



300 GRADD Way  
Owensboro, Kentucky  
42301-0200

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## **GRADD BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING**

**TO:** Members and Associates of the Green River Area Development District Board of Directors

**FROM:** Office of the District

**SUBJECT:** Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of October 11, 2023.

The Board of Directors of the Green River Area Development District (GRADD) held its monthly meeting October 11, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. The meeting was held at the GRADD office, 300 GRADD Way, Owensboro, KY. A quorum was present with members in attendance listed below.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DAVIESS COUNTY:	Henrietta Harris
HANCOCK COUNTY:	Mayor Chad Gregory, Franklin Powers
HENDERSON COUNTY:	Judge/Executive Brad Schneider, Mayor David Sellers, Bill Markwell
McLEAN COUNTY:	Judge/Executive Curtis Dame, Mayor Betty Howard, Vicki Hughes
OHIO COUNTY:	Judge/Executive David Johnston
UNION COUNTY:	Judge/Executive Adam O'Nan, Mayor Randy Greenwell, Melissa Coker
WEBSTER COUNTY:	Judge/Executive Steve Henry, Mayor Pat Clark, Ryan Hammack

### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS PRESENT

Green River Area Council on Aging - (Henrietta Harris)  
Green River Economic Development Corporation - Tammy Belt  
GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council - Jeremy Moore  
Green River Transportation Committee - (Judge/Executive Adam O'Nan)  
Green River Workforce Development Board - Mickey Dunbar

\*Excused absence



Steve Henry, Chairman | Adam O'Nan, Vice Chairman | Johnny "Chic" Roberts, Secretary | Curtis Dame, Treasurer | Joanna Shake, Executive Director

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*Serving the Municipal and County Governments of Daviess, Hancock, Henderson, McLean, Ohio, Union, & Webster*



BOARD OF DIRECTORS ABSENT

DAVIESS COUNTY:	*Judge/Executive Charlie Castlen, *Nate Pagan, Mayor Patsy Mayfield, *Lauren Osowicz, *Robert Howard
HANCOCK COUNTY:	*Judge/Executive Johnny Roberts
HENDERSON COUNTY:	*Mayor Brad Staton, *Janeth Nicolas
McLEAN COUNTY:	All present
OHIO COUNTY:	*Mayor Beau Wright, Mayor Paul Sandefur
UNION COUNTY:	All present
WEBSTER COUNTY:	All present

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS ABSENT

GRADD Water Management Council - (\*Judge/Executive Johnny Roberts)

GUESTS AND STAFF PRESENT

Representative Suzanne Miles, State Representative  
Mayor LaDonna Tapp, City of Uniontown  
Dr. Jason Warren, Henderson Community and Technical College  
Dr. Scott Williams, Owensboro Community and Technical College  
Brad Davis, Owensboro-Daviess County Economic Development  
L. Clark Arnett, Senator Rand Paul's Office  
Kylee Foushee, Congressman Brett Guthrie's Office  
Joanna Shake, Executive Director, GRADD  
Mariah Myres, Director of Finance & Human Resources, GRADD  
Blake Edge, Director of Community & Economic Development, GRADD  
Michelle Drake, Director of Workforce Development, GRADD  
Jill Gray, Assistant Director of Workforce Development, GRADD  
Beth Ferguson, Accounting Clerk, GRADD  
Reenee Fogle, Accounting Clerk, GRADD  
Marissa Haight, Fiscal Contracts Coordinator, GRADD  
Tom Lovett, MPO Coordinator, GRADD  
Jeannie Quattrocchi, Public Administration Specialist, GRADD  
Dana Garrett, Community Development Planner, GRADD  
Colie Smith, Regional Resiliency Coordinator/Economic Development Specialist, GRADD  
Kristy James, CCC/Family Engagement Coordinator, GRADD  
Therese McGinnis, Aging Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Coordinator, GRADD  
Jana Billingsley, Family Caregiver Program Specialist, GRADD  
Kim Wells, Executive Assistant, GRADD  
Lee Ann Edmonson, Program Assistant/State Health Insurance Program (SHIP), GRADD  
Ruth Brown, Medicaid Waiver Liaison, GRADD  
Joanne Nelson, AmeriCorps

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Steve Henry called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. and led with the Pledge of Allegiance. Henrietta Harris opened the meeting with prayer.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Secretary's Report

Chairman Steve Henry presented the minutes of the September 13, 2023, GRADD Board of Directors annual meeting for approval.

A motion was made by Adam O'Nan and seconded by Randy Greenwell to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2023, GRADD Board of Directors annual meeting. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

B. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Curtis Dame presented the Treasurer's Report for the period of July 1, 2023 - August 31, 2023.

