

**Executive Committee Meeting
West Tennessee River Basin Authority
December 19, 2023**

The Executive Committee Meeting of the West Tennessee River Basin Authority was held at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, August 15, 2023, via in-person at the WTRBA office. Executive Committee members in attendance were Chairman Gary Reasons, Dr. Jim Byford, Mayor Joseph Butler, Mayor Nelson Cunningham, Mr. Joe McKinnon, and Commissioner David Salyers (via call-in). Others attending in person were Executive Director David Blackwood, Paige Keith, Kris Gordon, Dustin Bennett, Jake Rogers (Kustoff), and Patrick Parker (Office of General Counsel via call-in). Chairman Reasons verified a quorum and called the meeting to order.

The following agenda items were discussed:

2024 Meeting Dates

Director Blackwood asked for the executive committee to review the proposed 2024 meeting dates found in each members meeting packet. After reviewing, it was decided that the January board of directors meeting would be held on the 12th due to a mayors conference instead of the 19th. It was also decided the February 20th executive committee meeting would be changed to the 13th, also due to a conflicting mayors meeting.

WTRBA Executive Team Building

Director Blackwood spoke of the WTRBA leadership team holding a team building day to aid in optimizing productivity and increase the unity of the team. Blackwood stated the WTRBA team will be working with Strong Communities on this day and that the date for the session has been scheduled for Friday, February 9th, 2024.

WTRBA Symposium

Director Blackwood informed the executive committee that a date has been set for the 7th Annual WTRBA WTWR Symposium. Blackwood stated the dates of the event will be February 21-23, 2024, and will once again be held at the Doubletree in Jackson, TN. Director Blackwood asked for an approval to move forward with the planning of the symposium and asked for a budget approval of \$10,000. With no further discussion Chairman Reasons asked for a motion to be made. Dr. Jim Byford made a motion with Mayor Butler seconding. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Nashville Groundwater Conference

Director Blackwood spoke of planning to attend the Groundwater Conference in Nashville at the end of January. Blackwood stated he has been requested to speak about groundwater issues in West Tennessee. Director Blackwood asked the executive committee for approval to attend and speak at the conference on January 23-25, 2024. With no further discussion Chairman Reasons asked for a motion to be made. Dr. Jim Byford made a motion to approve. Mayor Butler seconded. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Board Attendance – Chairman Letter

Director Blackwood stated that the sunset audit for WTRBA will be taking place soon and one of the items that is under questioning is board attendance and quorum. Blackwood added a plan of action needs to be taken to inform all board members of the by-laws attendance policy and that at the September 2023 executive committee meeting it was suggest Chairman Reasons send each board member a letter reminding members of the importance of their attendance. Blackwood informed the committee that letters has been drafted and once reviewed and signed by the Chairman will be mailed out at the first of the year.

ARP Grant Awards Update

Director Blackwood updated the executive committee on three ARP grant funds awarded to WTRBA. Blackwood stated the three projects are Central Creek in Jackson, TN, Trace Creek low head dam removal in

Waverly, TN, and the Hatchie River reconnect in Hardeman County. Blackwood added that funds awarded total \$6MILLION and contracts are planned to active in January 2024.

FY25 Budget Request Update

Director Blackwood stated that the Regional Watershed Authority has been tabled, but that Service Capacity Increase, Operational Equity Increase, and WET Center Staffing are all still looking favorable. Blackwood mention House Bill 1603, adding it is a bill to add four counties to the WTRBA coverage area. Director Blackwood asked Patrick Parker if anything of to date has officially taken place or become public knowledge. Parker stated to his knowledge nothing has been filed yet, but he will check on the information and will have a firm answer at the January meeting.

Employee Status – New Hires & Promotions

Director Blackwood informed the executive committee of interviews held for the ASA4 position and that the selection has been narrowed down to two candidates with a follow up interview with each candidate taking place on December 18, 2023.

County HWY Officials Meeting

Director Blackwood asked the executive committee to approve his attendance of the February 19, 2024, Tennessee Highway Officials Meeting in Nashville. Blackwood stated he has been asked to attend and speak on the WET Center and the infrastructure program and how it related to county highways. With no further discussion Chairman Reasons for a motion of approval. Dr. Jim Byford made a motion to approve with Mayor Butler seconding. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Running Reelfoot Bayou Project Update

Director Blackwood reminded the executive committee of the dissolution with the USACE partnership regarding Running Reelfoot Bayou, due to cost benefit of federal interest to move forward. Blackwood stated that WTRBA has funds to model a solution and a successful meeting was held with local landowners to discuss what the project plan will look like moving forward.

Other Business/Adjourn

With no further business, Chairman Reasons asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Cunningham made the motion with Mayor Butler seconding.

Mayor Gary Reasons, Chairman

Mr. Hugh Adams, Secretary

Upcoming meeting:

Board of Directors Meeting on January 12, 2024, at 11:30am

Executive Committee Meeting on February 13, 2024, at 9:30am

Executive Committee Meeting on March 19, 2024, 9:30am