

Executive Committee Meeting

West Tennessee River Basin Authority

August 18, 2026

The Executive Committee meeting of the West Tennessee River Basin Authority was held at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, August 18, 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, Mayor Joseph Butler, and Mayor Nelson Cunningham. Others attending were Executive Director David Blackwood, Kristina Earley, Kris Gordon, Alison Franklin, Patrick Parker, and Mike McDaniel (via Webex). Chairman AJ Massey called the meeting to order.

The following agenda items were discussed:

Executive Committee Business:

Chairman AJ Massey asked if there were any additions or edits to the Executive Committee meeting minutes of June 16, 2026. Hearing no comment, Chairman Massey asked for a motion to approve the June 16, 2026, Executive Committee meeting minutes. The motion was made by Joe McKinnon and seconded by Dr. Jim Byford. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

After the recent elections, WTRBA will now have 12 new mayors on our Board, which includes the mayors from additional four new counties. Executive Director Blackwood suggested that we bring the new mayors in an hour before our October 2026 Board of Directors meeting for a short orientation to discuss the history of our Agency, what we do and their role as board members.

Fiscal Items:

Executive Director Blackwood shared that WTRBA has a deadline of September 4th to submit preliminary budget requests. Last year WTRBA put forward a proposal for the maintenance of 114 orphan lakes of which TDEC supported but it did not make it in the Governor's budget. Within that proposal was also a request for an Operator 3 position, which is the highest tier, to be a flexible position able to assist the current crews of two when employees are on leave and a team is halted from work. Executive Director Blackwood stated that we plan to package this proposal request together again with our budget request. Chairman Massey recommended

requesting a signed letter from each county mayor to take along with the budget request showing their support of the request in lieu of a financial impact on the county's budget.

Technical Services:

Executive Director Blackwood shared that he spoke with Representative Todd requesting a review of drainage downstream of Columns III in Jackson. During a substantial rain event, one of the businesses in that area had flooding that put sand into the parking lot. Also, the Academy Sports area shopping center had a sink hole that presented during the rain event that caused about twelve inches of water to flood that area.

Executive Director Blackwood also shared that there is a project on Highway 412 that we will be assisting TDOT with, due to flooding in that area.

Civil Engineering Manager Kris Gordon mentioned the Cold Creek Chute project that we will be working on around September to fix an erosion issue.

Maintenance Services:

Executive Director Blackwood stated that there is no new business to share on maintenance services. We continue to work on and maintain the equipment.

Special Projects:

Executive Director Blackwood discussed that he has a meeting on site at Lone Oaks Farm with the Deputy Commissioner of General Services on Thursday afternoon to look at an alternate site for the WET Center and discuss costs.

Executive Director of the WET Center, Alison Franklin, presented the Interagency Agreement between the WTRBA and The University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service. She explained that the agreement will allow us to quickly develop work orders for courses and curriculum. Chairman Massey asked for a motion to approve the detail in the Interagency Agreement and take to the Board of Directors for review. The motion was made by Dr. Jim Byford and seconded by Mayor Joseph Butler. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Executive Director Blackwood shared that phase one of the Big Muddy project at Blue Oval is complete. We will be planting over the fall and move into phase two next year.

Executive Director Blackwood explained that we own eleven acres of property on Dyer Creek in Jackson. There are about twenty-eight homes on the creek, and we continue to get calls about erosion and fences falling in. We had plans to move the creek away from the homes as part of stream mitigation associated with the Great Wolf Lodge and a road being constructed by the City of Jackson. The Great Wolf Lodge project is paused, but we are still interested in improvements to Dyer Creek. The recommendation from Director Blackwood is to pursue the project as a stream mitigation bank. Chairman Massey asked for a motion to move forward with the Dyer Creek bank. The motion was made by Mayor Joseph Butler and seconded by Mayor Nelson Cunningham. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Executive Director Blackwood shared that construction is finishing up on the ARP grant for the Central Creek project in Jackson. There have been a couple of big summer rains, and it has held up well. A pedestrian bridge will go up later as part of our match, but the ARP project should be complete by the first week of September.

Executive Director Blackwood noted that someone asked about Jack's Creek and a new electrical transmission line. Executive Director Blackwood mentioned that TVA is building a transmission line to support Southwest Tennessee Electric Membership Cooperative (STEMC), which is building a new substation in Henderson. The planned feed to the STEMC substation will be across a Bottomland Hardwoods Easement. TVA has asked us to allow the power line to go across. Commissioner Salyers will sign the consent document.

Regional Leadership/Outreach:

Executive Director Blackwood spent Monday, August 17th with the Army Corps. He went to Caruthersville in the morning to give the West Tennessee River Basin Authority public testimony. Then, he joined a lunch in Dyersburg where the Army Corps introduced their new Commanders and Generals. They ended the day traveling to the new Automated Mat Casting Facility Groundbreaking at Richardson Landing in Lauderdale County.

Other Business/Adjourn:

Civil Engineering Manager Gordon shared that, "the Running Reelfoot Bayou contractor should be under contract tomorrow".

Executive Director Blackwood mentioned that Jim Johnson passed away. Jim wrote the *Rivers Under Siege: The Troubled Saga of West Tennessee Wetlands* book and was working on other natural resource information for West Tennessee. Director Blackwood shared that Jim's knowledge and passion for our river resources will be a tremendous loss.

Executive Director Blackwood shared that WTRBA will be participating in the Tennessee Association of Floodplain Management conference tomorrow at Pickwick Landing State Park to display the stream table, discuss the WET Center, and allow attendees to learn about erosion and sediment education.

Executive Director Blackwood pointed out the pending vacancy on the Executive Committee with the retirement of Mayor Reasons of Crockett County. Mayor Cunningham mentioned that new mayors take office on September 1st, so the Executive Committee will discuss the vacancy during the September 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 Dr. Byford.

Mayor AJ Massey, Chairman

Mr. Joe McKinnon, Secretary

Upcoming meetings:

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

Board of Directors on Friday, October 9, 2026, 11:30 am

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