

**EAST TENNESSEE DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**JUNE 8, 2021
MINUTES**

The East Tennessee Development District's Executive Committee held a meeting on Tuesday June 8, 2021, at the Bearden Banquet Hall in Knoxville, TN. The following Executive Committee members were present:

Roland (Trey) Dykes, III, City of Newport Mayor
Mark Potts, Jefferson County Mayor
Joe Brooks, Claiborne County Mayor
Jeff Tibbals, Scott County Mayor
Terry Frank, Anderson County Mayor
E.L. Morton, Campbell County Mayor
Crystal Ottinger, Cocke County Mayor
Mike Byrd, Grainger County Mayor
Bill Brittain, Hamblen County Mayor
Glenn Jacobs, Knox County Mayor
Brian Langley, Morgan County Executive
Larry Waters, Sevier County Mayor
Jason Bailey, Union County Mayor
Jeremy Faison, State Representative
Evelyn Gill, Member at Large

Guests

Anna Beth Walker, Claiborne County Development Representative
Jack Qualls, Loudon County Development Representative
Ron Williams, Mayor of Farragut
Riley Lovingood, Senator Hagerty's Office
Ed Mitchell, Blount County Mayor
Jane Jolley, Knox County Development Representative
Cindy Boshears, Congressman Fleischmann's Office
Tammy Merritt, Congressman Fleischmann's Office
Chelsea Ivens, Senator Blackburn's Office
Stacy Chambers, Monroe County Development Representative
Andy Holt, TN Department of Agriculture
Omer Cox, Mayor of Oliver Springs
Mike Arms, ATVG

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Trey Dykes called the meeting to order.

MINUTES

Chairman Trey Dykes presented the minutes of the May 11, 2021, meeting to the Executive Committee for approval. Member at Large Evelyn Gill made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, it was seconded by Campbell County Mayor E.L. Morton, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report for the month ending April 30, 2021, was presented by Scott County Mayor Jeff Tibbals. Mayor Jeff Tibbals made the motion to accept the report as presented and it was seconded by Jefferson County Mayor Mark Potts, and it was approved by all.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

Mr. Yakubic welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mr. Yakubic mentioned that we are still in our transition period. Mr. Bobrowski is continuing to come once a week to assist in the transitioning. Continued training with our new Financial Officer and Financial Assistant. Mr. Yakubic is currently getting the Federal and State contracts changed over into his name. We are, also, currently working on revising the Employee Handbook to have it current with state laws and employee files. We are revising our by-laws and hoping to have it more in line with ETHRA.

Grants Update

EPA Brownfield Coalition Grant

Mr. Yakubic announced we received the EPA Brownfield Coalition Assessment Grant of \$600,000. Campbell County received one for \$600,000 as well which makes it a total of 1.2 million of assessment grants from the EPA. Our staff will be working diligently with assessments as well as assisting Campbell County with their grant.

ARC Grants

Mr. Yakubic announced that ARC approved a grant for Cocke County for Newport Utilities to start extending waterlines to Parrottsville which is a \$500,000 grant. Still waiting to hear on full applications that were submitted for Jellico for the Jellico Hospital and for Grainger County for the Agribusiness program at the High School.

Bullet Proof Vests Grants

Mr. Yakubic reported that our grant staff is currently working on assisting the following communities on the administration of their current bullet proof vest grant program: Anderson County, Grainger County, Norris, Sweetwater, Bean Station and Jacksboro.

CDBG Grants

Our staff continues to answer questions on the CDBG applications that were submitted in April. About fourteen applications were submitted and hope to hear on those by September.

Rural Planning Organization Program

Mr. Yakubic mentioned that we have RPO meetings coming up on June 17th for the South and North RPO Technical Committee and Executive Board.

We are also doing the RUPI studies which is the Rural Planning Initiative. It is about 90% complete. Three corridor studies which are SR 72 in Monroe County, SR 29 in Oneida, and SR 33 in New Tazewell. Also, 2 Bike Pedestrian plans; one in Parrottsville and one in Newport. We are currently doing studies for 3 counties under the Land Use & Transportation Plan; Grainger County is at 80% complete, Scott County at 25% complete, and Campbell County is just starting.

Proposed Salary Increase

Mr. Yakubic mentioned that last month he sent out a proposed salary increase for your consideration to the Executive Committee members. It is well covered in the budget which was approved back in May. It would be a cost-of-living increase of 3% with a few individuals getting a slightly higher percentage as a merit increase. Mr. Chairman was asked for a motion for approval.

Morgan County Executive Brian Langley made a motion to accept the proposed salary schedule as presented, Member at Large Evelyn Gill seconded the motion, and it was approved by all.

TCSA Meeting

Mr. Yakubic mentioned that he attended the TCSA meeting a couple of weeks ago. The main topic was the recovery money that the state would be receiving for county and local governments. There has been some talk that now the Comptroller's office would not be receiving the recovery money due to some backlash from the banks. It will now be going directly to the counties, instead. David Conner with TCSA reached out at the last TDDA meeting held last month for our help in assimilating any information needed on projects that the counties have for the recovery money.

Calendar

Our next Executive Committee meeting will be held on July 13th.

Our Annual Awards Banquet will be held on September 9th at the The Venue in Lenoir City.

Other Business

Claiborne County Mayor Joe Brooks presented a salary increase for the Executive Director, Mr. Rick Yakubic, considering his 11-year tenure and experience he brings into this position. A motion was made by Mr. Brooks, and it was seconded by Cocke County Mayor Crystal Ottinger. After discussion, Anderson County Mayor Terry Frank asked to have it formulated in writing and defer the motion to the next meeting. Motion was withdrawn until the July meeting.

Mike Arms with ATVG mentioned the summer meeting will be held at the Huntsville Marriott in Huntsville, AL July 7-9. On July 1st, there will be a luncheon in Sevierville hosted by Sevier County Mayor Larry Waters.

Adjournment

With no other business, the Chairman entertained a motion to adjourn. Hamblen County Mayor Bill Brittain made the motion, it was seconded by Member at Large Evelyn Gill, and approved by all.