

**EAST TENNESSEE DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 10, 2023
MINUTES**

The East Tennessee Development District's Executive Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, at the ETHRA offices in Knoxville, TN. The following Executive Committee members were present:

Ron Williams, Mayor of Farragut
Brian Langley, Morgan County Executive
Glenn Jacobs, Knox County Mayor
Terry Frank, Anderson County Mayor
Jack Lynch, Campbell County Mayor
Rob Mathis, Cocke County Mayor
Mike Byrd, Grainger County Mayor
Bill Brittain, Hamblen County Mayor
Mark Potts, Jefferson County Mayor
Wade Creswell, Roane County Executive
Jerried Jeffers, Scott County Mayor
Larry Waters, Sevier County Mayor
Neal Pucciarelli, Mayor of Cumberland Gap
Roland "Trey" Dykes, Mayor of Newport
Terrence Carter, Member at Large

Guests

Alan Woods, ETDD
Tim Hendrick, ETDD
Ron Woody, ETDD
Gary Holiway, ETHRA
Jane Jolley, Knox County Development Representative
Cindy Boshears, Congressman Fleischmann's Office
Tammy Merritt, Congressman Fleischmann's Office
Kayleigh Heaton, Congressman Fleischmann's Office
Sarah Fansler, Congressman Burchett's Office
Riley Lovingood, Senator Hagerty's Office
Rebecca Foster, Congressman John Rose's Office
Crystal Bryant, State of TN ECD
Jessie McBride, TN Department of Agriculture
Amelia Bartlett, Knoxville Entrepreneur Center

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Ron Williams called the meeting to order.

MINUTES

Vice-Chairman Ron Williams presented the minutes of the December 13, 2022, 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 Anderson County Mayor Terry Frank, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report for the month ending November 30, 2022, was presented by Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs. Anderson County Mayor Terry Frank made the motion to accept the report as presented and it was seconded by Grainger County Mayor Mike Byrd, and it was approved by all.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Rick Yakubic, ETDD Executive Director, gave his director's report:

Grants

Mr. Yakubic reported on Grants. In your packets you will see a grants update. Our ETDD staff is currently administering about 62 grants worth \$38 million. We just submitted \$11,500,000.00 in ARC grants for 13 communities.

ETDD staff submitted a full ARC Grant application for \$300,000.00 for Walters State Community College for Workforce Development.

Our ETDD staff assisted Sweetwater with a LPRF Grant application and assisted City of Loudon with an EDA Grant application for wastewater line replacement under the Tennessee River for \$2.5 million.

We are assisting 6 communities with their CDBG applications, and 13 counties with the CDBG-CV Food Insecurity Grant applications which are due January 31st.

CDBG applications will be due April 14th.

Legislative Appointments

Mr. Yakubic reported that Senator Richard Briggs was recommended by the Senate Caucus to serve on the Executive Committee for another 2 years. We will need a motion to approve.

Morgan County Executive Brian Langley made the motion to approve Senator Briggs to serve on the Executive Committee and it was seconded by Farragut Mayor Ron Williams, and it was approved by all.

Mr. Yakubic reported that Representative Kelly Keisling was going to serve as our State Representative but last minute declined. He recommended Representative Elaine Davis and who did receive the most votes by the House Caucus to serve on the Executive Committee for a term of 2 years and replaces Representative Jeremy Faison. We will need a motion to approve Rep. Elaine Davis on the committee.

Anderson County Mayor Terry Frank made a motion to approve Representative Davis to serve on the Executive Committee and it was seconded by Hamblen County Mayor Bill Brittain, and it was approved by all.

Local Planning Assistance

Mr. Yakubic mentioned that he would like to receive some input and your help. In your packets there is a sheet on Local Planning Assistance. Currently we are serving 41 communities in the planning advisory services. We have been providing services since 2011 when it closed at the State office. Only gone up once at 10% within the time frame of providing these services. We receive a \$50,000 allotment from the State to help offset some of the costs. A lot heavier reliance on the GIS services. With the cost of living and employee retention, we would like to propose a 2- or 3-year contract with a 15% to 20% increase in the cost starting in Fiscal Year 2024. We have 3 full time, 1 that is contract, and 2 other staff members that are sharing the load of new communities that have been added.

After discussion from the committee, Hamblen County Mayor Bill Brittain suggested to come back in next month's meeting with more of a line-item budget for planning and volume numbers for counties and municipalities being served to discuss in more detail.

Mr. Yakubic agreed he would come back in next month's Committee meeting with a new proposal and a spreadsheet with more detailed information.

TN Department of Agriculture

Mr. Yakubic introduced Jessie McBride. She is the Regional Coordinator for Public Affairs with the TN Department of Agriculture. Ms. McBride presented some information about their grant programs. The AG Enterprise Fund is for an AG business looking to expand the business or to add

value to an AG product they are already using. Includes forest product businesses. Looking at another grant round in the springtime.

Another grant is the ARP dollars. This one they are looking big projects in the AG community. Have around \$50 million allocated. Will be holding a webinar on February 15th for potential applicants to give information on what projects and businesses will qualify. More information to come in a couple of weeks.

Ms. McBride introduced Amelia Bartlett with the Knoxville Entrepreneur Center. She is the Rural Outreach Coordinator working with USDA in bringing grant funded programs focusing on agricultural based businesses in the rural areas and help those business owners apply for grants. Basically, here today to connect with community leaders to meet business owners in the rural communities.

Mayors Retreat

Mr. Yakubic asked Ron Woody to go over briefly the draft agenda for the Mayors Retreat being held on the 19th and 20th. Mr. Woody thanked everyone for all their emails with information regarding their communities. Some PowerPoint presentation and open forum.

NACo's Opioid Solutions Leadership Network

Mr. Yakubic reported that Jefferson County Mayor Mark Potts has been recently selected to join and be a member of the Opioid Solutions Network. There is a copy in your packets that explains what the network is and what their goals are for offering support to county leaders to show them how to effectively invest settlement funds in addressing the needs of people with substance abuse disorders. Mayor Potts mentioned what his role will be in the network and what he hopes to accomplish for our counties. Would like to have a follow-up meeting on the meetings that were previously done this past year.

Calendar

Our next meeting will be held on February 14th. The March meeting has been cancelled.

Other Business

No other business.

Adjournment

With no other business, the Executive Committee was adjourned.