

ETHRA Board Meeting
ETHRA Executive Office
9111 Cross Park Drive, Suite D-100, Knoxville, TN 37923
April 14, 2026

The members of the East Tennessee Human Resource Agency Board of Directors held their regular board meeting on April 14, 2026, at the ETHRA Executive offices, 9111 Cross Park Drive, Suite D-100, Knoxville, Tennessee, 37923.

The following Board members were present:

Joe Brooks	Claiborne County
Mike Byrd	Grainer County
Wade Creswell	Roane County
Terry Frank	Anderson County
Scott Kitts	Lafollette
Rob Mathis	Cocke County
Neal Pucciarelli	Cumberland Gap
Mark Potts	Jefferson County

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Acting Chair, Rob Mathis, opened the meeting and asked if there were any public comments. There were no public comments.

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair, Rob Mathis, called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Acting Chair, Rob Mathis, asked for the roll call to be conducted. After roll call, the meeting proceeded.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR APRIL 14, 2026 WAS MADE BY JOE BROOKS AND SECONDED BY NEAL PUCCIARELLI. THE MOTION PASSED.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes of the previous meeting were mailed and e-mailed to members as part of the agenda package.

MOTION: APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 10, 2026 MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN. MOTION WAS MADE BY JOE BROOKS AND SECONDED BY NEAL PUCCIARELLI. THE MOTION PASSED.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer, Wade Creswell, presented the financial report for the period ending FEBRUARY FY 2026. County Executive Creswell asked if there were any questions regarding the financial report; there were no questions.

MOTION: TO ACCEPT ETHRA'S FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD OF FEBRUARY FY 2026. MOTION WAS MADE BY SCOTT KITTS AND SECONDED BY TERRY FRANK. THE MOTION PASSED.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Gary Holiway introduced Cheryl Dillman who presented the 2026 Summer Food Program in Veronica Stephens' absence. We will be expanding from 10 counties served last year to 12 counties this year with a budget of \$4,760,000.

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE 2026 SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM AS PRESENTED WAS MADE BY JOE BROOKS AND SECONDED BY MIKE BYRD. THE MOTION PASSED.

Director Holiway then introduced Steve Bandy who presented the FY27 HUD Annual Plan. Steve reviewed the Mission, five strategic goals, as well as the progress report.

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE FY27 HUD ANNUAL PLAN AS PRESENTED WAS MADE BY SCOTT KITTS AND SECONDED BY TERRY FRANK. THE MOTION PASSED.

Next Director Holiway introduced Jessica Stewart to update our Procurement Protests portion of the Policy and Procedure Manual.

MOTION: TO ADOPT THE UPDATES AS PRESENTED FOR PROCUREMENT PROTESTS WAS MADE BY NEAL PUCCIARELLI AND SECONDED BY JOE BROOKS. THE MOTION PASSED.

Next on the agenda was Transportation Director Mike Patterson, who presented the FTA Knoxville Urban Area Funding Formula. ETHRA is shorted \$500,000 in our budget each year while doing the majority of the Urban transportation in the outlying counties that are part of that program. A request for a board supported letter to the City Mayor for a meeting was proposed. He also shared that ETHRA will begin a Pilot Program in about another month where we utilize Micro Transit as a LYFT/Uber service in Maryville and Morristown.

MOTION: THAT WE ENDORSE THE FUNDING TO BE COMMENSURATE WITH THE FEDERAL FUNDING FORMULA SET FORTH BY THE CITY, AND FOR A MEETING TO TAKE PLACE WITH THE CITY MAYOR TO GET US BACK IN LINE WITH THE BUDGET WAS MADE BY JOE BROOKS AND SECONDED BY MARK POTTS. THE MOTION PASSED.

Director Holiway then introduced Brent Gagley to discuss a small change to our Drug & Alcohol Policy based on a recent TDOT audit. The audit requires that if there is a negative dilute urine specimen test result, ETHRA will accept the test result and there will be no retest. The old policy said the contact was the Operations Manager. That position is no longer the DER. Our DER is Scott Russell who is also our Transit Chief Safety Officer.

MOTION: TO ADOPT THE UPDATES AS PRESENTED FOR FTA DRUG & ALCOHOL POLICY REVISIONS WAS MADE BY MARK POTTS AND SECONDED BY SCOTT KITTS. THE MOTION PASSED.

Mr. Holiway then reminded the board members of our upcoming Rodeo for our transportation drivers on Saturday, April 25, 2026 at 8am at the Oak Ridge Campus of Roane State Community College. We still need judges and volunteers if anyone is interested.

Lastly, Mr. Holiway introduced Aaron Bradley and Phil Gentile who let the board members know that Tennessee SB 2251 was signed by the Governor, enacting a statewide ban on cryptocurrency ATMs throughout the state of Tennessee. This was a key pin effort initiated by ETHRA in conjunction with TBI Director David Rausch. This effort disproportionately impacts older adults and supports fraud prevention.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business presented.

ADJOURNMENT

Acting Chairman Mathis asked if there was any further business and asked for a motion to adjourn. **The motion was made by Scott Kitts and seconded by Neal Pucciarelli.** The meeting concluded at 11:18 a.m.

X B. Mathis
(Acting Chair)

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