ATVG Board of Directors Meeting

MINUTES

Date	July 30, 2026
Time	Meeting called to order at approximately 4:30 p.m.
Location	Brasstown Valley Resort, Young Harris, GA

Board members/participants named during motions or discussion: Cliff Bradshaw, Scott Lindsey, Becky Ruppe, and Lamar Paris.

Guests introduced: Jacob Morrison, Program Advisor with Energy Alabama; Isaac Newman, Middle Tennessee Field Representative for U.S. Senator Bill Hagerty.

1. Call to Order

President Tommy Barnes called the Board of Directors meeting to order at approximately 4:30 p.m. An agenda and prior meeting minutes were available to the Board.

2. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Treasurer Brent Greer moved to approve the minutes as presented. Cliff Bradshaw seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor, and the motion carried.

3. Treasurer's Financial Report and Audit Discussion

Treasurer Brent Greer reported that the organization remained in a strong cash position. The year-end fund balance was approximately $174,000. The financial statements included $6,000 under professional fees for the annual audit.

President Barnes explained that audit costs for small nonprofit organizations have increased substantially and that the organization had budgeted $6,000 per year for audit work. The prior auditor had retired, and another auditor had quoted approximately $15,000 for the work. President Barnes emphasized the need for full transparency regarding the current audit arrangement.

Treasurer Greer disclosed that his son, Eric Greer, is a CPA and had agreed to perform comparative audit work covering 2024, 2025, and 2026 for approximately $18,000 total, or $6,000 per year. Treasurer Greer stated that his son is the CFO of a large regional medical-surgical firm and previously worked in auditing, including with Price Waterhouse. Treasurer Greer is an unpaid treasurer. The relationship between the treasurer and the CPA was disclosed to the Board so that the record would clearly reflect the related-party relationship and avoid any appearance of an undisclosed conflict.

The Board discussed the organization's internal controls. The organization has no employees and uses contracted services. Treasurer Greer stated that duties are divided among several people: Mike Arms performs much of the organization's work but does not sign checks or handle the finances; Ron handles program direction; and a finance director is also involved. This arrangement was described as providing good segregation of duties.

Treasurer Greer reported that an accountant had suggested that, after the three-year comparative audit work is completed, the organization may wish to consider an independent CPA "desktop audit" or review rather than a full audit if that approach is appropriate. The discussion reflected concern that a full annual audit could cost approximately $15,000 to $20,000 in future years.

Treasurer Greer also reported the following financial information:

- Dues and registration fees generally cover the organization's operating activities.
- Approximately $51,000 is paid annually to three contracted workers.
- Approximately $3,400 is paid for various insurance policies.
- After accounting for audit expense, the organization's net worth was described as approximately $153,000, representing roughly a year and a half of operations.
- The organization maintains two bank accounts: a hospitality account and a sweep/treasury-management account.
- The sweep account pays a daily federal-funds-based rate and earned more than $4,500 during the prior year. The Board had previously authorized consideration of certificates of deposit, but the sweep account was reported to be producing a better return without tying up funds for six months.

President Barnes explained that corporate-partner funds designated for hospitality are deposited into the hospitality account. He cited a recent bar bill of slightly more than $700 plus a 23 percent administrative fee and stated that alcohol-related hospitality expenses are paid from that account rather than from taxpayer-supported dues.

Action - Financial Report: Scott Lindsey moved to accept the treasurer's report. Lamar Paris seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor, and the motion carried.

Audit Disclosure: The Board discussed and acknowledged the disclosure that Eric Greer, the CPA performing the 2024-2026 comparative audit work, is related to Treasurer Brent Greer. The transcript does not record a separate formal motion or vote approving the audit engagement; the discussion was characterized as a disclosure to be reflected in the minutes.

4. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Mike Arms reported that he continued to attend TVA Board meetings, maintain contact with TVA leadership, and seek opportunities to meet new management. He reported having lunch with a new TVA Board member and discussed the importance of staying engaged with TVA during a period of leadership transition.

