

**Executive Committee Meeting
West Tennessee River Basin Authority
December 17, 2024**

The Executive Committee Meeting of the West Tennessee River Basin Authority was held at 9:30a.m. on Tuesday, December 17, 2024, via in-person at the WTRBA office. Executive Committee members in attendance were, Mayor AJ Massey, Mayor Joseph Butler, Mayor Nelson Cunningham, Dr. Jim Byford, and Mr. Joe McKinnon. Others attending in person were Executive Director David Blackwood, Paige Keith, Alison Franklin, and Patrick Parker. Chairman Massey verified a quorum and called the meeting to order.

There was no formal agenda for this month's meeting

The nominating committee, consisting of Mayor Massey, Mayor Butler, and Mayor Davis, recommended retaining the current officers: Mayor Massey as Chair, Dr. Byford as Vice-Chair, and Mr. Joe McKinnon as Secretary. Mayor Butler made the recommendation, which was seconded by Dr. Byford. The motion was unanimously approved to be presented at the January board meeting.

A review of the year's accomplishments highlighted the construction of 34,000 feet of stream channels and ongoing roadworks. Discussion also covered the Dutch Garden Center property, where appraisals are pending but expected to meet the \$1.8 million cost (including associated expenses). Acquiring this property could save the program \$600,000 annually through stream mitigation projects. The site is also being considered for partnerships with forestry, wildlife management, and universities.

Updates on the South Fork Forked Deer Greenway initiative included collaboration with organizations like the Walton Foundation and the Wildlife Federation. The project involves acquiring 1,000 acres to expand the greenway, improve flood management for Bemis and South Jackson, and address the South Bypass.

The WET Center's design is progressing, with plans for swiftwater rescue training facilities and large-scale concrete construction. The design is expected to be finalized by February, with construction documents and bidding to follow. The Middle Fork Bottoms State Park visitor center design is also nearing completion, and the project remains on schedule.

A proposal to establish a National Water Center, aligned with the WET Center's mission, is being explored. The center would focus on sustainable water research and training, with an anticipated annual operating budget of \$20 million. The feasibility of hosting this center is being assessed with multiple partners, and the timeline aligns with the WET Center's development over the next two to four years.

With no further business, Vice Chairman Byford asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Joe McKinnon made the motion with Mayor Cunningham seconding.

Mayor AJ Massey, Chairman

Joe McKinnon, Secretary

Upcoming meeting:
Board of Directors – January 17, 2025