

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

The East Tennessee Development District's Executive Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at ETHRA, 9111 Cross Park Dr., Ste D-100, Knoxville, TN. The following Executive Committee members were present:

Glenn Jacobs, Knox County Mayor  
Rob Mathis, Cocke County Mayor  
Wade Creswell, Roane County Executive  
Joe Brooks, Claiborne County Mayor  
Mike Byrd, Grainger County Mayor  
Chris Cutshaw, Hamblen County Mayor  
Elaine Davis, State Representative  
Terry Frank, Anderson County Mayor  
Lori Philips-Jones, Mayor of Oneida  
Ed Mitchell, Blount County Mayor  
Mark Potts, Jefferson County Mayor  
Neal Pucciarelli, Mayor of Cumberland Gap  
Terrence Carter, Member at Large  
Roland "Trey" Dykes, III., Member at Large

**Guests**

Chuck Fleischmann, Congressman  
Steven Howell, Congressman Fleischmann's Office  
Tammy Merritt, Congressman Fleischmann's Office  
Sarah Fansler, Congressman Burchett's Office  
Nick Castle, Senator Hagerty's Office  
Michael Morelock, Senator Blackburn's Office  
Jane Jolley, Knox County Development Representative  
Stephanie Isbel, Claiborne County Development Representative  
Tim Hendrick, ETDD  
Alan Woods, ETDD  
Chris Oelgoetz, ETDD  
Harold Edwards, ETDD  
Gary Holiway, ETHRA

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Glenn Jacobs 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 Glenn Jacobs asked for any changes to the posted agenda. There were none, so he called for a motion to approve today's Meeting Agenda. Anderson County Mayor Terry Frank made the motion, it was seconded by State Representative Elaine Davis, and the minutes were approved by all.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Jacobs asked for any changes to the last meeting's Minutes, dated June 10, 2025. No changes were noted, so he called for a motion to approve them. Anderson County Mayor Terry Frank made the motion, it was seconded by State Representative Elaine Davis, and the minutes were approved by all.

## **SENATE, HOUSE & PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chairman Jacobs opened the floor to any public comments and asked if any House or State representatives would like to say anything, Nick Castle from Senator Hagerty's office, Michael Morelock from Senator Blackburn's Office, and Sarah Fansler from Congressman Burchett's Office introduced themselves for anyone who didn't know them and said hello to the group. Then Congressman Chuck Fleischmann said hello to the group as well as Steven Howell and Tammy Merritt from his office. Chairman Jacobs thanked them all for their attendance at the meeting.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Treasurer Wade Creswell presented the financials for May 2025. Treasurer Creswell pointed out that in the month of May was the eleventh month of the fiscal year and expenses exceeded revenues by \$22,308.07 and the fund balance is strong. Treasurer Creswell then explained that the year-to-date revenues are at 121.04% of budget and year-to-date expenses are 118.96% of budget. Treasurer Creswell went on to say that there are two programs, ERP and Go Places, that have a significant impact financially.

Chairman Jacobs called for a motion to approve the Financial Report. Hamblen County Mayor Chris Cutshaw made the motion, it was seconded by Anderson County Mayor Terry Frank and approved by all.

## **SUBCOMMITTEES and MEMBERS AT LARGE**

Chairman Glenn Jacobs noted that it's the time of year when we appoint our Subcommittee Members. Those five Subcommittees include: the Steering Subcommittee, Legislative Subcommittee, Economic Development/CEDS, Evaluation Subcommittee for the Executive Director, and the Audit Subcommittee.

Chairman Jacobs also shared his appreciation for everyone's willingness to serve on these committees.

Chairman Jacobs then stated that it was also time to appoint the Members at Large. He reappointed Terrence Carter, the Business Diversity Director for the Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority, and Roland "Trey" Dykes, III, City of Newport Mayor.

Chairman Jacobs called for a motion to approve these appointments. State Representative Elaine Davis made the motion, it was seconded by Town of Cumberland Gap Mayor Neal Pucciarelli and approved by all.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Rick Yakubic, ETDD Executive Director, started off his report by discussing the Conflict of Interest Policy that is to be provided to all board members on an annual basis at the beginning of the fiscal year. Mr. Yakubic explained that the policy described what is considered a conflict of interest, procedures for resolving a conflict of interest whether real or perceived and contains a statement that all board members are covered under directors and officers liability insurance. Vice Chair Rob Mathis called for a motion to reaffirm the policy. City of Newport Mayor Trey Dykes made the motion, it was seconded by Blount County Mayor Ed Mitchel and approved by all.

