

**EAST TENNESSEE DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2018  
MINUTES**

The East Tennessee Development District's Executive Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, September 11, 2018, at the ETHRA offices in Knoxville, TN. The following Executive Committee members were present:

E.L. Morton, Campbell County Mayor  
Roland (Trey) Dykes III, Member at Large  
Terry Frank, Anderson County Mayor  
Don Mull, Mayor of Alcoa  
Crystal Ottinger, Cocke County Mayor  
Terry Wolfe, Mayor of Bean Station  
Bill Brittain, Hamblen County Mayor  
Mark Potts, Jefferson County Mayor

**Guests**

Rick Yakubic, ETDD  
Gary Holiway, ETHRA  
Sarah Fansler, Knox County  
Jack Qualls, Loudon County Development Representative  
Bryan Hall, TRDA  
Richard Kirkland, Monroe County Development Representative  
Sharon Heidel, Morgan County Development Representative  
Gary Human, Department of Economic and Community Development  
Daryl Brady, Congressman Phil Roe's Office  
Cynthia Boshears, Congressman Fleischmann's Office  
Tammy Merritt, Congressman Fleischmann's Office  
Lana Moore, Senator Alexander's Office  
Tracey Edwards, Senator Bob Corker's Office  
Joe Brooks, Claiborne County Mayor  
Mike Byrd, Grainger 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 July 12, 2018 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 Town of Bean Station Mayor Terry Wolfe, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer's Report for the months ending June 30, 2018 and July 31, 2018 was presented by ETDD Fiscal Officer Rick Yakubic. City of Alcoa Mayor Don Mull 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:

### **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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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**

Mr. Bobrowski mentioned that we recently submitted a number of full applications for the ARC grant program. The project applications included a project for dredging work to improve Loudon's downtown, wastewater improvements to serve a new marina in Rockwood, purchase of equipment for a new welding class in the Scott County TCAT, a new reservoir study in Huntsville, a new water tank at the 407 exit in Dandridge, new wastewater improvements in Sharps Chapel in Union County and new water system improvements in Morgan County. All of these are really great projects and we look forward to receiving final word that the projects can proceed.

### **EDA Disaster Grant Funding**

We are also still working on several grant applications that relate to disaster related funding that is available through the Economic Development Administration. Projects in Knox County and in Sevier County are being developed.

I am also 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.

### **Other Grants**

We are currently working on about 22 solid waste reduction grant applications for various programs that are available from TDEC. Campbell County, Union County, Scott County, Monroe County, Hamblen County and Grainger County will all be submitted one or more applications.

We are also keeping our eye open for the release of funds from the Volkswagen settlement. Tennessee received about \$45 million dollars and intends to expend the funds on alternative fuel vehicles. We understand that school buses will be an eligible item in one category and garbage trucks may also be eligible for funding in another category. Public transit vehicles are also eligible.

### **New Agribusiness Loan Program**

Mr. Bobrowski said that we have also just received \$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 applications.

### **Member at Large Appointment**

In your packets you will find a bio for a candidate to fill the vacant member at Large seat on the Executive Committee. Ms. Evelyn Gill is currently serving as a Knox County Commissioner and is a resident of Knox County. She reached out to me last month and was very interested in serving on the Board and Executive Committee. I informed Ms. Gill that I would present her credentials to the Committee for consideration. If you would like to appoint Ms. Gill to the Executive Committee then a nomination to do so would be in order.

A motion was made by Town of Bean Station Mayor Terry Wolfe to appoint Ms. Gill to the Executive Committee and was seconded by Loudon County Development Representative Jack Qualls, and it was approved by all.

### **2017-2018 Affirmative Action Plan**

We have recently completed the annual update of our Affirmative Action Plan for the East Tennessee Development District Board of Directors, Executive Committee and staff. Each year we update the plan to show five year goals and timetables for diversification of the Board, Executive Committee and staff. The plan also contains all of the equal opportunity provisions which govern the employment practices of the District as well as specific procedures for complaint resolution. A copy of the revised plan is included in your packets. The Affirmative Action Plan must be adopted by the Executive Committee and I would ask the Chair that such a motion be proposed.

A motion was made to adopt the Affirmative Action Plan by Anderson County Mayor Terry Frank and it was seconded by Jefferson County Mayor Mark Potts and it was approved by all.

## **Executive Committee Membership**

As a result of the recent election we now have eight new county mayors in our development district region. We have new mayors or county executives in Scott, Morgan, Monroe, Claiborne, Grainger, Union, Knox, and Jefferson counties. Grainger and Jefferson counties had Executive Committee members that did not change as a result of the election as Terry Wolfe from Bean Station is serving from Grainger County and Mark Potts from Jefferson County was already serving from Jefferson County. I will be meeting with the Mayors of the other six counties and hope to have the nomination process from each of those counties complete by the time we meet again in October.

Mr. Bobrowski recognized Gary Human, Regional Director with the TN Economic Community Development. Mr. Human is here to meet County Mayors and is a point of contact for all Economic Community Development Programs primarily on the economic development side. So if you have any questions about incentives, marketing, or how to set up meetings with industries, etc., then Gary is the person to contact.

## **Calendar Matters**

The next ETDD/ETHRA meeting will be held on October 9<sup>th</sup> here at the ETHRA offices. Also, for a long term hold, we anticipate holding our Annual Business meeting on March 12<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.

Mike Arms wanted me to mention that the Association of Tennessee Valley Governments will hold its fall meeting in Gatlinburg on October 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> in Gatlinburg. There is a flyer contained in your packets if you would like more information.

## **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 Cocke County Mayor Crystal Ottinger, and approved by all.