

**FIRST TENNESSEE DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
FY 2018 2Q STATUS REPORT
JULY-SEPTEMBER 2017**

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

During the past quarter, the Environmental Management Program staff worked on several projects that involved many of our local governments. Staff assisted with or implemented the following during the past quarter:

- Provided follow-up research and information to TDEC on recycling and diversion report numbers for all eight counties.
- Provided TDEC's information regarding the debut of the Tennessee Materials Marketplace to solid waste directors and local industries within all eight counties.
- Prepared a Categorical Exclusion environmental review for the 2017 Unicoi IMC EDA grant project
- Prepared Used Oil Equipment Grant Applications for Greene County (\$9,100), Hancock County (\$21,600), Sullivan County (\$5,000), and Washington County (\$36,350),
- Prepared Recycling Equipment Grant Applications for Greene County (\$237,445) and Hawkins County (\$53,091)
- Prepared Measurement Grant Application for Sullivan County (\$1,400)
- Prepared Convenience Center Grant Application for Hancock County (\$76,182.40)
- Hosted quarterly solid waste directors and staff meeting at FTDD.
- Participated in quarterly conference call with TDEC Division of Solid Waste Management staff.
- Completed six (6) Tier II environmental reviews for the Surgoinsville THDA HOME Grant
- Completed six (6) Tier II environmental reviews for the Erwin THDA HOME Grant
- Completed four (4) Tier II environmental reviews for the Hancock County THDA HOME Grant
- Completed two (2) Tier II environmental reviews for Johnson City CDBG Housing projects
- Began environmental review record process on three (3) THDA HOME Grants for the communities of Elizabethton, Greeneville and Mountain City.

RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION (RPO)

During the past quarter, the RPO staff assisted local transportation representatives and elected officials with numerous requests concerning rural transportation. The RPO was also involved in the following projects, activities, and initiatives:

- Communicated with regional highway superintendents and other agencies involved in transportation planning to compile a list of candidate road segments for designation as Critical Rural Freight Corridors
- Attended trainings on TDOT Local Programs and the Transportation Alternatives Program Grant
- Attended meetings of the Bristol MPO, Kingsport MPO, Johnson City MPO, High Country RPO, Land of Sky RPO, and East TN South RPO
- Attended a meeting of the East TN Freight Advisory Committee in Chattanooga
- Met with TDOT staff, engineers, and the Unicoi County Highway Superintendent for discussion of the Local Roads Safety Initiative
- Provided a letter of support for a CDBG project in Hancock County
- Submitted a Road Safety Audit Request for the Town of Greeneville
- Updated the RPO's online mapping tools
- Provided a list of economic development entities in the region for TDOT's upcoming Rural Regional Plan
- Coordinated a meeting of the RPO Executive Board

LOCAL PLANNING PROGRAM

During the past quarter, the First Tennessee Development District local planning staff assisted communities, Planning Commissions, Boards of Zoning Appeals and developers in the following areas:

- Staffed 26 Planning Commission meetings.
- Staffed 8 Boards of Zoning Appeals meetings.
- Staffed 2 meetings of a local legislative body.
- Staffed 2 other local meetings concerning development and land use controls.
- Reviewed 7 requests for zoning variances.
- Prepared 7 zoning ordinance amendments.
- Prepared 1 subdivision regulations amendment.
- Reviewed 4 requests for rezoning and prepared maps and ordinances.
- Reviewed 29 subdivision plats including a total of 55 lots and 129.8169 acres.
- Reviewed 7 community development site plans for a total of 7 lots and 56.781 acres.
- Provided continuing education opportunities for 5 Planning Commission or Boards of Zoning Appeals totaling 46.5 hours of CEU's for 19 individuals. During the quarter the following topics were addressed:
 - National Flood Insurance Program and Floodplain Development
 - Rogersville Zoning Ordinance
 - Personal Property Rights, Healthy Communities, Transportation

AREA AGENCY ON AGING & DISABILITY

- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamps) provided:**

SNAP Screenings (July–September)	624
SNAP Application Assistance (July–September)	102
SNAP Screenings (Year to Date)	1,844
SNAP Application Assistance (Year to Date)	241

12 SNAP events at various senior centers, housing facilities, expos and Farmer's Market
- **CHOICES provided the following services for the quarter:**
 - 573 Information, assistance and screening calls
 - 103 Home visits to facilitate enrollment into CHOICES
 - 87 Pre-Admission Evaluations and Medicaid applications submitted to TennCare and Department of Human Services
 - 118 Referrals to managed Care Organizations
 - 10 Nursing home visit to counsel individuals and families on Long Term Services and Supports
 - 22 Community Living Support Ombudsman visits
- Average cost savings per year for enrollment in CHOICES Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) versus Nursing Home Placement is \$34,166 per person. CHOICES HCBS enrollment continues to steadily increase.
- In our area, the overall results from the satisfaction surveys were positive. Of the 120 people surveyed, 96% were Always or Almost always satisfied with their experience, and only 3% did not want to answer questions.
- TennCare implemented Person Centered Practices, which is defined as empowering people and organizations to create positive change. It is used with people, teams and organizations to make sure that people are truly listened to and kept at the heart of all decision-making, including how a service is commissioned, provided and organized.

