

Executive Committee Meeting

West Tennessee River Basin Authority

June 16, 2026

The Executive Committee meeting of the West Tennessee River Basin Authority was held at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, in the West Tennessee River Basin Authority conference room. Executive Committee members in attendance were Mayor AJ Massey, Dr. James Byford, Mr. Joe McKinnon, Mayor Steve Carr, and Mayor Gary Reasons. Others attending were Executive Director David Blackwood, Kristina Earley, Kris Gordon, Alison Franklin, Patrick Parker, Student Assistant Faith Martin, Mike McDaniel (via Webex), and Ann (via Webex). Chairman AJ Massey called the meeting to order.

The following agenda items were discussed:

Executive Committee Business:

Executive Director David Blackwood informed the Executive Committee that the bill to add four new counties passed and was effective May 15, 2026. The new counties include Stewart County, Houston County, Humphreys County, and Perry County. These county mayors are eligible to be members of our Board of Directors. Executive Director David Blackwood explained that the addition of the new counties will bring in an additional \$90,000. The breakdown of the county member fees are: \$45,000 from Humphreys County, \$25,000 from Stewart County, \$10,000 from Houston County, and \$10,000 from Perry County. Chairman Massey asked for a motion to bring the requested amounts to the Board for full approval. The motion was made by Joe McKinnon and seconded by Mayor Gary Reasons. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Executive Director David Blackwood discussed Board Attendance with the Executive Committee. He reiterated that the statute states that board members must attend fifty percent of the Board of Directors meetings during the year. If they do not attend at least fifty percent in an annual cycle, they are removed from voting member status and the county commission will have to reappoint a representative.

Chairman AJ Massey asked if there were any additions or edits to the Executive Committee meeting minutes of March 17, 2026. Hearing no comment, Chairman

Massey asked for a motion to approve the March 17, 2026, Executive Committee meeting minutes. The motion was made by Dr. James Byford and seconded by Joe McKinnon. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

WTRBA Staff:

Executive Director Blackwood shared that with the addition of the new counties we will be hiring two new full-time positions. We also received recurring funds for those positions plus a one-time allocation to get a vehicle and equipment for the new employees.

Executive Director Blackwood also shared that we have four student assistants this summer. Three of those student assistants are working with the stream mitigation teams and one is assisting in this office with historical document scanning, archiving, and supporting engineering staff.

Special Projects:

Executive Director Blackwood provided an update on the WET Center. The bids for the WET Center construction came in over budget by \$18-20 million. After discussing with the bidding contractors, there were several items that were delegated to the contractors to design or resolve that created uncertainty. The delegated items are what increased the bids substantially due to the unknown soil/water conditions, trouble finding suppliers, and timeframe. With the many delays, budget increases, and design questions, Director Blackwood and General Services project staff felt the need to separate from the design firm and find a different path forward. A letter was sent to the design firm, from General Services, informing them of the separation. The design firm did receive the letter of separation. General Services has since re-engaged the design firm to recommend revisions to bring the project back into budget. Director Blackwood stated that he does not understand the reason for this and feels we need to move forward with the separation, hire a new design firm, and open the bidding to the normal bid process. Chairman Massey asked for a motion to take this situation to the Board to say officially where the WTRBA stands in support of a new designer. The motion was made by Joe McKinnon and seconded by Mayor Steve Carr. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Executive Director Blackwood provided an update on Grants/Contracts, to include Spring Construction updates. Central Creek and Trace Creek are ARP grant contracts and have officially broken ground. Big Muddy stream restoration is

under construction. Central Procurement should receive bid results today or tomorrow on the Running Reelfoot project.

Regional Leadership/Outreach:

Executive Director Blackwood provided a brief update on the following meetings:

- TOP Meeting: Tennessee Outdoor Partnership Meeting. The meeting was held in Jackson and discussed Blueways and outdoor recreation. WTRBA presented on our rivers, river history, and what we are working on in the area.
- TENSOS: Tennessee Environmental Network Show of the South. WTRBA was invited to attend the meeting in Chattanooga to present wetlands Tennessee river history.
- West TN H2O Meeting: The WTRBA hosted the West TN H2O second quarter meeting in our conference room and discussed regional water supply and availability issues related to groundwater and surface water.
- USDA-NRCS Soil Health Meeting: WTRBA was invited to present on runoff, erosion, and all we do around West Tennessee.

Executive Director Blackwood mentioned that we will be starting our new county community outreach very soon. We are still working on the details of how the agency will best serve the needs of the additional counties.

Other Business/Adjourn:

Executive Director Blackwood shared other business that has come up due to the big rains over the weekend.

- In Tipton County, there is a road with a box culvert that has a big scour hole below it. The county asked WTRBA to assist. After looking at the issue, we feel we can place rock and fix a bank that is just out of the Tipton County right of way. Chairman Massey asked for a motion for the WTRBA to assist Tipton County in fixing this issue. The motion was made by Mayor Gary Reasons and seconded by Joe McKinnon.
- In Lauderdale County, Cole Creek Chute, next to Fort Pillow State Park, is an old slough location on the Mississippi River. There is a place where the water has bypassed and cut through, draining an 800-acre lake. WTRBA will work to review and fix this issue. This is a recurrent issue that is part of the old river location and will likely happen on a decade scale but is an important resource for the local economy and relatively easy to fix

Executive Director Blackwood informed the members that residents in the Bay Meadows area in Madison County have signed a petition to get help on Dyer Creek erosion and with their backyard fences. While we do not assist with fences, there is a project plan to move Dyer Creek away from all 28 of those houses. This project plan is tied in with the Great Wolf Lodge project because it is an environmental offset through stream mitigation. WTRBA will work to remove the debris in the creek, but moving the creek will have to wait for the Great Wolf Lodge project to get underway.

Chairman Massey asked about the status of the WTRBA building on Highway 45. Executive Director Blackwood shared that we received the existing conditions report from General Services last week. WTRBA has thirty days to review, and we hope to have their proposed concept available for the July 2026 Board of Directors meeting.

With no further business to discuss, Chairman 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:

Board of Directors on Friday, July 10, 2026, 11:30 am

Executive Committee on Tuesday, August 18, 2026, 10:30 am

Executive Committee on Tuesday, September 15, 2026, 10:30 am