

**EAST TENNESSEE DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 8, 2019
MINUTES**

The East Tennessee Development District's Executive Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, January 8, 2019, at the ETHRA offices in Knoxville, TN. The following Executive Committee members were present:

E.L. Morton, Campbell County Mayor
Ron Woody, Roane County Executive
Roland (Trey) Dykes III, Member at Large
Mark Potts, Jefferson County Mayor
Joe Brooks, Claiborne County Mayor
Crystal Ottinger, Cocke County Mayor
Mike Byrd, Grainger County Mayor
Glenn Jacobs, Knox County Mayor
Brian Langley, Morgan County Executive

Guests

Rick Yakubic, ETDD
Jane Jolley, Knox County
Sarah Fansler, Congressman Burchett's Office
Lana Moore, Senator Lamar Alexander's Office
Cindy Boshears, Congressman Fleischmann's Office
Robin Ruiz, Claiborne County Development Representative
Ron Williams, Mayor of Farragut
John LeCroy, TDEC
Kim Smith, U.S. Census Bureau

CALL TO ORDER

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

MINUTES

Chairman E.L. Morton presented the minutes of the December 11, 2018 meeting to the Executive Committee for approval. Claiborne County Mayor Joe Brooks made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, it was seconded by Morgan County Executive Brian Langley, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report for the month ending November 30, 2018 was presented by Jefferson County Mayor Mark Potts. Jefferson County Mayor Mark Potts made the motion to accept the report as presented and it was seconded by Roane County Executive Ron Woody, and it was approved by all.

APPOINT A NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chairman E.L Morton stated that each year the Chair appoints a Nominating Committee to recommend a slate of officers to the full Board during the annual business meeting that will be held on March 12, 2019. Chairman Morton would like to appoint the following members to the Nominating Committee:

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

The Nominating Committee will be provided with historical data regarding past officers by ETDD in the near future. The Nominating Committee will meet immediately prior to the February ETDD Executive Committee meeting and report its recommendations to the full Committee.

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 ETDD staff is working hard on the preparation of 2019 CDBG grant applications. The 2019 applications are due in Nashville on February 22nd of 2019. We are working on applications for Norris (wastewater), Jefferson County (water line), Campbell County (ambulances), Hamblen County (fire truck), Scott County (ambulance), Monroe County (waterline), Winfield (fire truck), Dandridge (wastewater), Rocky Top (fire truck), Anderson County (water line), Loudon (wastewater), Union County (water line) Blount County (fire truck) and Rockwood (wastewater).

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 although it received a small increase in funding this year. 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.

Historic Preservation Grants

We routinely submit applications to assist with the preservation of cultural assets in our region. This year the applications are due in Nashville on January 31st. We are submitting applications for Knoxville College, the Old Jail building in Claiborne County, the Dunbar School in Loudon, the People's Bank of Friendsville, the Crockett Tavern in Morristown and the Graham Kivette House in Tazewell.

Other Grants

Mr. Bobrowski reported that ECD has announced the availability of broadband accessibility grants. They will be taking public comments on the proposed program until December 20th and I expect applications to be available in January of 2019.

The 2019 application round for FEMA Firefighter grants is now open. If you have a municipal or volunteer fire department that is interested in applying for these funds please give us a call.

I also want to mention that we received \$200,000 from the TN Department of Agriculture to start a new micro loan program. The purpose of the program is to stimulate farm and agri-business income. We intend to provide low interest financing for the purchase of farm equipment and machinery in order to create new markets for locally produced farm products. Loans can be for up to \$25,000, 7 years maximum term and we anticipate the interest rate to be around 4%. Loans can be used for building, harvesting equipment, production equipment, fencing, irrigation equipment, grain storage and variety of other things. No rolling stock such as trucks or trailers are eligible. The program is up and running and we have started accepting applications.

Overview of CEDS Update

Mr. Bobrowski mentioned that we recently sponsored meetings by our North RPO and South RPO and prioritized projects that are being considered for inclusion in this year Transportation Improvement Plan recommended to the legislature by TDOT. In the South RPO, prioritized projects included:

In Cocke County:

Newport Bypass – construction

Cosby Highway near Winton Springs Road – ROW

In Monroe County:

Two sections of State Road 322, one construction and one ROW

In Roane County:

US Highway 70 from SR 322 to SR 29 – construction

In Sevier County:

Jake Thomas Connector – Construction

US 321 from Buckhorn Road to SR 416 – ROW

2 miles on Veterans Blvd – ROW

US 411 from Sims Road to SR 92 – Construction

The Newport Bypass was ranked by the RPO as the number 1 priority in this group. Also funded by the Improve Act are ITS improvements on Interstate 40 and improvements to the Welcome Center in eastern Cocke County.