- Comments from this quarter: “I’ve had nothing but good communication with your agency. I appreciate your help/ you were fast and efficient in getting her into a facility.” “Everyone was very cordial and nice and very friendly.” “You made the experience as pleasant as possible.”
- **The Public Guardian program served a total of 36 clients as follows:**
 Conservator of Person and Property = 34
 Conservator of Person only = 2
 4 new clients were admitted during this quarter.
 A total of 5 volunteers were utilized.
- Two evidence-based workshops were completed: one Living Well with Chronic Conditions and one Take Charge of Your Diabetes at Jonesborough Senior Center and Burton Plaza with a total of 35 participants.
- An evidence-based programs display was provided at the Farmer’s Market Health Fair with over 200 participants.
- Two Caregiver Telephone Support Group calls included topics on The Caregiving Rollercoaster and Dementia: One Size Does Not Fit All. Three caregivers participated in the calls.
- Attended the National Meals on Wheels conference in Denver in August and we are officially branded as Meals on Wheels Northeast Tennessee.
- Information & Assistance handled 2,365 calls, and completed 345 intake screenings.
- State Health Insurance Program counseled 903 Medicare beneficiaries, held 30 public and media events, held 8 presentations, and attended 15 health fairs. The WJHL commercial about SHIP has been viewed over 1.4 million times by people 50+.
- The First District Senior Olympics were held from September 6th to September 30th, 2017 in various locations in Johnson City or Kingsport. There were 180 athletes that participated in events such as basketball, bowling, golf, horseshoes, pickleball, shuffleboard, swimming, table tennis, and track and field. Over 600 gold, silver and bronze medals were awarded to athletes placing first, second or third place in their gender and age group. This year’s district Olympics along with the 2018 state games in Franklin are qualifying years for the 2019 National Senior Games which will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The National games are held every two years in various locations across the nation. The 2017 summer National games were held in Birmingham, Alabama.
- The First District Senior Brain games were held at the Memorial Park Community Center in Johnson City on August 17, 2017. There were 8 senior center teams participating from the 8 counties we serve. The Church Hill Senior Center Golden Nuggets won the competition and earned the right to represent the district in the Regional Senior Brain games competition in Knoxville on September 22nd. The Golden Nuggets put up a good fight but were defeated by the Senior Gamers from Hamblen County. The East, Middle and West Tennessee regional winners will go up against last year’s state winners, the Jonesborough Senior Center Olde Towners, for the state championship on Thursday, October 19th at the McKinney Center in Jonesborough.
- Home-delivered meals, homemaker, personal care, in-home respite, personal emergency response system and supply reimbursement services were provided to approximately 840 individuals. Waiting list of 2,223 for all services.
- 170 individuals were referred to outside agencies for regular food boxes, blind services, utility bill assistance, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Salvation Army, Kingsport Meals-on-Wheels, Frontier Health Crisis line, Sheppard’s Corner, Department of Human Services, and USDA home repairs.

- Assisted a Florida hurricane evacuee couple in finding housing and obtaining food with donations of needed household items from various churches and agencies.
- During the quarter, the District assisted the following communities with THDA Emergency Repair Program for the Elderly or Disabled:
Completed Projects
1- Bristol
- Within the Northeast Tennessee/Virginia HOME Consortium, we assisted the following with **Homeownership Down Payment Assistance:**
1- Bristol, VA
1- Johnson City, TN
1- Washington County, TN

Homeowner Rehabilitation Projects Status:

One Bluff City Rehabilitation is complete
One Johnson City Reconstruction is underway
One Kingsport Rehabilitation and Four Reconstructions are underway
One Sullivan County Reconstruction is underway

- Work Under the Johnson City CDBG Program consisted of:

Completion of One Emergency Repair Project
Completed the Reconstruction of 1 Home

Inspections are currently underway for additional projects

- Projects under the Hancock County HOME Program included:

2- Rehabilitation projects complete

- Projects under the New Tazewell HOME Program included:

1- Final Rehabilitation project completed

Closeout Documents for this Grant were sent to THDA on September 19, 2017

- Hamblen County HOME Grant

7- Rehabilitation Projects are underway

- Tennessee Housing Development Agency HOME Rehabilitation Grants:
Tier I Environmental Review Records are in the Public Comment Phase for:

Town of Mountain City
Town of Greeneville
City of Elizabethton

Tier II Site Specific Reviews completed:

**Additional Projects in Hancock County
Town of Erwin
Town of Surgoinsville**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- During the quarter, the District assisted the following communities with Fast Track Infrastructure Development Program (FIDP) funds and Economic Development Funds (ED) from the Tennessee Department of Economic & Community Development (TECD):
 - **City of Bristol**, Attended meetings to discuss a potential FIDP application for infrastructure project.
 - **Washington County**, meetings to discuss potential EDA/FIDP project to serve Quincy Pallet and potentially other industries in the area.
 - **Greene County**, meeting to discuss potential FIDP/EDA application to serve a prospective industrial plant in Mosheim.

