

**EAST TENNESSEE DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
August 12, 2025
MINUTES**

The East Tennessee Development District's Executive Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, August 12, 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
Mike Byrd, Grainger County Mayor
Chris Cutshaw, Hamblen County Mayor
Lori Philips-Jones, Mayor of Oneida
Mark Potts, Jefferson County Mayor
Neal Pucciarelli, Mayor of Cumberland Gap
Larry Waters, Sevier County Mayor
Richard Briggs, State Senator
Scott "Scotty" Kitts, Mayor of Lafollette
Roland "Trey" Dykes, III., Member at Large

Guests

Cindy Boshears, Congressman Fleischmann's Office
Emily McCaul, Senator Hagerty'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
Tim Hendrick, ETDD
Alan Woods, ETDD
Harold Edwards, ETDD
Gary Holiway, ETHRA
Mike Arms, Tennessee Strategies

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. City of LaFollette Mayor Scotty Kitts made the motion, it was seconded by Town of Cumberland Gap Mayor Neal Pucciarelli, and approved by all.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Jacobs asked for any changes to the last meeting's Minutes, dated July 8, 2025. No changes were noted, so he called for a motion to approve them. Jefferson County Mayor Mark Potts made the motion, it was seconded by Grainger County Mayor Mike Byrd and approved by all.

SENATE, HOUSE & PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Jacobs opened the floor to any public comments and asked the House and State representatives to introduce themselves and add any comments they had, Emily McCaul and Nick Castle from Senator Hagerty's office, Cindy Boshears from Congressman Fleischmann's Office, Michael Morelock from Senator Blackburn's Office, and Sarah Fansler from Congressman Burchett's Office introduced themselves and said that if there was anything they could help with to reach out.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer Wade Creswell presented the financials for June 2025. Treasurer Creswell pointed out that in the month of June was the twelfth month of the fiscal year and revenues exceeded expenses by \$61,023 with ERP, Grant Administration, and Go Places being significant contributors. Treasurer Creswell then explained that the year-to-date revenues are at 122.97% of budget and year-to-date expenses are 119.16% of budget. Treasurer Creswell went on to say that the 2025 fiscal year concluded with an overall surplus of \$131,788, putting the district in a good position for the 2026 fiscal year.

Treasurer Creswell then mentioned that Rodefer Moss will be conducting the annual audit for fiscal year 2025 and is targeting completion in October 2025 with the results to be presented to the audit committee.

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.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Rick Yakubic, ETDD Executive Director, started off his report by pointing out that ETDD is currently administering 127 grants totaling about \$65 million. Director Yakubic then mentioned that work is underway on the Cocke County transportation plan and that it is going well and that once it is done, they hope to start work on a few others. Then Director Yakubic reminded everyone that Will Reid was appointed to commission of TDOT and that there are several other changes in the works due to the reorganization at TDOT and that Laura and Ekem will keep everyone up to date with the changes.

Director Yakubic then mentioned that he met with Herb Byrd from UT and was told that they are in the process of hiring an executive director for their planning that should be in place within the month and then in mid-September all nine development districts will meet Mr. Byrd to see how they can work together on planning.

Next Director Yakubic mentioned the progress being made in disaster recovery framework thanks to Andreas Guevara-Nadeau who is coordinating all the efforts for the plan and has already met with TEMA, FEMA, Spring Duckett from the Cocke County Long Term Recovery Group, and First Tennessee Development District.

Director Yakubic then mentioned that the CEDS subcommittee is scheduled to meet on August 26th to review the updated CEDS document and that after the 26th the Governor will be introducing the new Opportunity Zones and encouraged everyone to look at what is out there, check the eligibility, and see what ETDD can do to help define the opportunity zones.

Director Yakubic then discussed the upcoming calendar of events including the annual awards celebration on September 23rd and encouraged everyone who is available to attend and celebrate the work that everyone does together. He then mentioned that the next executive committee meeting is on September 9th and reminded the group that the November 11th meeting is cancelled in honor of Veterans Day.

Director Yakubic mentioned a transportation grant that there is an opportunity for and asked Tim Hendrick to give an overview and then answer any questions. Mr. Hendrick explained that this grant opportunity is through the U.S. Department of Transportation and is called the Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program. The grant is specifically to help rural and tribal communities develop transportation infrastructure and Mr. Hendrick

pointed out that after doing some preliminary research there are a few municipalities ineligible for the grant including Alcoa, Clinton, Oak Ridge, Norris, Knoxville, Olier Springs, City of Loudon, and Lenoir City. Mr. Hendrick went on to explain that the purpose of the grant is to do a lot of the front-end work that major transportation projects require such as feasibility studies, cost-benefit analyses, environment reviews, and preliminary engineering with the expectation that you would then apply for larger federal grants for actual construction work. Mr. Hendrick advised anyone interested to reach out to Laura Smith, Ekem Amonoo-Lartson, or Chris Oelgoetz who can help work with them through the process and then pointed out that the application period will open early September and close in early October.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Jacobs asked if anyone had any other business to discuss, Mayor Waters brought up that Allen Neel, who served as Executive Director from 1978 to 1986 and recently retired as Executive Director of ETEDA, passed away and asked the committee could send a card to the family.

Chairman Jacobs then acknowledged Mike Arms who reminded the group about the ACM Conference coming up on August 27th in Murfreesboro.

Chairman Jacobs asked if anyone else had anything to share and Treasurer Creswell said that the county mayors should have received an invitation from Mayor Frank to attend an event on September 12th in Clinton regarding the nuclear industry and update within it. The event is for county mayors within 100-mile radius and their economic developers to discuss workforce efforts to accommodate the anticipated growth within the industry.

TOPICAL DISCUSSION – OPEN DISCUSSION

Chairman Jacobs asked if anyone had a topic they would like to discuss, no one had anything else.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Jacobs asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by City of LaFollette Mayor Scotty Kitts.