

**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**West Tennessee River Basin Authority**  
**January 9, 2026**

The Board of Directors meeting of the West Tennessee River Basin Authority was held at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, January 9, 2026, in the West Tennessee River Basin Authority conference room. Board members in attendance included: Mayor AJ Massey, Mayor Joseph Butler, Mayor Gary Reasons, Mayor David Quick, Mayor Nelson Cunningham, Dr. James Byford, Mr. Joe McKinnon, Rep. Chris Todd, Mayor Randy Geiger (via Webex), and Mayor Todd Pulse (via Webex). Advisory Board members and other guests in attendance were Ranson Goodman, Brad Hurley, Jimmy Moody, Tyler Lock, Malcolm Burchfiel, Jake Rogers, Patrick Parker (OGC), Jai Templeton (via Webex), Alex Forsbach (via Webex), and Lyn (via Webex). A quorum was verified, Mayor Joseph Butler gave the invocation, and Chairman AJ Massey called the meeting to order.

The following agenda items were discussed:

Public Comment:

Chairman AJ Massey asked if there were any public comments today. There was no response. No action was taken during the public comment period.

October 2025 BOD Meeting Minutes:

Chairman AJ Massey asked if there were any additions or edits to the October 2025 Board of Directors meeting minutes. Hearing no comment, Chairman AJ Massey asked for a motion to approve the October 2025 Board of Directors meeting minutes. A motion was made by Mayor Joseph Butler and seconded by Mayor Nelson Cunningham. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Memorial Slide:

Director David Blackwood asked Chairman AJ Massey for a moment to present a slide and recognize a former West Tennessee River Basin Authority (WTRBA) employee. Jim Jerman was a 20-year employee with the WTRBA, previous to that, he was a county mayor holding a position on the WTRBA Board of Directors. Jim passed away in December 2025.

WTRBA Financials:

Director Blackwood reviewed the financial reports and charts with the board. Operating Funds (327.26) are on track and where we are estimated to be. Maintenance Funds (327.24) shows movement in this chart. The jump in the FY 2026 bar in the chart shows the emergency flood money allocation for this account, so it is not reflected in the base budget line in the chart. Director Blackwood stated that the emergency funds have been exhausted and the work has gone well. County Funding was also reviewed for Fiscal Year 2025. Director Blackwood stated that we are in good shape with all our accounts and our funds. Copies of the financial reports and charts were included in the packets. Chairman AJ Massey asked for a motion to approve the financial reports. A motion was made by Mayor Nelson Cunningham and seconded by Mayor Joseph Butler. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

- Risk Assessment: Director Blackwood discussed our annual Risk Assessment through our Internal Audit. We have an approved Risk Assessment for the West Tennessee River Basin Authority through TDEC Internal Audit. It was a continuation of the previous document.
- Interagency Agreement with Tennessee Board of Regents: Director Blackwood presented the agreement between the West Tennessee River Basin Authority and the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) for our Water Education and Training Center (WET Center). Courses at the WET Center will need to be accredited and TBR is available to serve those functions. TBR has

systems in place to accept student enrolment, fees and mechanisms to provide instructors. A motion to move forward with the agreement and start developing those courses was made by Mayor Gary Reasons and seconded by Mr. Joe McKinnon. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

#### Nominating Committee:

Director Blackwood asked the Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Mayor Nelson Cunningham, for the recommendation from the subcommittee regarding this year's officers. Mayor Nelson Cunningham stated that the recommendation from the Nominating Committee was to retain the same executive committee officers. The recommendation comes from the Executive sub-committee which chooses its own officers, so no motion is needed. The Executive Committee will retain the same officers.

#### FY25 Annual Report Review:

Director Blackwood reviewed the FY25 Annual Report. Director Blackwood presented a few highlights from the report to include:

- Letter from the Executive Director
- Impact Highlights: There were about 110 miles of call-ins to work on the streams. For land-based maintenance, problems were reported that affected about 57 miles of channel. Technical assistance was provided on 25 different issues. These are in addition to what we had for the February and April floods and our required maintenance.
- Special Projects: April Storm Response
- Beaver Damage Management: We have 32 flood control structures and 165 county road sites we checked and annually make sure that beaver damage does not happen on those roads, and we keep flooding to a minimum.

