

Executive Committee Meeting
West Tennessee River Basin Authority
May 16, 2023

The Executive Committee Meeting of the West Tennessee River Basin Authority was held at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, via in-person at the WTRBA office. Executive Committee members in attendance were Chairman Gary Reasons, Dr. Jim Byford, Mayor Nelson Cunningham, and Mayor A.J. Massey. Others in-person attendance were Executive Director David Blackwood, Paige Keith, Kris Gordan, Kimberly Rios, Kayla Key, and Dustin Bennett. Chairman Reasons verified a quorum and called the meeting to order.

The following agenda items were discussed:

Fiscal Updates

- New Project Schedule
Director Blackwood announced that the 2023-24 fiscal budget has closed and both the Middle Fork Bottoms and W.E.T Center successfully passed and have officially been added to the fiscal budget. Blackwood stated Middle Fork Bottoms will become a TN State Park with \$22Million budgeted to help execute the construction of a Visitors Center, boardwalk, signage, and salaries for three rangers. Blackwood concluded by stating \$28Million has been designated for the W.E.T Center and the development of the facility at Lone Oaks Farm in Hardeman County.

WTRBA Staff Updates

- ASA 2
Blackwood updated the Executive Committee on the recent interviews for the ASA2 position, stating a candidate had been selected but turned down WTRBA's offer due to the yearly salary. Director Blackwood added that due to the unfortunate outcome, a reevaluation of the position will take place, to see if it could potentially be categorized as something different to help with the salary and to attract a greater pool of candidates.
- Equipment Operators
Director Blackwood advised the Executive Committee of two open positions within the WTRBA Maintenance Team, adding the window to apply closed on May 8, 2023 and 36 applicants applied for the position. Blackwood concluded the update stating the team will be interviewing 16 potential candidates on Thursday, May 18, 2023.
- Summer Internship Program
Director Blackwood take a moment to let the six summer interns introduce themselves to the Executive Committee. Following their introductions Blackwood informed the Executive Committee the team of interns will be responsible for helping the tech team with USACE projects, as well as assisting in different areas to aid in shepherding projects along during their summer tenure.

WTRBA Board Membership

- New Board Members
Blackwood stated there are two vacant positions on the WTRBA Board, one from the Tennessee Association of Conservation Districts and a State Representative vacancy. Blackwood informed the Executive Committee that Mr. Hugh Adams will be stepping down from his position on the Board as

the Farm Bureau representative and that Farm Bureau has selected Mr. Joe McKinnon to fill the position. Blackwood added that he and Ms. Keith are working with the States Assistant for Legislative Affairs, Taylor Tavormina, in making sure all vacant positions are filled accordingly.

- Outgoing Board Recognition

Director Blackwood asked the Executive Committee for their blessing to recognize Mr. Hugh Adams with an award, for his extended efforts on the WTRBA Board, at the July Board of Directors meeting. All in attendance agreed this would be well deserved and supported the idea.

- Executive Committee Vacancy

Director Blackwood stated that with Mr. Hugh Adams stepping down from his position, there will be a vacancy on not only the Board of Directors but also on the Executive Committee as well as the secretary seat. Blackwood asked the Executive Committee on recommendations to fill the vacant position and opened the floor for discussion, adding that he felt it would be good to keep the Farm Bureau position on the Executive Committee if all involved had the same opinion. Dr. Byford made a motion to keep the Farm Bureau representative on the committee. Mayor Massey seconded. With no further discussion the motion passed.

- WTRBA October Board Meeting

Blackwood stated that at the April Board of Directors meeting, Mayor Gaines asked about possibly holding an upcoming Board of Directors meeting at Lone Oaks Farm. Director Blackwood informed the board he and Ms. Keith discussed the idea and thought the October 13, 2023 meeting, should be held on site at Lone Oaks Farm. Blackwood entertained the idea of a possible clay shoot and tour of Cub Creek that same morning prior to the meeting.

Project Updates

- North Fork Forked Deer #7

Kris Gordon informed the project has been completed with NRCS signing off on it.

- Middle Fork Bottoms

Director Blackwood stated a recent controlled burn took place on the northwest end of the recreational area, adding this will aid in restoring the field with a more diverse native warm season grass and will provide better nesting opportunities and improved escape cover for wildlife. Blackwood informed the Executive Committee that on Friday, May 19th a one-year warranty inspection visit with STREAM will be held at Middle Fork Bottoms to inspect work performed and determine if any corrective work is required for Phase II of the project.

- NRCS

Blackwood updated the Executive Committee on the NRCS projects stating they must be complete by September 2023 adding the hourly on-call contract will need to through the fiscal committee for amendment purposes to add funds to complete the projects and will be performing Internal work to keep up with the September pace.

- Cub Creek

Kris Gordan provided a brief update on the Cub Creek project, stating production on Phase II is projected to begin at the first of June. Gordan added that prefab work is taking place at WTRBA and work on a longer bridge will be taking place on site at Lone Oaks.

- Sugar Creek
Kris Gordan stated that opening bids take place next week, adding the project will entail re-meandering of the creek at Medina City Park as well as clearing trees along the area. Gordon concluded that options are still being weighed as to whether this will be an internal project or a contractor project.

Other Business/Adjourn

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

Mayor Gary Reasons, Chairman

Mr. Hugh Adams, Secretary

Upcoming meeting:

Executive Committee Meeting on June 20, 2023, at 9:30am

Board of Directors Meeting on July 7, 2023, at 11:30am

Executive Committee Meeting on August 15, 2023, at 9:30am