

**Executive Committee Meeting  
West Tennessee River Basin Authority  
March 17, 2026**

The Executive Committee meeting of the West Tennessee River Basin Authority was held at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, in the West Tennessee River Basin Authority conference room. Executive Committee members in attendance were Mayor Joseph Butler, Mayor Nelson Cunningham, Dr. James Byford, and Mr. Joe McKinnon. Other attending were Executive Director David Blackwood, Kristina Earley, Kris Gordon, Alison Franklin, Patrick Parker, and Jake Rogers. Vice Chair Dr. Byford called the meeting to order.

The following agenda items were discussed:

Executive Committee Business:

The Executive Committee discussed a recommendation to fill the vacancy on the executive committee. After discussion, Vice Chair Dr. Byford asked for a motion to nominate Steve Carr, Obion County Mayor. The motion was made by Mayor Nelson Cunningham and seconded by Mayor Joseph Butler. All voted in favor and the motion passed. Director Blackwood will reach out to Mayor Steve Carr about the recommendation and present Mayor Carr's nomination at the April Board of Directors.

Vice Chair Dr. Byford asked if there were any additions or edits to the Executive Committee meeting minutes of February 17, 2026. Hearing no comment, Dr. Byford asked for a motion to approve the February 17, 2026, Executive Committee meeting minutes. The motion was made by Mayor Joseph Butler and seconded by Joe McKinnon. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Fiscal Items:

Director Blackwood informed the members that there were no new updates regarding Fiscal Items.

Technical Services:

Director Blackwood shared with the Committee that the Decatur County Mayor called regarding upgrades at their fairgrounds. The mayor asked if we could look at a pond on the fairgrounds and make some recommendations and provide technical assistance.

Maintenance Services:

Director Blackwood reminded the Committee of a vote to take the Beaver Damage Management Contract renewal to the April Board of Directors meeting. There will be no cost increase this year, and the funding request will stay the same as the previous year. Dr. Byford asked for a motion to renew the Beaver Damage Management contract. A motion was made by Joe McKinnon and seconded by Mayor Nelson Cunningham. All voted in favor and the motion passed. Joe McKinnon asked for a summary on Beaver Damage Management work as an update from USDA-APHIS at a future meeting. Director Blackwood will ask for an update to be presented at the July Board of Directors meeting.

Special Projects:

Director Blackwood updated the Committee on the Crooked Creek Grant. Tennessee Wildlife Federation, who is the grant lead, has received approval from TDEC to move to full proposal.

Director Blackwood discussed the upcoming construction bid schedules to include Central Creek, Trace Creek, and Running Reelfoot Bayou. They are all at our Central Procurement Office to open the projects for bids on March 23, 2026. All three projects will account for about \$14 million in work. Kris Gordon

informed the Committee of a couple other projects the team is working on, Big Muddy Creek at Blue Oval and Reedy Creek supporting Highway 76 widening project with TDOT.

WET Center Executive Director Alison Franklin reminded the Committee of the WET Center Groundbreaking Ceremony on Friday, April 10, 2026. Alison also discussed a meeting with the Tennessee Board of Regents curriculum team to kick off the first course at the WET Center, Rivers & Roads. Bid day for the WET Center was moved to April 16, 2026.

Regional Leadership/Outreach:

Director Blackwood provided the Executive Committee with an overview of our 9<sup>th</sup> Annual West Tennessee Water Resources Symposium held on March 4-6, 2026. We had a slate of great speakers and a large group attended with an increase in attendees from previous years.

Director Blackwood attended a drainage meeting held by Congressman Crawford's office in Arkansas and shared information about the WTRBA with attendees. Drainage districts in Arkansas are seeing new challenges from development and erosion. They have been appreciative of the sharing of information from West Tennessee.

Director Blackwood has been invited to provide a High-Water Testimony in New Madrid, MO this coming Sunday, March 22, 2026, and Monday, March 23, 2026. Vice Chair Dr. Byford asked for a motion to approve Director Blackwood's travel to New Madrid since it is out of state travel. The motion was made by Joe McKinnon and seconded by Mayor Joseph Butler. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Other Business/Adjourn:

Director Blackwood shared that we have received many calls about trees in rivers and other needs due to the recent ice and wind storms. The heaviest load will be in the southern half of the service area but is expected to be managed with current capacity.

With no further business to discuss, Vice Chair Dr. Byford called for a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made by Mayor Nelson Cunningham and seconded by Mayor Joseph Butler.

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Mayor AJ Massey, Chairman

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Mr. Joe McKinnon, Secretary

Upcoming meetings:

Board of Directors on Friday, April 10, 2026, 11:30 am, Lone Oaks Farm

Executive Committee on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, 10:30 am

Executive Committee on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, 10:30 am