- During the quarter, the District assisted the following communities with U. S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) funds:
 - **City of Bristol, (Royal EDA)** The project was bid during the quarter, and the bid has been approved by EDA. Construction will begin early next quarter.
 - **Town of Greeneville, (C&C Millwright EDA)** The project has been progressing nicely over the last two months. The project is roughly roughly 55% complete.
 - **City of Johnson City, (Mullican Flooring)** Began working on a new application to upgrade the City's wastewater facilities.
 - **City of Kingsport, (Eastman EDA)** The Raw Water Conveyance project construction is about 99.9% complete. A closeout package will be sent to EDA sometime next quarter.
 - **Town of Unicoi, (EDA)** Phase I (Rural Development) The project is now complete.
 - **Town of Mountain City, (Parkdale EDA)** The project has been advertised, with the bid opening set for October 19, 2019.

- During the quarter, the District assisted the following communities with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG):
 - **Johnson County**-The project has been rebid and awarded to a new vendor. The project will be completed before the end of next quarter.
 - **Mt. Carmel**- Based on the issues at the plant, the Town plans to submit another application for

work at the wastewater treatment plant. A public meeting was held at the end of September 28, 2017 to begin the CDBG application process.

- During the quarter, the District assisted the following communities with Appalachian Regional Commission funds (ARC):
 - **Johnson County, (Parkdale ARC)** The project as it was originally designed is 100% complete. Recently, Mountain Electric has indicated a second phase of the project will be needed in order for Parkdale to have the necessary power to increase jobs. Additional information has been forwarded to ARC requesting to use the additional funds on Phase II.

WORKFORCE & LITERACY INITIATIVES

- **Work Ethic Diploma** The Director of Workforce & Literacy Initiatives was the opening day ceremony key note speaker for the Carter County School System. The work ethic diploma was one of the topics covered during the event.
- Various community presentations have been made during the first quarter and businesses continue to be added as supporters of the diploma.
- **Work Ready Community** All counties received certificates for completion of all four academies as part of the work ready community initiative and are now officially listed as participating counties on the ACT work ready communities website.
- County level meetings continue to be held throughout the region as we focus on ways to ensure each county is making progress toward the goals to attain certification from ACT.
- Consortium pricing was negotiated for all school systems to have access to the curriculum for the NCRC test prep. Funding was secured for all the school systems not covered under the LEAP grant. This ensures all of our schools will have the testing in the schools during this school year.
- **EDI, Early Development Index** Funding requests were submitted to Eastman Foundation, BCBST Foundation, Niswonger Foundation, MSHA and Wellmont.
- The core team of Drs. Hale and Wood and the Director of Workforce & Literacy were invited to attend the All Children Thrive network meeting at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. This educational and networking event provided great insight into how to use the data which will be collected with the EDI. We also learned best practices for collaboration and community engagement.
- **CareerQuest TN** Planning meetings have begun for CareerQuest TN 2018 which will be held in April. All previous funders have been approached about continued support. WJHL has agreed to promote the event in 2018.
- Website and promotional materials are being updated.
- **Holy Friendship Summit** The Director Workforce & Literacy is on the a regional steering committee for the Holy Friendship Summit in partnership with Duke Divinity School. The event is to broaden the work of bringing the faith based community into the solution building for the opioid addiction crisis. The event will be in May, 2018, with the goal of 1,000 faith based and medical leaders participating. Major sponsors include CFA, BCBST, MSHA and Wellmont. The press conference to announce the event is being planned for November 14th.

- **Mini CareerQuest** In response to feedback that students focusing on the business pathways in high school have little to no real world knowledge, the Director has assembled a team to work on a business focused CareerQuest event. This event will be held in March on the campus of Northeast State. The key areas of focus include accounting, auditing, banking, entrepreneurship, finance ,financial planning, human resource and marketing. While CareerQuest is broad-based for students in grades 8-12, this event will be for juniors and seniors who are taking associated classes in high school.
- **Pathways Northeast TN** The regional pathways advisory board , high school administrators and areas businesses have met to begin the strategic planning process for the regional pathways initiative. An inventory of courses offered from high school through college (including TCATs and community colleges) has been completed. Focus groups with high school students have also been conducted. The group will meet in November to further develop the strategic plan. The goal is to have a strategic plan in place for area high schools to apply for Perkins Reserve funds to close gaps identified in the process.
- **TCAT Johnson County** The Director Workforce & Literacy coordinated the review of the potential to bring a TCAT to Johnson County. Rather than seeking funding to build a new facility, the premise is to develop a partnership between Johnson County Schools and the TCAT where the high school facilities can be enhanced to provide dual enrollment for the high school students and evening programming for adults. Several meetings were held and site visits conducted. The information has been developed including the needs, potential offerings and funding required. The next step is to meet with area legislators to request assistance in obtaining funding. We will also use this information in future grant opportunities which may arise.
- **Literacy: Summer Reading** The Director coordinated work with the Governors Books From Birth Foundation and three school systems to apply for an ARC grant. The grant focuses on bringing a summer reading bus to Carter County, Elizabethton City and Unicoi County Schools.

SPECIAL PROJECTS – NO REPORT