

**EAST TENNESSEE DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
AUGUST 9, 2022
MINUTES**

The East Tennessee Development District's Executive Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, August 9, 2022, at the ETHRA offices in Knoxville, TN. The following Executive Committee members were present:

Joe Brooks, Claiborne County Mayor
Brian Langley, Morgan County Executive
Glenn Jacobs, Knox County Mayor
Ed Mitchell, Blount County Mayor
E.L. Morton, Campbell County Mayor
Crystal Ottinger, Cocke County Mayor
Mike Byrd, Grainger County Mayor
Mark Potts, Jefferson County Mayor
Ron Woody, Roane County Executive
Ron Williams, Mayor of Farragut
Omer Cox, Mayor of Oliver Springs
Richard Briggs, State Senator

Guests

Alan Woods, ETDD
Tim Hendrick, ETDD
Andy Wallace, Anderson County Development Representative
Riley Lovingood, Senator Hagerty's Office
Pam May, Roane Alliance
Sarah Fansler, Congressman Burchett's Office
Chris Bickley, SERDI
Wendell Lawrence, SERDI

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Joe Brooks called the meeting to order.

MINUTES

Chairman Joe Brooks presented the minutes of the July 12, 2022, meeting to the Executive Committee for approval. Cocke County Mayor Crystal Ottinger made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, it was seconded by Jefferson County Mayor Mark Potts, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report for the month ending June 30, 2022, was presented by Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs. Blount County Mayor Ed Mitchell made the motion to accept the report as presented and it was seconded by City of Farragut Mayor Ron Williams, and it was approved by all.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

CEDS Report

Mr. Yakubic asked Andy Wallace, Chair of the CEDS Subcommittee, to present the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) report.

Mr. Wallace thanked those involved in the rewrite of the CEDS document. Since the first of the year, there have been many meetings, community input, and surveys. The document was reviewed by the CEDS Subcommittee on August 2nd and has recommended the 2022-2027 CEDS Regional Plan to be considered for adoption by the Executive Committee.

Roane County Executive Ron Woody made the motion to adopt the 2022-2027 CEDS Regional Plan document as presented, and it was seconded by Morgan County Executive Brian Langley and approved by all.

ADC 5-year Agreement

Mr. Yakubic reported that the ADC 5-year agreement was given to Jessica Stewart for review and recommended changes were made. There is an out clause added that we can give a 30-day written notice and we or they can terminate the contract. ADC reimburses us for salary, fringe benefits and overhead expenses so the only thing we would lose if either of us terminated is the help with

the overhead expenses. I would like to have a motion to reflect in the minutes that you approve of the continued 5-year operating agreement with Areawide Development Corporation. We had it in place now for over 30 years.

Campbell County Mayor E.L. Morton made a motion to approve the ADC 5-year Agreement, and it was seconded by Morgan County Executive Brian Langley and approved by all.

Multi-state Grant with North Carolina

Mr. Yakubic asked Tim to give some information on what it is.

Mr. Hendrick explained that the Land of Sky Regional Council in Asheville, NC has asked ETDD to partner with them in applying for a Multi-state Grant, and we would be working with the Dept. of Labor. This grant focuses on at-risk youth in two distinct metropolitan areas which is Knoxville and Asheville. This grant would help pay for program expansion on existing programs or the creation of new programs for community organizations who focus on at-risk youth. The application would be for \$4 million and split 50/50 between the two states.

SERDI Assessment

Mr. Yakubic introduced Chris Bickley and Wendell Lawrence with the Southeast Regional Directors Institute to present their findings and recommendations to the Executive Committee.

Chris Bickley provided information on their group, the region they cover and how many Assessments they have done. He mentions that this is not an analysis but more like a roadmap for ETDD.

Chris Bickley presented the report on the preliminary findings.

- The ETDD region covers a very large geographic area that consists of 16 counties and 56 municipalities.
- ETDD is in a strong financial position.
- ETDD doesn't operate with the typical regional Aging, Workforce, MPO programs but does handle rural transportation planning. There was mention of adding Tourism to the Development District.
- ETDD has developed positive working relationships with UT, ORNL, and TVA in promoting job growth through innovation.
- ETDD is an EDA designated Economic Development District through which all EDA funds flow through.
- Local governments see the ETDD staff as competent, dedicated although relatively small and stretched thin to deliver services to the region.

- Most local governments in the region see themselves as members or clients of ETDD instead of its owners.
- The ETDD Board is extremely large, 92 members, and meets annually and is governed by a 22-member Executive Committee.
- The Executive Director isn't well-known around the region due to COVID restrictions and length of time in position.
- Staff interviews that were conducted was said not enough advancement, salaries, and some issues from the former Director.

Wendell Lawrence presented the recommendations.

- As an agency, ETDD should raise its profile across the region.
- Continue its role as the regional convener. Be a place to go to for regional issues.
- Make a physical presence in each county.
- Beef up staff by using a portion of cash reserves.
- Create informal committees to meet with some of the city municipalities to have a group to go to get them involved in the services we offer.

Chris Bickley mentioned a full report will be sent out to the committee.

Chairman Joe Brooks asked for a motion to except the Director's Report as presented. Roane County Executive Ron Woody made the motion to except the Director's Report, it was seconded by Morgan County Executive Brian Langley and approved by all.

Calendar

Our September Executive Committee meeting will be held on September 8th at 5:00 pm at The Venue in Lenoir City along with the Celebration Banquet and presentation of community awards.

Other Business

Chairman Joe Brooks mentioned that Scott County Mayor Jeff Tibbals was not re-elected and vacates a seat on the Officers of the Board. The Steering Committee met and is in agreement to appoint Town of Farragut Mayor Ron Williams to take his place on the Officers of the Board. Also, will replace the vacancies on the Sub Committees which includes the Steering Committee, the Evaluation Committee, the Audit Committee, and with Mayor Crystal Ottinger not running for re-election, will take her place on the Legislative Committee. Chair Joe Brooks entertained a motion to except this appointment.

Roane County Executive Ron Woody made the motion to accept the appointment of Mayor Ron Williams, it was seconded by Blount County Mayor Ed Mitchell and approved by all.

Adjournment

With no other business, the Executive Committee was adjourned.