



Green River Area Development District

300 GRADD Way
Owensboro, Kentucky
42301-0200

GRADD.COM

GRADD BOARD OF DIRECTORS 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 February 14, 2024

The Board of Directors of the Green River Area Development District (GRADD) held its monthly meeting February 14, 2024 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:	Judge/Executive Charlie Castlen, Mayor Patsy Mayfield, Mayor Tom Watson, Henrietta Harris, Lauren Osowicz
HANCOCK COUNTY:	Judge/Executive Johnny Roberts, Mayor Chad Gregory, Franklin Powers
HENDERSON COUNTY:	Judge/Executive Brad Schneider, Mayor Brad Staton, Mayor David Sellers
McLEAN COUNTY:	Mayor Betty Howard, Vicki Hughes
OHIO COUNTY:	Judge/Executive David Johnston, Mayor Jeff Fuqua
UNION COUNTY:	Judge/Executive Adam O'Nan, Mayor Randy Greenwell, Melissa Coker
WEBSTER COUNTY:	Mayor Pat Clark

COMMITTEE CHAIRS PRESENT

Green River Area Council on Aging - (Henrietta Harris)
GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council - Jeremy Moore
Green River Workforce Development Board - Mickey Dunbar
GRADD Water Management Council - (Judge/Executive Johnny Roberts)
Green River Transportation Committee - (Judge/Executive Adam O'Nan)

*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:	Robert Howard
HANCOCK COUNTY:	All present
HENDERSON COUNTY:	Janeth Nicolas, Bill Markwell
McLEAN COUNTY:	*Judge/Executive Curtis Dame
OHIO COUNTY:	Mayor Paul Sandefur
UNION COUNTY:	All present
WEBSTER COUNTY:	*Judge/Executive Steve Henry, *Ryan Hammack

COMMITTEE CHAIRS ABSENT

Green River Economic Development Corporation – *Brad Davis

GUESTS AND STAFF PRESENT

Austin Wetherington, Congressman James Comer's Office
Katie Marks, Congressman Brett Guthrie's Office
Alex Caudill, Department for Local Government
Dr. Scott Williams, Owensboro Community and Technical College
Lance Wilson, McLean County Regional Water Commission
Sonny Renfrow, McLean County Regional Water Commission
Michele Ruxer, *Messenger-Inquirer*
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
Leslie Wilson, Director of Social Services, GRADD
Jessie Saalwaechter, Public Information Officer, GRADD
Reenee Fogle, Fiscal Manager, GRADD
Cheryl Peters, Accounting Clerk, GRADD
Beth Ferguson, Accounting Clerk, GRADD
Jill Gray, Assistant Director of Workforce Development, GRADD
Paula Payne, Workforce Development Coordinator, GRADD
Colie Smith, Regional Resiliency Coordinator/Economic Development Specialist, GRADD
Emily Mitchell, Waiver Case Manager, GRADD
Amber Phelps, In-Home Services Manager, GRADD
Amber Gebhard, Community Services Manager, GRADD
Libby Watson, Social Services Administrative Assistant, GRADD
Kim Wells, Executive Assistant, GRADD
Donna Behl, ADRC Counselor, GRADD
Savannah Edge, Social Services Intern, GRADD
Amanda Burke, Social Services Intern, GRADD

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Adam O'Nan called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and led with the Pledge of Allegiance. Judge/Executive David Johnston opened the meeting with prayer.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Secretary's Report

Secretary Johnny "Chic" Roberts presented the minutes of the January 10, 2024 GRADD Board of Directors meeting for approval.

A motion was made by Johnny Roberts and seconded by Charlie Castlen to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2024 GRADD Board of Directors meeting. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Secretary Johnny "Chic" Roberts presented the minutes of the December 18, 2023 GRADD Executive Committee meeting for approval.

A motion was made by Johnny Roberts and seconded by Charlie Castlen to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2023 GRADD Executive Committee meeting. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

B. Treasurer's Report

Vice Chairman Adam O'Nan presented the Treasurer's Report for the period of July 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023.

A motion was made by David Johnston and seconded by Mickey Dunbar to approve the Treasurer's Report for the period of July 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023, which is subject to audit. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Hire to Operate (H2O) Project

Vice Chairman Adam O'Nan introduced Paula Payne, Workforce Development Coordinator at GRADD and Lance Wilson, McLean County Regional Water Commission.