A motion was made by Curtis Dame and seconded by Tammy Belt to approve the Treasurer's Report for the period July 1, 2023 - August 31, 2023, which is subject to audit. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Treasurer Curtis Dame explained revenues will continue to lag due to timing of requests to grantors. Staff will monitor and contact grantors regarding any outstanding reimbursements. The Workforce Development Board has been awarded \$1.5 million for the Quality Jobs, Equity, Strategy and Training (QUEST) National Dislocated Worker grant. This grant will span over three years. Additionally, the State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) grant has been allocated an additional \$20,000 for Fiscal Year 2024. These changes will be reflected in the next budget revision. Staff will begin reviewing the health insurance renewal and plan to present at the November 8, 2023 meeting.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Medicare Part D

Lee Ann Edmonson explained the GRADD State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) provides information, counseling and assistance to seniors and disabled individuals, their families and caregivers, at no charge, on applying for Medicare. During open enrollment, GRADD can review plans and explain the differences to aid in making the best plan decision possible. Mrs. Edmonson also stated how important it is to review the yearly correspondence from Medicare regarding any plan changes for the upcoming year. Those changes are usually mailed out in September.

B. Personnel Policy Update

Joanna Shake reported the GRADD Executive Committee had met prior to the Board meeting and approved the following personnel policy amendments:

- In accordance with the Kentucky Model Procurement Code purchases must be bid if the cost is \$40,000 or more;
- Enable staff to take one day of bereavement for non-immediate family members, see below:
  - Step Grandparents
  - Aunt or Uncle
  - Niece or Nephew
- Tennis shoes may be worn on Fridays.

C. Revolving Loan Fund Review

Tammy Belt presented the following loan summaries:

1. Acts of Kindness LLC (DBA Miner's Bucket)

Brandy Patterson is requesting \$80,498 to open a new restaurant in the space currently being operated as Izzy's in Morganfield. Funds will be used to purchase equipment to update the restaurant to a buffet style, purchase initial inventory and working capital for six weeks of operation. The project will create three full-time and 12 part-time positions.

A motion was made by Adam O'Nan and seconded by Pat Clark to approve Acts of Kindness LLC CARES RLF loan in the amount of \$80,498. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

2. O'Bryan's Bar and Grill

OPR Investments LLC is requesting \$250,000 to purchase the building located at 7006 Kentucky 815, in Daviess County. This loan will retain four full-time and 12 part-time employees.

A motion was made by Pat Clark and seconded by Randy Greenwell to approve O'Bryan's Bar & Grill CARES RLF loan in the amount of \$250,000. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

3. Tristate Pizza

Tristate Pizza, LLC is requesting \$50,000 for working capital. This project will create 19 full-time and 11 part-time positions.

A motion was made by Curtis Dame and seconded by Randy Greenwell to approve Tristate Pizza, LLC RLF loan in the amount of \$50,000. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

D. Cyber Security Grant Update

Blake Edge announced GRADD was awarded \$212,000 from the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security to procure a cyber security consultant to conduct gap assessments for cities and counties. This assessment will aid in identifying existing weaknesses or vulnerabilities and where improvements can be made.

E. Service Awards

Chairman Steve Henry presented Ruth Brown, Medicaid Waiver Liaison with a five-year service award. He presented Reenee Fogle, Accounting Assistant with a 15-year service award. He thanked them both for their service and dedication to GRADD.

F. Committee Reports

1. Green River Area Council on Aging

Chairperson Henrietta Harris presented the minutes of the August 1, 2023 meeting of the Green River Area Council on Aging.

A motion was made by Henrietta Harris and seconded by Bill Markwell to approve the minutes of the August 1, 2023 Green River Area Council on Aging. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Chairperson Henrietta Harris reported the Green River Area Council on Aging met on October 3, 2023. At this meeting, Racheal Wheatley, Advanced Funeral Planning Specialist with James H. Davis Funeral Home & Crematory, presented information about pre-planning services and the importance of making final arrangements. A report was given by each Senior Center Director/County Coordinator. Seniors from all seven counties enjoyed participating in the Senior Games hosted by Union County at Moffit Lake. Lee Ann Edmondson gave a brief update on Medicare Part D Open Enrollment held annually from October 15, 2023 through December 7, 2023. As part of the procurement process, four members of the Aging Council will serve on a committee to review proposals for the provision of in-home services and legal assistance services. Lisa Flahardy announced Senior Day Out will take place October 17, 2023, from 9:00 to 1:00 at the Owensboro National Guard Armory. Amber Phelps, GRADD In-Home Services Manager, reported on Social Services and Department of Aging and Independent Living updates. The next meeting will take place on December 5, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., at GRADD.

2. Green River Economic Development Corporation (EDC)

Chairperson Tammy Belt presented the minutes of the August 2, 2023 meeting of the Green River Economic Development Corporation.