Arms reported attending a recent TMEPA conference in Knoxville. He said the conference provided useful information on municipal utilities and current energy issues, with broadband and data centers among the major topics discussed.

Arms also reported plans to attend a Seven States conference in Guntersville and to evaluate a possible location for a future summer Board meeting while there.

5. Future Board Meetings and Meeting Schedule

The Board discussed upcoming and future meeting locations and dates:

- Gatlinburg: October 27-28, 2026, already scheduled.
- Oxford, Mississippi: The organization discussed returning to Oxford in March of the following year. Arms reported that the University of Mississippi academic calendar showed students out March 8-12 and that he had

a contract available for the Inn at Ole Miss if the Board wished to proceed. An opening reception at McCormick's was also discussed.

- Summer meeting timing: The Board discussed moving a summer meeting from July to June to reduce conflicts with elections and the National Association of Counties (NACo) meeting schedule.

The Board discussed whether the proposed meeting schedule would comply with the bylaws. Ron stated that, to the best of his recollection, the bylaws require at least three meetings annually and are based on the calendar year, not the fiscal year. It was also noted that the bylaws previously required quarterly meetings but had been amended to require at least three meetings annually.

Treasurer Greer noted that the timing could result in four meeting expenses falling within one fiscal year and two in the next, even though the organization would still hold only three meetings in a calendar year. He stated that the organization had sufficient fund balance to absorb that timing difference and that the expenses would balance across the two fiscal years.

Action: No formal motion or vote on the Oxford location or the revised summer meeting schedule is recorded in the transcript.

6. New Business - Branding and Logo

Executive Director Arms presented a new organizational brand and logo. He explained that the prior logo consisted primarily of "ATVG" in four blocks and that the organization wanted a brand that better communicates its identity. The new branding was described as representing stewardship, environment, energy, recreation, and the theme "Seven States With One Voice."

Board members reviewed the proposed logo and discussed its visual representation of activities and resources associated with the Tennessee Valley.

Action - New Logo: Becky Ruppe moved to approve the new logo. Treasurer Brent Greer seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor, and the motion carried.

7. Condolences and Attendance Remarks

Executive Director Arms noted that several Tennessee county mayors were unable to attend for significant personal reasons. He specifically recognized the recent death of county mayor Joe Brooks, a regular attendee and U.S. Navy veteran, and noted that services were being held that evening at Clay County High School with veterans honors. He also noted a recent personal loss affecting Tim Fleener. Members were encouraged to extend condolences when they next saw those individuals and families.

Arms thanked the local hosts and participants for attending.

8. Guest Introductions

Jacob Morrison introduced himself as a Program Advisor with Energy Alabama, a nonprofit organization that supports the public power model of TVA and advocates for strengthening it.

Isaac Newman introduced himself as the Middle Tennessee Field Representative for U.S. Senator Bill Hagerty. Newman stated that he had begun the role approximately one month earlier and was succeeding Brittany Montgomery, who had moved to Alabama.

Executive Director Arms commented on the strategic importance of Senator Hagerty's role in federal appropriations to the Tennessee Valley, referencing major federal investments in areas such as Huntsville, Oak Ridge, and Clarksville.

9. Adjournment

President Barnes called for a motion to adjourn. Scott Lindsey moved to adjourn, and Lamar [surname unclear/inconsistent in the transcript] seconded. The meeting was adjourned. The transcript does not state the exact adjournment time.

10. Summary of Formal Actions

Motion	Made By	Seconded By	Result
Approval of prior meeting minutes	Brent Greer	Cliff Bradshaw	Approved unanimously
Acceptance of treasurer's report	Scott Lindsey	Lamar Paris	Approved unanimously
Approval of new organizational logo	Becky Ruppe	Brent Greer	Approved unanimously
Adjournment	Scott Lindsey	Lamar Paris	Meeting adjourned

11. Matters Noted for Follow-Up

- Complete the disclosed comparative audit work for 2024, 2025, and 2026.
- Consider whether an independent CPA desktop audit/review is an appropriate and cost-effective approach for future years.
- Continue planning future Board meetings, including the proposed Oxford meeting and the timing of a summer meeting.
- Implement the newly approved ATVG branding and logo.

