

**EAST TENNESSEE DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
June 10, 2025
MINUTES**

The East Tennessee Development District's Executive Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at ETHRA, 9111 Cross Park Dr., Ste D-100, Knoxville, TN. The following Executive Committee members were present:

Brian Langley, Morgan County Executive
Mitch Ingram, Monro County Mayor
Terry Frank, Anderson County Mayor
Joe Brooks, Claiborne County Mayor
Mark Potts, Jefferson County Mayor
Wade Creswell, Roane County Executive
Roland "Trey" Dykes, III. Mayor of Newport
Ron Williams, Mayor of Farragut
Richard Briggs, State Senator
Elaine Davis, State Representative
Terrence Carter, Member at Large

Guests

Tim Hendrick, ETDD
Alan Woods, ETDD
John LeCroy, TDEC
Caleb Powell, TDEC
Gary Holiway, ETHRA
Emily McCaul, Senator Hagerty's Office
Nick Castle, Senator Hagerty's Office

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Brian Langley called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Meeting Recorder did a roll call to collect meeting attendees, and a quorum was reached.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Brian Langley asked for any changes to the posted agenda. There were none, so he called for a motion to approve today's Meeting Agenda. Town of Farragut Mayor Ron Williams made the motion, it was seconded by State Representative Elaine Davis and approved by all.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Langley asked for any changes to the last meeting's Minutes, dated May 13, 2025. No changes were noted, so he called for a motion to approve them. Town of Farragut Mayor Ron Williams made the motion, it was seconded by Roane County Executive Wade Creswell, and the minutes were approved by all.

SENATE, HOUSE & PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Langley opened the floor to any public comments and asked if any House or State representatives would like to say anything, Emily McCaul and Nick Castle from Senator Hagerty's office introduced themselves in case anyone did not know them.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer Mitch Ingram presented the financials for the tenth month of the fiscal year, April 2025. Treasurer Ingram pointed out that the expenses in April exceeded the revenue by \$122,247 primarily because of the Emergency Repair Program (ERP) and Go Places. Despite those programs impacting the number for April and the fiscal year, revenue is still about 119% versus what was expected, and the expenses are about 117% versus projected. Overall, the financial statement and fund are very, very sound for the year according to Treasure Ingram.

Chairman Langley called for a motion to approve the Financial Report. Town of Farragut Mayor Ron Williams made the motion, it was seconded by State Representative Elaine Davis and approved by all.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Rick Yakubic, ETDD Executive Director, started off his report with a recap of his trip to the NADO board meeting in Rhode Island the week before and his discussion with his counterparts across the country concerning the positives and the cuts of the grant situation. Their consensus is that it will not be as bad the President's budget, but the dollars available might not be as robust either. He also mentioned that among the group they are hopeful that some regulations may get toned down, but there is no confirmation of that.

Executive Director Yakubic then mentioned a new \$1.45 billion grant that just came out for disaster relief supplement from EDA that ETDD is reviewing the NOFA for to see how it could benefit the area, especially Cocke County.

Mr. Yakubic then suggested that if anyone in the group is applying for federal grants to make sure

review their websites and any documentation and scrub all DEIA keywords such as equity, diversity, acceptance etc. because they are being reviewed and may need to make changes to maintain federal grants.

Executive Director Yakubic then let the group know that ADC is officially part of BrightBridge as of May 30th and that the one staff member that did ADC through ETDD is now off the books. He then said that Bill Pollard from Brightbridge has agreed to continue to help underwrite and do the RLF loans and that he is going to have him attend one of the Executive Committee meetings in the next couple of months to discuss their role and introduce himself.

Mr. Yakubic then introduced John LeCroy from TDEC to discuss a grant opportunity. TDEC's Division of Remediation administers the Brownfield Redevelopment Area Grant and Mr. LeCroy explained that this grant could be beneficial to the group because it helps redevelop areas that have real contamination and basically helps conserve resources like the land supply. Mr. LeCroy then went on to explain that the deadline to apply for the grant has been extended to September 15th and that entities who apply could get up to \$500,000 per project, he encouraged anyone who had a project to apply.

Mr. LeCroy then introduced Caleb Powell with TDEC's Office of Sustainable Practices to discuss what they do and some of the resources they have available. Mr. Powell explained that his office is more of a resource to Tennesseans than a regulator and their goal is to help be more sustainable through different programs. His goal for the meeting was to introduce programs that he felt would be helpful to all the counties and give a brief explanation of each. The first program Mr. Powell mentioned is the pharmaceutical take-back program which provides take-back boxes for people to dispose of old prescription medications properly and throughout the 16 counties in the development district there are 83 locations that have collected 166,000 pounds of medication since the program's inception in 2012.

Next, Mr. Powell discussed the Pollution Prevention Program which is leadership program consisting of two parts that helps manufacturers like VW, Frito-Lay, wineries, and distilleries to reduce their energy consumption, water consumption, and waste generation.

Mr. Powell then mentioned the Tire Environmental Act Program through TDEC that is a grant opportunity for tire processors to apply for funds that provides them with the funds needed to reuse tires in beneficial ways such as pavers at state parks, playground mulch, and even as tire-derived fuel.

The last program Mr. Powell mentioned is the Small Business Assistance Program that is a free and confidential program for small businesses in Tennessee. This program answers questions about permits, new manufacturing processes, and anything else that a small business questions if it is the right thing to do or not.

After the TDEC presentation Executive Director Yakubic thanked Mayor Williams for his service on the executive committee since his term is ending and then he thanked Mayor Dykes for his service because his term is ending also. Mr. Yakubic then mentioned his intentions to speak to the new chair and have Mayor Dykes appointed to a member-at-large position on the committee. Then Mr. Yakubic thanked Executive Langley for his leadership as chair over the last year and presented him with a plaque.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Langley asked if anyone had any other business to discuss, Mayor Frank brought up that she, along with Executive Director Yakubic, had been contacted by the media about the Richard L. Bean Juvenile Center. Mayor Frank said that they reached out to her because she and former mayor Bill Brittain were listed as having been appointed by the ETDD Law Enforcement Committee as nonvoting members of the center's board and neither mayor was aware they were ever on it. Executive Director Yakubic and Mayor Frank both researched the committee because they had never heard of it and could not find any information other than it existed many years ago. Mayor Frank then asked for approval to have Rick write a letter to get the records corrected and express that they are happy to be involved in the future.

Chairman Langley called for a motion to authorized writing and sending a letter. Roan County Executive Wade Creswell made the motion, it was seconded by Town of Farragut Mayor Ron Williams and approved by all.

TOPICAL DISCUSSION – OPEN DISCUSSION

Chairman Langley explained that there is not set topic just an open discussion and asked if anyone had anything. Executive Creswell ATVG was meeting the next day and encouraged everyone who was available to attend because they would be discussing changes in the nuclear field because it is changing quickly and constantly.

Representative Davis then mentioned that in their last session the House passed that starting in January 2026 instead of looking at sales tax and other things that are distributed to the counties every 10 years it will be done yearly.

Chairman Langley asked if anyone had anything else, no one had anything.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Langley asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Town of Farragut Mayor Ron Williams.