

**EAST TENNESSEE DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 12, 2019
MINUTES**

The East Tennessee Development District's Executive Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, February 12, 2019, at the ETHRA offices in Knoxville, TN. The following Executive Committee members were present:

E.L. Morton, Campbell County Mayor
Roland (Trey) Dykes III, Member at Large
Mark Potts, Jefferson County Mayor
Terry Frank, Anderson County Mayor
Joe Brooks, Claiborne County Mayor
Mike Byrd, Grainger County Mayor
Bill Brittain, Hamblen County Mayor
Rollen Bradshaw, Loudon County Mayor
Brian Langley, Morgan County Executive
Jeff Tibbals, Scott County Mayor
Larry Waters, Sevier County Mayor
Jason Bailey, Union County Mayor
Evelyn Gill, Member at Large

Guests

Rick Yakubic, ETDD
Jack Qualls, Loudon County Development Representative
Jane Jolley, Knox County
Cindy Boshears, Congressman Fleischmann's Office
Ron Williams, Mayor of Farragut
John LeCroy, TDEC
Michael Foster, City of Rocky Top
Stacey Chambers, Monroe County
Tammy Merritt, Congressman Fleischmann's Office
Linda Fultz, Mayor of Harrogate
Jennifer Lingerfelter, Congressman Tim Burchett's Office

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman E.L. Morton called the meeting to order.

MINUTES

Chairman E.L. Morton presented the minutes of the January 8, 2019 meeting to the Executive Committee for approval. Hamblen County Mayor Bill Brittain made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, it was seconded by Member at Large Evelyn Gill, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report for the month ending December 31, 2018 was presented by Jefferson County Mayor Mark Potts. Loudon County Mayor Rollen Bradshaw made the motion to accept the report as presented and it was seconded by Anderson County Mayor Terry Frank, and it was approved by all.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman E.L. Morton asked Anderson County Mayor Terry Frank to present the report on the Nominating Committee. Mayor Frank thanked the following members for their service:

Terry Frank, Anderson County Mayor and Chair
Jeff Tibbals, Scott County Mayor
Bill Brittain, Hamblen County Mayor
Crystal Ottinger, Cocke County Mayor
Mark Potts, Jefferson County Mayor
E.L. Morton, Campbell County Mayor

Committee Chairman Terry Frank reported that the Nominating Committee met via telephone prior to this Executive Committee meeting and proposed the following nominations for the ETDD/ETHRA officers for 2019-2020:

For Chair:	Mr. Ron Woody, Roane County Executive
For Vice-Chair:	Mr. Roland (Trey) Dykes, Mayor of Newport/Member at Large
For Secretary:	Mr. Mark Potts, Jefferson County Mayor
For Treasurer:	Mr. Joe Brooks, Claiborne County Mayor

Committee Chairman Terry Frank asked the Executive Committee to entertain a motion to accept these recommendations from the Nominating Committee for these candidates to serve as the new officers for the 2019-2020 program year. Hamblen County Mayor Bill Brittain made a motion to accept the nominations and it was seconded by Scott County Mayor Jeff Tibbals, and approved by all.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Terry Bobrowski, ETDD Executive Director, gave his Director's report:

Grants Update

There are several items to report on:

CDBG Grants

Mr. Bobrowski reported that the 2019 applications will be due in Nashville on February 22nd of 2019. We are working on 15 applications right now, which is a really high number from our region. The state typically funds between 60 and 70 applications per year. We currently are working with Anderson County and Jefferson County for waterlines; Blount County, Hamblen County, Rocky Top and Winfield for a fire truck; Union County for fire equipment; Campbell County, Monroe County and Scott County for ambulances; and Dandridge, Loudon, Norris, Rockwood and White Pine on wastewater projects.

The CDBG program remains the only viable public infrastructure program that is available to communities so it is extremely important that we advocate for this program whenever we have discussions with federal legislators. The program has not been well supported at the federal level and has consistently lost funding over the past several years. This translates into fewer and fewer grants at the local level and we have really started to feel the pinch in the last couple of years.

Home Program

THDA recently announced that they will be accepting HOME program applications again this year. The applications will be due in Nashville on March 7th, 2019. The HOME program provides grant funds for owner occupied housing rehabilitations for low and moderate income persons. We are working with the City of Morristown on an application and have several others in the pipeline.

We are also working hard to finish up our Emergency Repair Program for the Elderly effort for FY 2019. We have reserved over \$300,000 of grant funds for housing repairs. This is a very popular program and we work with small housing providers in your communities to get these grant funds out there working to benefit the elderly population. To date we have completed over 300 rehab projects.

