

Executive Committee Meeting
West Tennessee River Basin Authority
May 21, 2024

The Executive Committee Meeting of the West Tennessee River Basin Authority was held at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, via in-person at the WTRBA office. Executive Committee members in attendance were Mayor Joseph Butler, Mayor Nelson Cunningham, and Mr. Joe McKinnon. Others attending in person were Executive Director David Blackwood, Kris Gordon, Paige Keith, Jake Rogers, and Patrick Parker (via call-in). In Chairman Massey's absence Mr. Joe McKinnon verified a quorum and called the meeting to order.

The following agenda items were discussed:

Legislative Updates

- Session End Discussion
Director Blackwood stated no changes have been made regarding this item, adding the Expansion Bill did not get funded for the upcoming fiscal year.
- FY25 Funding
Director Blackwood stated he is asking for the IN-Lieu Fee funding to be pulled, stating he felt this wasn't the correct year to move forward with this and that all focus needs to be directed towards the Watershed Lakes Program during the upcoming year.

Flood Studies & Grant Projects

- ARP Grants
Blackwood informed the Executive Committee that all contracts from TDEC have been signed and uploaded into the grant management system. Director Blackwood added engineering proposals are also underway regarding the three ARP Grants.

Special Projects

- WET Center Program
Director Blackwood provided an update on the WET Center, stating the schematic design phase is underway and rough layouts have been presented. Blackwood added that he will be traveling to the SWFT Facility in New York to tour the grounds to gain a better understanding of the scope of such a facility. Director Blackwood stated he is hopeful a sight plan and estimate will be finalized for presentation to the Board at the July meeting.
- South Fork Forked Deer River Floodplain
Director Blackwood stated the Walton Foundation has selected this as an area of focus for conservation efforts. Blackwood added WTRBA has been asked to partner with TWRA and other organizations to develop a plan for the area.
- Beech River WMA
Blackwood stated this special project is in Henderson County and Decatur County and is similar to White Oak in regard to water being able to enter the water system but is unable to leave because of the ditch being higher than the floodplain. Blackwood added WTRBA has been asked to evaluate the situation to see if improvements can be made to the 700-acre plot of land. Blackwood concluded by asking for approval to proceed with a feasibility study. With no further discussion Mr. Joe McKinnon

asked for a motion to approve. Mayor Cunningham made a motion with Mayor Butler seconding. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

- TENSOS Panel

Blackwood spoke of attending TENSOS in Chattanooga, stating he had been asked to attend as a panelist to discuss sustainability and climate change. Director Blackwood added he chose to discuss the history of WTRBA and how it has evolved throughout the years while trying to keep those two items at the forefront of forward thinking within the agency.

- Native Tree Nursery Visit

Director Blackwood spoke of visiting the Native Tree Nursery in Chatsworth, GA with Kris Gordon and Chris Story. Blackwood stated the purpose of the visit was to observe methods used there to see in any may be incorporated into the development of the greenhouse WTRBA is establishing at Lone Oaks Farm.

Staff Updates

- Summer Internship Program

Blackwood stated that for the summer internship program has begun at WTRBA, adding two individuals have been hire. Director Blackwood informed the Executive Committee that one of the interns' hails from Baylor majoring in Mechanical Engineer and will be aiding in developing physical models for the WET Center and the other intern was previously with TDOT and will helping the tech team with rural infrastructure and culvert studies.

Other Business/Adjourn

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

Mayor AJ Massey, Chairman

Mr. Joe McKinnon, Secretary

Upcoming meeting:

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

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

Executive Committee Meeting on August 20, 2024, at 9:30am