applications got funded. The state funded 70 projects this year, which is less than 50% of the applications that were submitted so our region fared pretty well. The State awarded

almost \$26 million to local governments. Funded were projects Caryville (fire truck), Claiborne County (water line), Cocke County (water line), Harrogate (sewer line), Jefferson City (wastewater system improvements), Madisonville (fire hall), New Market (fire communications), Parrottsville (fire truck), Union County (ambulance) and Tazewell (housing rehabilitation). Those projects will be starting very soon.

The 2018 applications are due in Nashville on February 22nd of 2019. 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 2019 CDBG funding in the very near future to talk about project development.

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 a small increase in 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.

ARC Grants

The ARC pre-application process should be opening up soon. We expect the process to begin sometime in early November with pre-applications due in Nashville around the middle of December. Virtually any project is eligible although the focus in Washington is on work force development projects, infrastructure development in distressed counties and projects that deal with the opiate crisis. Grants can be for up to \$500,000 with a local share of from 50% down to 20% based upon the relative need for the community that is applying.

Emergency Repair Program for the Elderly

Mr. Bobrowski mentioned that he is pleased to report we were recently awarded \$330,000 for FY 2019 for Emergency Repair Program for the Elderly. This is a very popular program and we work with small housing providers in your communities to get these grant funds out there working to benefit the elderly population. We have already reserved almost all of our funds for projects in none counties. Hopefully, because of our demonstrated need for additional funds, THDA will make a supplemental grant to us in December like they did last year.

Other Grants

Mr. Bobrowski stated we recently submitted 15 solid waste reduction grant applications for various programs that are available from TDEC. Anderson County, Campbell County, Grainger County, Hamblen County, Monroe County, Morgan County and Union County all submitted one or more applications for these programs.

Last week we received word from TDEC concerning the release of funds from the Volkswagen settlement. Tennessee received about \$45 million dollars and intends to expend the funds on alternative fuel vehicles. The initial release of \$8.7 million provides funding for the purchase of school buses that have diesel, alternative fuel or electric engines. Up to \$750,000 is available for each project. Applications are due December 14th and an application workshop will be held on October 16th at the Wilson County Schools training facility in Lebanon.

ECD has also announced the availability of broadband accessibility grants. They will be taking public comments on the proposed program until December 20th and I expect applications to be available in January of 2019.

The 2019 application round for FEMA Firefighter grants is now open. If you have a municipal or volunteer fire department that is interested in applying for these funds please give us a call.

TPO Representative Appointment

Mr. Bobrowski stated that every two years the ETDD Executive Committee appoints a representative to the Executive Board of the Knoxville Knox County TPO, the organization that handles all of the transportation planning in the Knoxville metropolitan area that includes all of Knox County and portions of Blount, Sevier, Loudon and Anderson counties. Mr. Ed Shouse has been the ETDD representative for the past six years. Mr. Shouse is a former Knox County Commissioner and is currently serving as the Knox County Trustee. Mr. Shouse has been an active and engaged member of the TPO for the past six years and has indicated his desire to continue his service on the TPO Executive Board. I highly recommend his re-appointment. Mr. Chairman, a motion is needed to confirm his appointment to the TPO for the next two years.

A motion was made by Roane County Executive Ron Woody to appoint Mr. Ed Shouse as the ETDD representative and it was seconded by City of Alcoa Mayor Don Mull, and it was approved by all.

New Agribusiness Loan Program

We look forward to receiving \$200,000 from the TN Department of Agriculture to start a new micro loan program. 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 \$25,000, 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 will be rolling this out in the next month or so and we will let you know when we will start accepting application. Mr. Ed Harlan, Assistant Commissioner with the TN Department of Agriculture is with us here today to talk more about this exciting new loan product.

Mr. Ed Harlan shared a hand-out with the committee giving an overview of the program. Reaffirms what Mr. Bobrowski mentioned regarding the program. Encourages the county mayors when out talking with farmers or people in the forestry industry and ask for any opportunity that this would be it. Agriculture is still the number one industry in the state. Any questions or you want to get an application started to contact ETDD.

Planning Advisory Service Update

Mr. Bobrowski added just 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 36 cities and counties in our region. Three 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 – three of our staff members are former employees of the Knoxville field office of Local Planning back when the state funded the program. We recently added the City of Winfield and the City of Huntsville to our list of clients and we expect to add Rockford, Friendsville and Louisville to our client list after the first of the year.

Calendar Matters

The next ETDD/ETHRA meeting will be held on November 13th here at the ETHRA offices. Also, for a long term hold, we anticipate holding our Annual Business meeting on March 12th at Rothchilds in Knoxville. County Day on the Hill will be March 4 & 5 2019 in in Nashville this will correspond with our statewide TDDA conference so there will be an opportunity for those interested to attend both events.

Mike Arms wanted me to mention that the Association of Tennessee Valley Governments will hold its fall meeting in Gatlinburg on October 16th and 17th in Gatlinburg and I know many of you are already signed up for that meeting.

Other Business

No other business

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business a motion was made to adjourn by City of Alcoa Mayor Don Mull and seconded by Roane County Executive Ron Woody, and approved by all.