

Executive Committee Meeting
West Tennessee River Basin Authority
March 19, 2024

The Executive Committee Meeting of the West Tennessee River Basin Authority was held at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 19, 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, Mr. Joe McKinnon, Mayor AJ Massey. Others attending in person were Executive Director David Blackwood, Paige Keith, Dustin Bennett, Kristina Earley, Jake Rogers, and Patrick Parker. Chairman Reasons verified a quorum and called the meeting to order.

The following agenda items were discussed:

Executive Committee Nominations

Director Blackwood stated that nominations for Executive Committee 2024-25 are in order and asked the Nominating Committee to present whom they feel would serve best on the committee. After extensive decision it was suggested that Mayor Massey take over the position of Chairman, Mr. Joe McKinnon hold the Secretary position, and Dr. Jim Byford continue to serve as Vice-Chairman. With no further discussion current Chairman Reasons asked for a motion to be made. Mayor Joseph Butler made a motion with Mayor Cunningham seconding. All voted in favor and the motion passed to present to the full board at the April Board of Directors meeting.

Legislative Updates

- Wetland Bill
Director Blackwood spoke on the Wetland Bill stating a summer study has been suggested.
- WTRBA Expansion Bill
Director Blackwood stated it is his understanding that it has been passed through committee and put behind the budget and will be two weeks before it is heard, and the Bill has a fiscal note.

Flood Studies & Grant Projects

- Hoosier Creek
Blackwood informed the committee he has spoken with the USACE regarding the flood study on Hoosier Creek in Obion County, adding the USACE is attempting to include the Obion River, and he is only interested in Hoosier Creek, adding more discussion will be had before moving forward with this project.
- NASA Grant
Director Blackwood stated this grant would assist in the culvert studies that have been taking place in the counties and insuring WTRBA systems are up to standards for such projects. Blackwood added NASA has remote sensing data for groundwater and surface water and are willing to collaborate with applicable projects.
- ARP Grants
Blackwood briefly spoke of the ARP Grants, stating the effective dates on the contracts were March 4, 2024 but it is looking more like March 30,2024, adding he is hopeful to officially start on the three projects within the next month.

- Greenway
Director Blackwood stated the easements needed for this project are finally being pushed through and work will begin in a bridge and trailheads, adding once that is finished the City of Jackson will finish completing the project.
- America the Beautiful
Blackwood informed the committee that WTRBA has applied for the America the Beautiful grant.
- WET Center
Director Blackwood updated the committee on the WET Center stating the program varication was good and is now in schematic design with geotechnical taking place within the next two weeks.

Other Business/Adjourn

Director Blackwood spoke of the MVFCA conference in Washington D.C, stating it was productive in that meeting with the Mississippi River Commission regarding LMRCC and he has been appointed as the Tennessee representative for the study. Blackwood also spoke on his site visit to Burgess Falls to help in identifying a debris issue they are having at the park.

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

Mayor Gary Reasons, Chairman

Mr. Hugh Adams, Secretary

Upcoming meeting:

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

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

Executive Committee Meeting on June 18, 2024, at 9:30am