Historic Preservation Grants

We also worked recently on a small number of historic preservation grants. These are small grants that are offered each year by the Tennessee Historical Commission to advance preservation activities. Typically, the grant funds are used to make minor improvements to structures that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Since the grants are small – in the \$25,000 range – the projects are comprehensive but still meaningful. The deadline was January 31st. We submitted applications on behalf of Knoxville College for restoration work on Wallace Hall, restoration work on the old jail in Claiborne County, funding for a preservation plan for the Graham Kivette House in Claiborne County, restoration work on the Peoples Bank of Friendsville and our annual planning grant that funds historic preservation activities at ETDD.

We also received word that a \$400,000 disaster grant from the Economic Development Administration has been tentatively approved for Sevier County. The grant would fund an alternate electrical feed to a major water intake center on Douglas Lake.

Legislative Agenda

Mr. Bobrowski stated that everyone should have copies of our state and federal legislative agendas in their packets. We use these agendas to identify our legislative priorities to our state and federal legislative delegations. We have a large state delegation from our district – eight senators and twenty-one representatives. On the federal side we have portions of the first, second and third congressional districts within our boundaries.

The Federal recommendations have not changed substantially from last year - we are still pushing for full funding of the ARC, the EDA and re-authorization of the SBA and support for a funding level of \$7.5 billion in loan guarantee authority, expressing support for the CDBG program, Chickamauga Lock funding, TVA non-power programs and support for full funding of the Y-12, ORNL and the Uranium Processing Facility in the Anderson/Roane county area.

In regard to our State Legislative agenda - we have examined the legislative agendas of TSCA, TML and TDDA and attempted to coordinate agenda items as much as possible. This year we have added a request for the Legislature to consider following the recommendations of the TN H2O report which outlines the massive infrastructure needs that will be necessary in order to accommodate normal growth through 2040.

Census PSAP Overview

Mr. Bobrowski mentioned that ETDD is continuing to work with the US Census on various preliminary count projects. We have been designated by the census as the coordinator for Participant Statistical Areas Program or PSAP for all 16 of our counties. The 2020 Census Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) allows invited participants to review and update

selected statistical area boundaries for 2020 Census data tabulation following U.S. Census Bureau guidelines and criteria. The Census Bureau also will use the statistical areas defined for the 2020 Census to tabulate data for the annual American Community Survey (ACS) estimates and the Economic Census. Standard statistical geographies include: Census tracts and Block groups. The 2020 Census PSAP is the only opportunity prior to the 2020 Census to review and update the selected statistical areas. The Census Bureau uses the statistical areas defined for the 2020 Census to tabulate data for the ACS throughout the decade. We will be working with GIS folks in the seven counties that have active GIS capabilities and actually doing the revisions for the nine counties that do not have in house capabilities. We have 120 days to finish and we are in good shape to meet the deadline.

Rural Economic Development Initiative Overview

Mr. Bobrowski said that he is sure most of you have heard that one of Governor Lee's main priorities is an increasing focus on rural economic development. In fact his first Executive Order was all about rural development and directed each state agency to develop a plan for focusing resources on rural areas. I have copies of the Executive Order if anyone would like one. I feel like this is a special opportunity for the development district to participate in this state-wide effort. There are many different programs that potentially could benefit rural areas but we simply do not have the staff capacity to assist local governments with accessing many of these programs. We think that the addition of a staff person that would focus on these new programs, especially programs that deal with broadband expansion, downtown redevelopment, workforce training related to the opioid crisis and infrastructure development would be a very impactful way to participate in the new initiative.

I would like to encourage everyone to attend the Mayor's Forum that ECD is sponsoring on March 5th in Nashville at the War Memorial Auditorium. ECD will be providing an overview of all of their economic development programs, many of which represent special opportunities for rural areas.

Calendar Matters

Mr. Bobrowski announced several meetings that are coming up.

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for March 12th immediately preceding the ETDD/ETHRA Annual Business meeting that has been scheduled for Tuesday, March the 12th – at Rothchilds on Kingston Pike in Knoxville. I am excited to announce that TDEC Commissioner Davis Salyers has confirmed that he will be our keynote speaker at the luncheon this year. I believe that this is Commissioner Salyres first official visit to East Tennessee.

And for a long term hold - we have also scheduled our Annual Awards Banquet for Thursday, July the 11th – we are going to go back to The Venue in Lenoir City for this event this year.

Other Business

Mr. Bobrowski mentioned just a bit of other information – Senator Richard Briggs has been appointed by the Senate caucus to serve as our Executive Committee member for the next two years. Also, Maryville Mayor Tom Taylor will serve as the new Blount County Executive Committee member for this year and next year.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business, a motion was made to adjourn by Member at Large Evelyn Gill and seconded by Claiborne County Mayor Joe Brooks, and approved by all.