Director Blackwood mentioned there were extra printed copies of the Annual Report to take to county commissioners or other stakeholders as needed. A copy of the 2025 Annual Report was included in the packets.

- Engineer Updates: Director Blackwood reviewed the engineer updates stating that last year there was a lot of design and a lot of planning. This year we (WTRBA) have a lot of deadlines and development and construction. The projects noted include infrastructure support projects with the total value of about \$8 million, ARP projects that must be completed this year, for another \$6 million, the Running Reelfoot Bayou project which has gone through a bid process but may have to go through another bid process, and the Tennessee Riverbank Stabilization. Director Blackwood voiced a special thanks to Jake Rogers, attending from Congressman Kustoff's office, for talking with NRCS and being a voice for farmers of West Tennessee and the Tennessee Riverbank Stabilization project. WTRBA will administer approximately \$2.5 million towards riverbank stabilization, which will go with the \$1.5M already available in agency matching funds. WTRBA also has the potential to add about 113 lakes in West Tennessee that potentially nobody knows who is responsible for because the governing bodies for several watershed districts are no longer active and some are significant or high hazard dams. One proposal in the next funding cycle will be to create a mechanism to make sure the orphan lakes are looked after to make sure they do not fail and cause a public safety issue.
- Maintenance Updates: Director Blackwood discussed that a major project for the maintenance crew this year is the conversion of our Amphibious Trackhoes. The industry is going away from the hydraulic drive motors, which cost about \$15,000 each to fix. The cost to convert will be about \$60,000 each, but that is upfront cost, and future maintenance is just changing the chain. Work was completed on the main rivers from the flood, but there are still a lot of tributary streams that come to those rivers that have a lot of damage still lingering from last year. If the orphan lakes program goes through, the maintenance crew will add those to their project lists.
- Special Projects/Programs: WET Center Executive Director Allison Franklin provided an update on the WET Center. Director Franklin thanked the Board for the approval of the Interagency

Agreement with Tennessee Board of Regents. The WET Center has hired Misti Pequignot as the Administrative Services Assistant. The WET Center building has gone out for bid with site visits next week on property for those qualified bidders. Director Franklin was excited to share that the WET Center website will be launched next week, thewetcenter.com.

2026 WTRBA Workplan:

Director Blackwood called attention to the Scheduled Projects, Pending Projects, Assistance Projects Requested/Approved and Regional Planning & Outreach on page 21 of the Annual Report. He expressed to the mayors to let him know if they felt something should be added.

2026 Proposed Meeting Schedule:

Chairman AJ Massey reviewed the 2026 Proposed Meeting Schedule making note that the Board of Directors meeting on April 10, 2026, will be held at Lone Oaks Farm and the Executive Committee meetings have been moved to 10:30 am moving forward. A motion to approve the schedule, the location of the April 10, 2026, meeting and the Executive Committee time change was made by Representative Chris Todd and seconded by Mayor Gary Reasons. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Regional Outreach:

- MVFCA New Orleans: Director Blackwood and Kris Gordon attended the Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association (MVFCA) Annual meeting in New Orleans in December 2025. They were able to visit with USACE staff over the Mississippi Valley Division and the new commander from Memphis district. There was good discussion on the Obion and the need for watershed scale planning and implementation.
- 9th Annual West Tennessee Water Resources Symposium: Director Blackwood shared that the WTRBA requests a budget of \$10,000 to cover the cost of the Annual Symposium. The WTRBA seeks seeking sponsors that usually cover most of the expenses. A motion to approve a \$10,000 budget allocation for the Symposium was made by Representative Chris Todd and seconded by Mayor Gary Reasons. All voted in favor and the motion passed.
- Governor Lee and the 1st Lady visited in December. WTRBA staff took Governor Lee and the 1st Lady on an airboat ride down the Hatchie River. The Governor spent some time meeting and talking with the WTRBA staff and other visitors on site.

Other Business/Adjourn:

With no further business to discuss, Chairman AJ Massey called for a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made by Mayor David Quick and seconded by Mayor Gary Reasons.

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Mayor AJ Massey, Chairman

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Mr. Joe McKinnon, Secretary

Upcoming meetings:

Executive Committee on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, 10:30am

Executive Committee on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 10:30am

Board of Directors on Friday, April 10, 2026, 11:30 am, Lone Oaks Farm