In the North RPO, prioritized projects included:

In Campbell County:

Highway 63 from Frontier Road to Claiborne County line– Construction
Highway 63 from Frontier Road to Claiborne County Line – Construction
Fog and severe weather detection system on I-75 near Jellico - Construction

In Claiborne County:

Interchange at SR 345 – Construction
SR 63 from Campbell County to Hall Lane – ROW and Construction

In Grainger County:

Two section of US Highway 11 from Rutledge to near Bean Station – Construction

In Morgan County:

Two section of US Highway 27 from SR 62 in Wartburg to SR 328 – construction

In Scott County:

SR 29 from Wolfe Creek Road to Old US 27 in Robbins – ROW
Rugby Highway from Morgan County line to SR 29 – construction

In Union County:

SR33 from Knox County line to SR 144 – construction

The Union County was ranked by the RPO as the number 1 priority in this group. Also ranked for the first time were 3 projects slated for preliminary engineering in Campbell County, 3 projects slated for preliminary engineering in Morgan County, and one more preliminary engineering project in Union County.

Planning Assistance Service Overview

Mr. Bobrowski gave a quick update on the planning advisory service. We started the service in 2011 so we are half way through our eighth year of operation. We have grown the program substantially from the start and we now serve 34 cities and counties in our region. We also serve two communities in Scott County, Winfield and Huntsville, on an as needed basis under an hourly rate arrangements. Two years ago we had a 10% increase in our contract fees, the first and only increase in the history of the program. The program is very stable, we typically do not lose community participation from one year to the next. From a fiscal standpoint, the program is basically self-sufficient although we typically subsidize the program in a minor way each year. We

anticipate another small increase – maybe 5% - in contract amounts within the next two years in order to cover increasing staff costs. Our current staff has over 90 years of experience in local planning – three staff members are former employees of the Knoxville field office of Local Planning back when the state funded the program. We also employ a very experienced GIS technician that provides mapping services to our planners and our communities.

I wanted to mention that we are actively keeping up with the PSAP process as designed by the US Census Bureau. PSAP stands for participant statistical areas program and involves allowing local governments the opportunity to review comment on statistical area boundaries that the 2020 census will use for data collection. These boundaries include census tracts, block groups, census designated places and census county divisions. We will assist local governments with reviewing the information provided by the Census Bureau and providing comments. We have tested the software that the Census Bureau will use and are ready to begin the review process as soon as we receive the data. The review process is likely to be completed by spring of this year.

Executive Committee Update

Mr. Bobrowski gave an update to the Committee on the status of our membership. We currently have Executive Committee members from 15 of 16 of our counties. After many years of service on the Committee, Mr. Don Mull, Mayor of Alcoa left office in December. Also, after several years of faithful service Mr. Terry Wolfe left office in December as well. That will leave openings in Blount County and in Grainger County. The nomination process in Grainger County has been completed and Grainger Mayor Mike Byrd is the new Executive Committee member. I started the nomination process in Blount County and hopefully a new committee member will be appointed by the February meeting.

Calendar Matters

Mr. Bobrowski mentioned the next ETDD/ETHRA meeting will be held on February 12th here at the ETHRA offices. Also, for a long term hold, we will be holding our Annual Business meeting on March 12th at Rothchilds in Knoxville. County Day on the Hill will be March 4 & 5 2019 in Nashville and this will correspond with our statewide TDDA conference so there will be an opportunity for those interested to attend both events. We would be happy to host you at our conference hotel on the night of the 4th if you are interested. Just to clarify, the TDDA conference is consists mainly of staff training except for the luncheon on the 5th where we recognize our Legislators of the Year and our Rebuild Tennessee Awards winner.

Other Business

Chairman Morton announced we have two guest speakers with us today and introduced John LeCroy with TDEC. Mr. LeCroy mentioned that his department is working on two projects, the first one being a pilot project. Tennessee State Parks are looking for 80,000 waste tires to use for

golf cart pass. Will look at cleaning up illegal dumps first. The second project is the TN H2O Plan, which is a plan on our current water resources in the state and recommendations on conservation and best practices to conserve what we have and best use for economic and population growth in the future.

Chairman Morton announced our next guest speaker, Kim Smith with U.S. Census Bureau. Ms. Smith spoke on the upcoming 2020 Census and gave a power point presentation regarding the goals and objectives for the 2020 Census and how important it is to our state to get an accurate count.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business, a motion was made to adjourn by Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs and seconded by Roane County Executive Ron Woody, and approved by all.