

**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**West Tennessee River Basin Authority**  
**January 13, 2023**

The Board of Directors Meeting of the West Tennessee River Basin Authority was held at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, January 13, 2023 in the West Tennessee River Basin Authority conference room. Board members in attendance included Mayor Gary Reasons, Mayor Kevin Davis, Mayor Mark Ward, Mayor Joseph Butler, Mayor Barry Hutcherson, Mayor Mike Creasy, Mayor Nelson Cunningham, Mayor Todd Pulse, Mayor John Ridgeway, Mayor AJ Massey, Mayor Larry Smith, Dr. James Byford, Kyle Etheridge, Sen. Ed Jackson, Rep. Chris Todd, and Commissioner Salyers (via call-in). Advisory Board members and other guests in attendance were Mayor Sherry Ingram, Jake Rogers, Buck Carter, Jimmy Moody, Rudy Collins, Ranson Goodson, Malcolm Burchfiel, Ron Robertson, Patrick Lemons, and Jake Mallard. A quorum was verified, Mayor Joseph Butler gave the invocation, and Chairman Gary Reasons called the meeting to order.

The following agenda items were discussed:

October 2022 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Director Blackwood presented the October 2022 WTRBA Board of Director meeting minutes. With no questions, Chairman Reasons asked for a motion to approve the October 2022 Board of Directors meeting minutes. A motion was made by Mayor Joseph Butler and seconded by Mayor Barry Hutcherson. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

WTRBA Financials

Director David Blackwood reviewed the financial reports and graphs with the board, stating that as of November 2022, expenses were \$1,250,718 of the \$6,344,800 annual budget for Operating Funds (327.26). The Maintenance Account (327.24) began the year with \$26,615,500 and actual expenses through November 2022 were \$666,561. Year-to-date county funds for FY22/23 are \$464,114. Copies of the financial reports were attached to the minutes. A motion to accept the financial reports was made by Mayor Kevin Davis and seconded by Representative Chris Todd. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Budget Report & Planning

- Annual Report  
Director Blackwood provided of quick overview of the 2021-22 WTRBA Annual Report. Blackwood pointed out key highlights throughout the report, calling special attention to the technical support and special projects that WTRBA aided with during the fiscal year.
- Spending Plan  
Director Blackwood stated WTRBA has compiled a spending plan to aid with allocated monies supporting federal projects which are being leveraged. Blackwood provided a breakdown of the \$25 Million leveraged for USACE projects, he proceeded by stating the Piney Creek project will have a cost of \$6 Million and a federal match of \$10 Million totaling \$16 Million. Blackwood continued by stating that Cypress Creek will cost \$5 Million with a federal match of \$10 Million totaling \$15 Million and Reelfoot have a cost of \$11.5 Million with a federal match of \$26.5 Million totaling \$38 Million. Blackwood concluded by stating that the Tennessee River Stability Project will total \$2.5 Million with a federal match of \$22.5 Million totaling \$25Million. After providing this information to the board, Blackwood asked for their approval on the breakdown

allocation. A motion to accept the proposed spending plan was made by Mayor Kevin Davis and seconded by Mayor John Ridgeway. With no further discuss all voted in favor and the motion passed.

- Budget Request Status

Director Blackwood informed the board that there are no official updates at this time due to it being the “blackhole period” for budget season. Blackwood reminded everyone that an ask for the W.E.T Center as been added once again and an ask for Phase III for Middle Fork Bottoms, which would include a welcome center and a boardwalk.

### Technical Assistance

- Waverly Flood Recovery Update

Director Blackwood updated the board on the Waverly Recovery Task Force stating the task force has helped the City of Waverly draft a letter of intent for grant funds totaling \$38 Million, for the removal of a low hanging dam. Blackwood added WTRBA will aid in evaluating the project and possibly provide equipment needed for the removal of the low hanging dam. Blackwood added he proposed to the task force a meeting take place to discuss the model or base-plan for rebuilding before funds are distributed for the safety of the community and prevention of future flood damage, of such magnitude as the previous.

### Project Updates

- Cub Creek Restoration

Director Blackwood informed the board the Cub Creek stream restoration project at Lone Oaks Farm has been put on hold due to weather and the cold winter months. Blackwood added that a large portion of the project has been constructed and bridge materials have been delivered.

