

**Executive Committee Meeting
West Tennessee River Basin Authority
February 17, 2026**

The Executive Committee meeting of the West Tennessee River Basin Authority was held at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, in the West Tennessee River Basin Authority conference room. Executive Committee members in attendance were Mayor AJ Massey, Mayor Joseph Butler, Mayor Gary Reasons, Mayor Nelson Cunningham, Dr. James Byford, and Mr. Joe McKinnon. Other attending were Executive Director David Blackwood, Kristina Earley, Kris Gordon, Alison Franklin, Patrick Parker (via Webex) and Mike McDaniel (via Webex). Chairman AJ Massey called the meeting to order.

The following agenda items were discussed:

Executive Committee Business:

Chairman Massey asked if there were any additions or edits to the November 18, 2025, Executive Committee meeting minutes. Hearing no comment, Chairman AJ Massey asked for a motion to approve the November 18, 2025, Executive Committee meeting minutes. The motion was made by Mayor Gary Reasons and seconded by Joe McKinnon. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Executive Committee member Mayor Kevin Davis asked to rotate off the committee. Chairman Massey asked for a motion to accept the resignation of Mayor Davis from the committee. The motion was made by Mayor Gary Reasons and seconded by Joe McKinnon. All voted in favor and the motion passed. The Executive Committee will bring a recommendation for a replacement to the next Executive Committee meeting.

Mayor Joseph Butler asked about the vacancies on the Board of Directors for the TN Association of Conservation Districts and the TN State Representative. Chairman Massey and Patrick Parker stated they will reach out to the Governor's office and Speaker of the House to check on pending appointments.

Fiscal Items:

Director Blackwood informed the members that the Governor's budget was released. WTRBA received the continuation of two WET Center positions for one-year, non-recurring. WTRBA did not receive additional funding for maintenance dollars, an additional operator, and two technical staff, but are hoping for a possible supplemental budget discussion.

Technical Services:

Director Blackwood discussed a scoping meeting with the US Army Corps of Engineers regarding the Obion River study. WTRBA expects USACE version of the scope in early March and plan to have a draft of the agreement at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Maintenance Services:

Director Blackwood shared that we received the bid and cost for the Amphibious conversion, which will cost \$62,000. The maintenance team is working on the measurements and fabrication and should have that completed by the time work season starts. The team has also been working on repairing the inside of the pontoons and other equipment maintenance.

Special Projects:

Director Blackwood discussed the upcoming bids to include Running Reelfoot Bayou, the Central Creek ARP, Trace Creek ARP and the Tennessee Riverbanks funding with NRCS. This will total about \$11 million of work going out for bid in a month.

Regional Leadership/Outreach:

Director Blackwood shared that we hosted the new USACE Commander for the Memphis district, Colonel John Morrow. The visit was a productive discussion and helps continue the good working relationship with the USACE.

Director Blackwood and Kris Gordon also met with and toured a few locations in West Tennessee with a delegation from Arkansas that has several drainage districts. The districts are interested in more efficient and effective water and sediment management. Congressman Crawford's office is holding a drainage meeting and has requested several Arkansas agencies attend as well as a request for Director Blackwood to join and share information about the WTRBA.

Director Blackwood has been invited to speak at the Tennessee Wildlife Federation's Board meeting this week. He will discuss West Tennessee river history and our partnerships.

Director Blackwood reminded the Executive Committee of our 9th Annual West Tennessee Water Resources Symposium coming up March 4-6, 2026. We have a slate of great speakers and a large group attending.

WET Center Executive Director Alison Franklin informed the Committee that the bid day was moved to March 5th. She reminded the Committee that the invites for the WET Center Groundbreaking Ceremony have been sent. Alison will add TDOT to the list of invites. The WET Center website has officially launched. Director Franklin also shared that the agreement with the Tennessee Board of Regents to develop curriculum has been signed and they are working on their first course, Rivers & Roads.

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 Joe McKinnon and seconded by Mayor Gary Reasons.

Mayor AJ Massey, Chairman

Mr. Joe McKinnon, Secretary

Upcoming meetings:

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

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

Executive Committee on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, 10:30 am