

**EAST TENNESSEE DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
October 14, 2025
MINUTES**

The East Tennessee Development District's Executive Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at ETHRA, 9111 Cross Park Dr., Ste D-100, Knoxville, TN. The following Executive Committee members were present:

Joe Brooks, Claiborne County Mayor
Mike Byrd, Grainger County Mayor
Terrence Carter, Member at Large
Wade Creswell, Roane County Executive
Chris Cutshaw, Hamblen County Mayor
Roland "Trey" Dykes, III, Member at Large
Terry Frank, Anderson County Mayor
Glenn Jacobs, Knox County Mayor
Scott "Scotty" Kitts, City of LaFollette Mayor
Mark Potts, Jefferson County Mayor
Neal Pucciarelli, Town of Cumberland Gap Mayor

Guests

Emily McCaul, Senator Hagerty's Office
Amy Fitzgerald, City of Oak Ridge
John Lecroy, TDEC
Grady Vanderhoofven, Three Roots Capital
Ron Woody, ETDD
Tim Hendrick, ETDD
Alan Woods, ETDD
Harold Edwards, ETDD
Chris Oelgoetz, ETDD
Gary Holiway, ETHRA
E.L. Morton, 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. Town of Cumberland Gap Mayor Neal Pucciarelli made the motion, it was seconded by City of LaFollette Mayor Scott Kitts and approved by all.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Jacobs asked for any changes to the last meeting's Minutes, dated September 8, 2025, and none were noted, so he called for a motion to approve them. City of LaFollette Mayor Scott Kitts made the motion, it was seconded by Member at Large Terrence Carter and approved by all.

SENATE, HOUSE & PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Jacobs opened the floor to any public comments and asked the House and State representatives if they had any comments, Emily McCaul from Senator Hagerty's office introduced herself and said that despite the government shutdown they are still in the office and working and if anyone had questions to reach out.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer Wade Creswell presented the financials for August 2025. Treasurer Creswell pointed out that the revenues exceeded expenses for the month by approximately \$9,573. Treasurer Creswell explained that the year-to-date revenues were 105.61% of budget, which is higher than the budget and year-to-date expenses were at 90.47%, which is lower than budget. Treasurer Creswell pointed out that personnel expenses for the fiscal year thus far are less than projected, but it is anticipated that those expenditures trend more to budget as the fiscal year progresses.

Treasurer Creswell then discussed the annual audit for fiscal year 2025 that was completed by Rodefer Moss and presented to the Audit Committee prior to the Executive Committee meeting.

Chairman Jacobs asked if anyone had any questions for Treasurer Creswell, there were none, so he called for a motion to approve the Financial Report. Member at Large Trey Dykes made the motion, it was seconded by Town of Cumberland Gap Mayor Neal

Pucciarelli and approved by all.

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Jacobs advised that the Audit Committee had met earlier that morning to review the 2025 fiscal year audit and recommended it for adoption by the Executive Committee. ETDD Executive Director Rick Yakubic then explained that it was a clean opinion with no findings and that ETDD moved from a high-risk to a low-risk opportunity since it is the second year of the Power Grant and that the grant is going to be closed out. Executive Director Yakubic then told the group that once the audit is approved and signed off and he has the final audit he will send it out to everyone.

Chairman Jacobs called for a motion to approve the audit. City of LaFollette Mayor Scott Kitts made the motion, it was seconded by Member at Large Terrence Carter and approved by all.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Rick Yakubic, ETDD Executive Director, started off his report by discussing RPO and informed the group that Gayla Webb, formerly of City of Townsend, was hired as full-time RPO Coordinator and would be taking over that program while Laura and Ekem focus more on transportation plans and planning. Director Yakubic then mentioned that the fall RPO meeting for mayors and road superintendents will be on December 2nd at the TDOT regional office.

Then Director Yakubic discussed the recent TDDA meeting in Nashville where they met with Herb Byrd to discuss planning and how they want to supplement what the development districts are already doing and not take anything away from them.

Mr. Yakubic then mentioned that he spoke to Cliff Lippard regarding the TACIR letter that was sent in February and that Mr. Lippard said he received the letter, but that it was during a busy time and never responded and that hopefully in the future there can be a meeting with Mayor Frank, Ron Woody, and possibly Senator Yager to discuss the letter and what data can be provided.

Executive Director Yakubic then discussed calendar events including the November 11th meeting that is cancelled because it falls on Veterans Day and the March 10th meeting that will need to be cancelled because of the NADO conference. Mr. Yakubic then mentioned the annual retreat that is coming up on January 22nd and 23rd in Gatlinburg.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Jacobs asked if anyone had any other business to discuss, he mentioned that

the Great Smoky Mountain National Park is staying open currently due to a partnership among Sevier, Blount and Cocke Counties, Gatlinburg, Sevierville, Pigeon Forge, Pittman Center, Friends of the Smokies, Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians, State of Tennessee Tourism Development, and the State of North Carolina and wanted to recognize their efforts for keeping it open during a peak season for tourism.

Chairman Jacobs then asked if anyone had any other business, no one had anything else.

TOPICAL DISCUSSION – Legislative Agenda Follow Up & Adoption

Chairman Jacobs turned it over to Mayor Terry Frank to lead the follow up discussion on ETDD's State and Federal Legislative Agendas for FY 2026-2027.

Mayor Frank started with the State Legislative Agenda and mentioned that she was contacted by the City of Oak Ridge who wanted to suggest additional language to item number five that discusses state shared revenues. The City of Oak Ridge is suggesting that the language be changed to "...there will be no loss of revenue to local governments as a result of tax reform, new sales tax exemptions, economic development incentives or budgetary adjustments." The group discussed the wording changes and agreed that the language should remain the same because this is something that each county should be working on with the state to keep their autonomy. The group agreed that the State Legislative Agenda should remain the same.

Mayor Frank then went over the Federal Legislative Agenda and explained that the FEMA reform item is subject to change because Mayor Waters was supposed to have more information about changes coming after his meeting with the NACO task force. She then asked if anyone had any questions or comments, no one had any and it was agreed that it would remain the same with the option to amend later if necessary.

Chairman Jacobs asked for a motion to approve the State and Federal Legislative Agenda. The motion was made by Anderson County Mayor Terry Frank, it was seconded by City of LaFollette Mayor Scott Kitts and approved by all.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Jacobs asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by City of LaFollette Mayor Scotty Kitts, it was seconded by Hamblen County Mayor Chris Cutshaw and approved by all.