

**Executive Committee Meeting**  
**West Tennessee River Basin Authority**  
**February 13, 2024**

The Executive Committee Meeting of the West Tennessee River Basin Authority was held at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, 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, and Mr. Joe McKinnon. Others attending in person were Executive Director David Blackwood, Paige Keith, Kris Gordon, Dustin Bennett, and Patrick Parker. Chairman Reasons verified a quorum and called the meeting to order.

The following agenda items were discussed:

Executive Committee Nominations

- Nominating Committee  
Director Blackwood informed the Executive Committee that currently only two of the three positions on the Nominating Committee are filled, adding the two positions are being held by Dr. Jim Byford and Mayor Kevin Davis. Blackwood asked for a recommendation to be made for the one vacant position. After some discussion the Executive Committee recommended a nomination be made for Mayor Nelson Cunningham to join the Nominating Committee. Dr. Jim Byford stated that since he serves at Vice-Chair for the Executive Committee it may be best to no longer serve within the Nominating Committee. From this statement it was decided that a recommendation also be made for Mayor AJ Massey to step into a position within the committee.
- Executive Committee  
Director Blackwood informed the Executive Committee that the Secretary position within the Executive Committee is vacant and asked for recommendations to be made for someone to fill that role. After some discussion it was decided a recommendation would be made to the full board for Mr. Joe McKinnon to take on the role of Secretary.
- Audit Committee  
Director Blackwood stated that due to last year's elections, there are three vacancies on the Audit Committee. Blackwood asked the Executive Committee to make recommendations for the committee. After some discussion the Executive Committee agreed that Mayor Joseph Butler, Mayor Gary Reasons, and Mayor Davis should all serve on the Audit Committee.

Audit Committee Approval

- WTRBA Risk Assessment  
Blackwood stated that Ms. Keith will email a copy of the Risk Assessment to the Audit Committee to approve within the next couple of weeks. Blackwood asked that each member of the committee reply to the email with "approved", if they see no issues with the report.

Legislative Updates

- Wetland Bill  
Director Blackwood spoke of the Wetland Bill (House Bill 1054) stating recently he has testified twice, in regard to technical information, at the Ag Subcommittee for Ag and Natural Resources in Nashville. Blackwood stated questions he was asked pertained to flooding, restoration, and wetlands, adding the

concept of the bill is to omit permits for wetlands and there is a debate on sizes and the impact it would have on water supply and quality throughout the state.

- WTRBA Expansion Bill

Director Blackwood informed the Executive Committee of his attendance to the Subcommittee for Ag and Natural Resources to discuss the WTRBA Expansion Bill (House Bill 1666). Blackwood stated the ask for additional crew did not make it into the Governor's budget but is included and supported with this bill, stating 30% of operator time would be needed for the four counties if added and the remaining time would be spent within existing members territories and would be divided between lakes and land-base maintenance. Blackwood added if the expansion is granted, it would match the TWRA coverage area of west TN.

WTWR Symposium Update

Blackwood spoke of the upcoming 7<sup>th</sup> Annual WTWR Symposium, stating there is expected to be 130 attendees, making this the biggest symposium to date.

Groundwater Management Conference

Director Blackwood spoke of his attendance at the Groundwater Management Conference in Nashville, stating he was able to sit down and speak with individuals from Groundwater Districts from across the United States, about their views on water rights, and how water is managed across the county. Blackwood concluded he felt it was an informative conference and would entertain the idea of attending future events, if able.

Other Business/Adjourn

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

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Mayor Gary Reasons, Chairman

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Mr. Hugh Adams, Secretary

Upcoming meeting:

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

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

Executive Committee Meeting on May 21, 2024, 9:30am