- Middle Fork Bottoms

Director Blackwood presented the new Friends of Middle Fork Bottoms logo to the board, stating that this will be an added value to the brand of the recreational area and with this the friends group will now be able to move forward and begin with their mission of supporting efforts at the recreational area. Blackwood also informed the board that the Toyota Overlook and the ADA accessible pathway leading to the structure have both been completed and are now open to the public. Blackwood concluded the discussion on Middle Fork Bottoms by presenting Chairman Reasons with an ACEC Award for Engineering Excellence that was awarded to WTRBA for the project.

### Regional Leadership

- MVFCA 87<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

Blackwood updated the board on his attendance at the 87<sup>th</sup> Annual MVFCA Meeting in New Orleans. Blackwood informed all in attendance that it was voted on that he will hold his position as Chairman for two more years.

- H2O and Floodplain Working Group

Director Blackwood informed the board of his meeting with the H2O and Floodplains Work Group at the JEA Training Center. Blackwood stated that at this meeting the group discussed future development, water supply and demand, and wastewater issues JEA is experiencing with different communities.

- 2023 Symposium  
Director Blackwood stated that the 2023 WTWR Symposium will be taking place at February 22-24, 2023, at the Doubletree in Jackson, TN. Blackwood added that event contains a plentiful amount of informative and engaging topics, and he is happy with the response that has been received thus far. Blackwood concluded by informing that board that WTRBA has received roughly \$3,000 in sponsorships thus far.

## Outreach

### Farm Bureau Statewide Conference

Director Blackwood stated that on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022, he and Paige Keith attended the Tennessee Farm Bureau Tradeshow and Conference in Franklin, TN. Blackwood stated that because this is a statewide conference, he feels it is good exposure for WTRBA and a good way to inform Farm Bureau agents across the state on the organizations purpose and importance, as well as network and reconnect with partners in West Tennessee.

- West TN Floodplain Conservation Partnership Workshop  
Director Blackwood spoke of the two-day workshop on November 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, hosted by TWRA and TNC at Lone Oaks Far which pertained to floodplain conservation.
- UT Ag Agent Training Day  
Director Blackwood informed the board that on November 18<sup>th</sup> he and Ms. Keith met with a small group of UT Ag agents at Middle Fork Bottoms and provided them with an hour-long tour of the recreational area.
- Waverly Cleanup Day  
Director Blackwood updated the board on WTRBA's assistance with Waverly Cleanup Day on, stating that the scheduled two-day event only took one day, because of WTRBA's crew and their strong dedication to the project and making sure the job was completed in a timely manner.

## Other Business

- Executive Committee New Member Approval  
Director Blackwood stated that there is a two-member vacancy on the Executive Committee that need to be filled to due Mayor Harris and Mayor McGuire rolling off after the last term. He followed by stating current member of the Executive Committee met and discussed the positions and would like to see Mayor AJ Massey and Mayor Nelson Cunningham fill those two roles. Blackwood asked for a vote of approval to move forward with these recommendations. A motion to accept was made by Mayor Ridgeway and seconded by Senator Jackson. With no further discuss all voted in favor and the motion passed. Blackwood added that the position of Secretary is still needing to be voted on as asked for a motion to the approval of Dr. James Byford to hold the role. With no further discussion a motion was made by Mayor Butler and seconded by Rep. Todd.
- Board of Directors Meeting Date Approval  
Director Blackwood informed the board that in meeting packet are proposed 2023 meeting dates and asked all in attendance to review the dates for conflicting dates that a majority of the board may have, and if there are none a vote needs to be passed for approval. With no further discussion a motion was made by Mayor Butler and seconded by Mayor Davis.

- New Mayor Forms  
Director Blackwood asked the new mayors in attendance to please return their Advisory Committee and Conflict of Interest forms to Ms. Keith if they haven't already done so.
- MVFCA Washington D.C.  
Director Blackwood asked the board for their approval to attend the MVFCA 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Legislative Meeting in Washington, D.C on March 5-8, 2023. Blackwood added that a travel authorization for \$2500 would also need to be allocated for this conference. With no discussion. Rep. Christ Todd made a motion to approve the travel authorization and attendance, with Senator Ed. Jackson se

### Adjourn

With no further business, Chairman Reasons called for a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made by Mayor Mike Creasy.

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Mayor Gary Reason, Chairman

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Doctor James Byford, Secretary

### Upcoming meetings:

Executive Committee on Tuesday, February 14, 2023 @ 9:30am

Executive Committee on Tuesday, March 14, 2023 @ 9:30am

Board of Directors on Friday, April 14, 2023 @ 11:30 a.m.