A motion was made by Tammy Belt and seconded by Pat Clark to approve the minutes of the August 2, 2023 Green River Economic Development Corporation. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Chairperson Tammy Belt reported the Green River EDC met on October 4, 2023. At this meeting, the EDC reviewed and approved loan applications for Miner's Bucket in the amount of \$89,498; O'Bryan's Bar & Grill in the amount of \$250,000; and Tristate Pizza in the amount of \$50,000.

3. GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council

Chairman Jeremy Moore reported in August, Kentucky Emergency Management (KYEM) informed GRADD that two projects in the region were selected to apply for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding made available from the presidentially declared disaster DR-4702 that occurred in early March. One is a project scoping activity in Henderson County to study and engineer a flood mitigation solution along a portion of KY-812 (Airline Road) and the second is a construction project that will increase resiliency of electric utility service to a disadvantaged neighborhood in Owensboro. Colie Smith is working with project stakeholders to complete the full HMGP applications that will be submitted FEMA in 2024. Completion of risk assessment add-on for the GRADD Hazard Mitigation Plan is in the final stages. The focus is on regional water and wastewater infrastructure. The final draft of the risk assessment will be sent to the Hazard Mitigation Council prior to the November meeting. Lastly, Colie Smith will be contacting all cities and counties during the month of October to update membership of the Hazard Mitigation Council.

4. GRADD Regional Transportation Committee (RTC)

Chairman Adam O'Nan reported the GRADD Regional Transportation Committee met on August 31, 2023. At this meeting, Strategic Highway Investment Formula for Tomorrow (SHIFT) scores from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) were reviewed and nine transportation projects were chosen to "boost." The GRADD SHIFT Prioritization Plan and the Plan for Committee Activities were approved. RTC Bylaws were reviewed and will be submitted for approval at the next meeting. A nominating committee to select officers for the next calendar year was appointed. A list of Major Traffic Generators and updates from the Highway District Office were also presented. The next meeting is scheduled for November 27, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. at the GRADD office.

5. GRADD Water Management Council

Mayor Betty Howard reported Cheyton Pendley has accepted a position with the Delta Regional Authority. Blake Edge, Director of Community and Economic Development is currently reviewing and interviewing potential applicants to fill the position. Project ranking meetings will be taking place during the last week of October and the first two weeks of November. Blake Edge and Jennifer Alvey will be reaching out to utilities and local officials to schedule those meetings.

The Draft Intended Use Plan is out for public comment and the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (KIA) Call for Projects is due in December. If there are any questions or to submit projects, please contact Blake Edge.

6. Green River Workforce Development Board

Chairman Mickey Dunbar reported the Green River Workforce Development Board received a \$1.5 million Quality Jobs, Equity, Strategy, and Training (QUEST) grant in partnership with the Kentucky Department of Workforce Development. The focus of the grant is to serve individuals whose employment has been negatively impacted by the pandemic. The Workforce Development Department continues to serve employers and job seekers with the Skills to Succeed (S2S) grant to provide individualized employment recovery activities. Two hundred and fifty-five participants have been enrolled with over \$870,000 being obligated for training and \$70,000 obligated for supportive services. The continuation of the Hire to Operate (H2O) grant is well underway with nine current apprentices enrolled. There will be eight additional apprentices enrolled in Henderson, McLean, Union, and Webster. On October 5, 2023, members of the Kentucky Workforce Investment Board (KWIB) along with local stakeholders, employers, and local elected officials convened at GRADD for a workforce planning forum. State and local successes and challenges were discussed along with best practices and ways to better align the current workforce service delivery system to achieve greater individual and business center outcomes. Rapid Response meetings continue in Ohio County for Diacel employees. This layoff will affect two hundred fifty-one employees. The plant will close March 2024. The next meeting of the Green River Workforce Development Board will take place on November 1, 2023 at the Owensboro Health Business Center. Health Force Kentucky will be onsite for tours to explore the future of careers in healthcare.

G. Frankfort and Washington Updates

Representative Suzanne Miles introduced Kylie Foushee, Director of Economic Development for Congressman Brett Guthrie's office. Ms. Foushee can assist constituents with letters of support and grant assistance.

Clark Arnett gave an update from Senator Rand Paul's office. Mr. Arnett explained he is in attendance due to Jason Hasert having a medical issue. Senator Paul sponsored a bill that did pass which will simplify and streamline the paperwork process for individuals after they are stricken by a disaster.

Corey Elder gave an update from Congressman James Comer's office. Congress Comer and the Oversight Committee assisted with the Modern Experts Act, which will improve cybersecurity hiring for agencies. Specifically, it will prohibit mandatory college degree requirements for federal cybersecurity jobs unless there are specific legal requirements for a federal position.