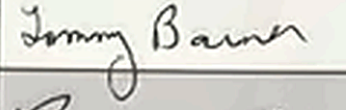
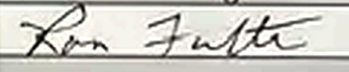
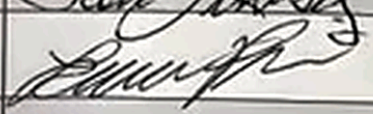
Certification

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Secretary / Recording Officer Date

President / Presiding Officer Date Approved

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First Name	Last Name	Organization	Email Address	Signature
Tommy	Barnes	Colbert County, AL	tommybarnes1958@gmail.com	
Bruce	Brooks	Noxubee County, MS	brooksbruce13@yahoo.com	
Steve	Carr	Obion County, TN	mayor@obioncountytn.gov	
Lisa	Collett	Morgan County Economic Dev Board	lisa@morgancountytn.org	
Wade	Creswell	Roane County, TN	wade.creswell@roanecountytn.gov	
Benita	England	Town of Hayesville, NC	mayor@townofhayesville.com	
Ron	Fults	Hermitage, TN	rfults@comcast.net	
John	Gentry	McMinn County, TN	mayoroffice@mcmincountytn.gov	
Jim	Gilliam	Wold Architects	jgilliam@woldae.com	
Brent	Greer	ATVG	brent.greer@att.net	
Steve	Griffin	Wold Architects	sgriffin@woldae.com	
Bryan	Hall	Tellico Reservoir Dev Agency	b.hall@trda.us	
Ricky	Harcrow	DeKalb County, TN	rharcrow@dekalbcountyal.us	
Jason	Harper	GMC Network	brittany.parnell@gmcnetwork.com	
First Name	Last Name	Organization	Email Address	
Scott	Lindsey	Edmonson County, KY	scott.lindsey@edmonsoncountyky.gov	
Lamar	Paris	Union County, GA	lamarp50@gmail.com	
Ralph	Puckett	Obion County, TN		
Tim	Raddford	Town of Murphy, NC	mayortimraddford@gmail.com	
Brad	Rains	TVPPA	brains@tvppa.com	

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First Name	Last Name	Organization	Email Address	Signature
Bob	Rial	Dickson County, TN	bobrial@dicksoncountytn.gov	
Becky	Ruppe	City of Rockwood, TN	becky.ruppe@cityofrockwood.com	Becky Ruppe
Michael	Russell	StrataG	mrussell@statag.org	
Tim	Flener	Butler County, KY	Tim.flener@butlercountyky.gov	
George	Stepp	Tate County, MS	gstepp@tatecountyms.gov	
Mark	Stiles	Cherokee County, NC	estiles84@gmail.com	
Grant	Tharp	Cope Architecture	eerland@copearchitecture.com	
Dwight	VandeVate	Knox County, TN	dwight.vandevate@knoxcounty.org	
Ron	Watkins	ATVG		
Paul	Rosson	South Central TN Development District	Prosson@sctdd.org	
		City of Dahlongea GA	amartin@dahlongea.gov	
Bill	Newman	Lincoln County TN		
Jacob	Morrison	Energy Alabama	jmorrison@energyalabama.org	

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Name	Last Name	Organization	Email Address	Signature
reA	Campbell	RGC	rcampbell@rgc-a.com	
ff	Bradshaw	Towns Co GA		
	McWilliams	TVA	DBRMcWilliams@	
ris	Saucier	TVA	clsaucier@tva.gov	
iN	Hall	TRDA	b.hall@trda.us	
sy	Cleveland	TTL	bcleveland@THUSA.com	
ty	Chastain	City of Hiawassee	MAYOR@hiawasseega.gov	
	Gentry	McMinn County	jgentry@mcminncounty.gov	
son	Harper	GMC		