Executive Director Yakubic went on to mention that ETDD is currently administering about 127 grants worth \$65 million and that work is currently underway on the Cocke County Transportation Plan. Mr. Yakubic then mentioned that TDOT named a new commissioner, Will Reid, who will be replacing Butch Eley who is going to be working with the Governor from now on.

Mr. Yakubic then discussed meeting with Herb Byrd from the University of Tennessee, to discuss their planning initiatives. They are currently in the process of hiring an Executive Director and then they will meet with the nine development districts to discuss how everything can work together. The University of Tennessee will have three regions, east, middle, and west, and will form an advisory board set up for the state that will hopefully include some of the executive directors from each area.

Executive Director Yakubic then mentioned that ETDD is making good strides concerning disaster recovery and has hired Andreas Guevara-Nadeau, formerly of CDP, and said that as she continues to move forward, he will keep the group updated.

Mr. Yakubic then mentioned the new EDA Disaster Supplemental Grant Program and asked ETDD Deputy Director Tim Hendrick to go over it with the group. Mr. Hendrick explained that there are three specific paths of funding the readiness path, implementation path, and industry transformation path. Mr. Hendrick described the readiness path as being more focused on planning for large scale projects with funding ranging from \$250,000 to \$500,000 and then he

moved on to the implementation path which is a combination of planning and constructions projects centered around a specific community's vision with funds ranging from \$2 million to \$20 million for construction projects and \$100,000 to \$5 million for non-construction projects. Then Mr. Hendrick explained the third path, industry transformation, that is a regionally focused initiative that can be used for construction or non-construction projects that will transform the region's economy with a range of \$0 million to \$50 million. Mayor Mitchell asked when EDA got involved since emergency response funds usually come from TEMA or FEMA. Mr. Hendrick explained that EDA has a supplemental fund that they can use, but it must be tied to a specific major event and where TEMA and FEMA funds go toward cleanup and mitigation, the EDA funds are tied more to economic development as it relates to a disaster.

Mr. Yakubic ended his report by reminding everyone of some calendar events including the Awards Celebration on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, the audit committee meeting on October 14<sup>th</sup>, and the cancelation of the November meeting due to Veterans Day.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Vice Chair Mathis asked if anyone had any other business to discuss, there was nothing else.

## **TOPICAL DISCUSSION – OPEN DISCUSSION**

Vice Chair Mathis introduced Congressman Fleischmann and handed the floor over to him. Congressman Fleischmann started off by thanking everyone for giving him the opportunity to be there and participate in the discussion. The Congressman said that he wanted to discuss energy and the fact that while on his way to the meeting he received a phone call from a sheikh from the UAE saying that he wanted to do business with the United States and the Congressman told him he should come to Tennessee because the Oak Ridge Reservation and surround communities are leading the nuclear renaissance in America.

Congressman Fleischmann went on to say that he is going to be increasing funding for the Office of Science over what the President wants because of the great national lab that we have at ORNL and other national labs. The Congressman then went on to say that this funding will also be used to continue building back older, bigger nuclear plants like they are currently doing in Michigan and at Three Mile Island. Then the Congressman pointed out that the people of Tennessee can help by acting as a supply chain and use the resources that the skills that we have and resources that the state will provide.

Congressman Fleischmann then expressed how important TVA is and that he will fight tooth and nail to keep it in its current position because some people are wanting to privatize it. He mentioned that as of now there are only 3 members on the board and 5 are needed for a quorum, but there are candidates being considered for the open positions.

The Congressman then turned it over to Treasurer Creswell and Mayor Frank to share something that they have been working on together. Mayor Frank said that they will be sending out a save the date, but that on September 12<sup>th</sup> at Aspire Park to discuss the quality of life that the park brings and the opportunities and the benefits of your community becoming a nuclear member community, even if it means just helping with the supply chain.

Treasurer Creswell asked if anyone had anything else, no one had anything.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Treasurer Creswell asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Blount County Mayor Ed Mitchell.