Dr. Scott Williams thanked GRADD for the support with the Dislocated Workers Program. Last year, 275 companies and 19,000 training enrollments utilized assistance. The ITech Program continues to grow. This program allows students to learn technical skills that prepare them to work in fields such as electronics, industrial automation and computer maintenance. Dr. Williams also noted that the Healthcare Workforce Innovation initiative is being rebranded as Health Force Kentucky.

Dr. Jason Warren reported advanced manufacturing and healthcare are the two main areas of focus for Henderson Community College. The College has also seen enrollment increase for the FAME Program and has no problems with filling those admissions.

#### IV. INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEWS

Jeannie Quattrocchi presented the following regional Executive Orders:

**Reconstruction of KY 56**

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet KY2023-0807-1292

**Elevate Estates**

Equal Development KY2023-0810-1317

**Biodiesel Distribution Infrastructure Project**

Owensboro Grain KY2023-0822-1382

**Sacramento Gravity Sewer**

City of Sacramento KY2023-0828-1395

**Daniels Lane to KY 603 Intersection Water Line Reconstruction Upgrade**

Daviess County Water District KY2023-0915-1494

**OMU Replacement Drinking Water Well Construction**

Owensboro Municipal Utilities KY2023-1002-1602

A motion was made by Adam O'Nan and seconded by Pat Clark to approve the above-stated Regional Executive Orders. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

#### V. CHAIRMAN COMMENTS

Chairman Steve Henry made the following comments:

- Congratulations to Mayor Paul Sandefur. He was sworn in as Second Vice President of the Kentucky League of Cities Board of Directors on September 21, 2023 in Lexington;



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- Webster County received \$2.1 million from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development to acquire approximately forty acres of property in Providence and extend 2,200 feet of waterline and 2,000 feet of sewer line to the site;
- Congratulations to the Dukes Fire Department in Hancock County on receiving an additional \$250,000, bringing the total award amount to \$1 million. Construction on the new fire station is expected to begin in November;
- On October 9, 2023, Governor Andy Beshear presented McLean and Ohio Counties with more than \$4.2 million in funding for resurfacing roads, expanding access to high-speed internet, supporting cleaner water, increasing tourism and supporting local nonprofits;
- Senior Games was held on September 19, 2023 at Moffit Lake in Union County. The event welcomed 82 seniors who participated and over 50 volunteers;
- GRADD's Annual Meeting was held on September 13, 2023 at McConnell Plaza in downtown Owensboro. The event welcomed almost 350 guests from the Green River region and across the State; and
- Congratulations to the 2023 Regional Award Winners: Franklin Powers, Texal Brooks Regional Leadership Award; Sonny Renfrow, Charles Reid Regional Citizenship Award; and City of Henderson, Community of the Year.

Chairman Steve Henry read the biography of Wendell H. Ford and explained the Senator was known to be a constituent senator. He stated Judge/Executive Adam O'Nan mirrors that in his position as Union County Judge/Executive. Chairman Henry then presented Vice Chairman Adam O'Nan with the Wendell H. Ford Legislative Leadership Award.

Vice Chairman Adam O'Nan expressed gratitude not only to GRADD but his team. He thanked them for their support and dedication to him and to Union County.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Joanna Shake made the following comments:

- On September 28, 2023, the Workforce Development Board Directors from across the Commonwealth came together in Frankfort to testify before the Interim Joint Committee on Economic Development Workforce;
- GRADD staff attended the Aging and State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) Conference September 27 – 28, 2023 in Lexington;

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- GRADD was awarded \$25,000 from the Kentucky Housing Corporation to enhance its housing development capabilities;
- On October 5, 2023, Governor Andy Beshear presented GRADD with \$212,430 in cybersecurity funding from the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security. Joanna Shake thanked Dana Garrett for her work on securing the funds;
- A Reentry Simulation was held on September 22, 2023. Michelle Drake explained this simulation educates individuals about the obstacles which face justice-impacted persons and persons who have been recently released from incarceration;
- Senior Day Out will be held on October 17, 2023 at the Owensboro National Guard Armory. There will be entertainment, educational speakers, door prizes and a vaccine clinic;
- GRADD's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Community/Employee Blood Drive will be held on October 26, 2023 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the GRADD office. Joanna Shake thanked Charity DeHart for arranging the event; and
- Welcome to GRADD: Jana Billingsley, Family Caregiver Program Specialist; Savannah Edge, Social Services Intern and Joanne Nelson, AmeriCorps.

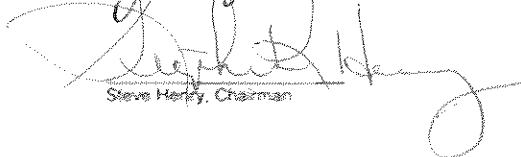
VII. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

  
Jonathan Robert Jr.  
Secretary

  
Steve Henry, Chairman