Paula Payne explained the GRADD region will begin to see a trend in the coming years as certified water utility operators begin to retire. The need for qualified applicants and the cost of certification, along with the ability to pay a competitive wage, have made finding replacements complicated, especially in rural areas. GRADD secured funding through the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) to administer the Hire to Operate (H2O) Program with a goal to increase enrollment in the Kentucky Rural Water Association Registered Apprenticeship Program addressing the shortage of certified water operators in the DRA counties of Henderson, McLean, Union and Webster. To date, seven operators have received their certification.

Lance Wilson spoke on the importance of this project and how it has impacted the region. He specifically referenced McLean County training apprentices helped them gain knowledge from seasoned operators.

B. Legislative Update

Joanna Shake reported that prior to the 2024 legislative session, the Area Development Districts (ADD) compiled a list of priorities to be distributed to members of the legislature. Mrs. Shake reviewed the list of priorities (attached) and thanked Chairman Steve Henry and Vice Chairman Adam O’Nan for advocating for the ADDs in Frankfort.

C. Loan Review

Mayor Chad Gregory presented the following loan review:

1. J.R. Williams TV & Appliance

Cris Black is requesting \$50,000 in Revolving Loan Funds (RLF) to cover utilities, payroll and to increase appliance and furniture inventory after challenges arose from road construction that removed parking in front of the store in Beaver Dam from March to October of 2023.

A motion was made by David Johnston and seconded by Randy Greenwell to approve J.R. Williams TV & Appliance RLF loan in the amount of \$50,000. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

D. Second Quarter Revised Budget

Vice Chairman Adam O’Nan presented the Second Quarter Revised Budget for review and approval. Revenue changes include the addition of Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) funds, Safe Streets 4 All, additional allocations from the Department of Aging and Independent Living (DAIL) and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Quest grant. Expenditure changes include an increase in fringe benefits, communications, contractual services and direct program expenditures. The Finance Committee met on January 10, 2024 and approved the revisions.

A motion was made by Randy Greenwell and seconded by Charlie Castlen to approve the Second Quarter Revised Budget. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

E. Audit Letter Approval

Vice Chairman Adam O’Nan presented the Fiscal Year 2024 Audit Engagement Letter from Tichenor & Associates. He explained this will be the second year of the five-year contract with no changes in the fee of \$29,972.07. Per regulations, a request has been submitted to the Auditor of Public Accounts to perform GRADDs audit but a response has not been received.

Approval of this letter will allow Chairman Steve Henry and Joanna Shake to sign the audit engagement letter.

A motion was made by Johnny Roberts and seconded by Pat Clark to approve the Audit Letter Approval signature and submission. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

F. Service Award

Vice Chairman Adam O’Nan presented Jessie Saalwaechter with a five-year service award plaque. He thanked Mrs. Saalwaechter for her service and continued dedication to GRADD.

G. Committee Reports

1. Green River Area Council on Aging

Chairperson Henrietta Harris presented the minutes of the December 5, 2023 meeting of the Green River Area Council on Aging.

A motion was made by Henrietta Harris and seconded by Franklin Powers to approve the minutes of the December 5, 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 February 6, 2024. Jana Billingsley presented information about the Kentucky Family Caregiver Program, which assists grandparents raising grandchildren. Leslie Wilson presented the Fiscal Year 2025 Regional Area Plan update which was approved.

2. Green River Economic Development Corporation (EDC)

Mayor Chad Gregory presented the minutes of the December 6, 2023 meeting of the Green River Economic Development Corporation.

A motion was made by Charlie Castlen and seconded by Johnny Roberts to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2023 Green River Economic Development Corporation. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Mayor Chad Gregory reported the Green River Economic Development Corporation met on February 7, 2024. At its meeting, a loan application for J.R. Williams TV & Appliance in the amount of \$50,000 from the CARES RLF was approved. Alision Collard from Cecilian Bank in Hartford was appointed to serve as the Banker for Ohio County for a two-year term. Colie Smith discussed the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) project as part of GRADDs ongoing effort to collect local information for the Kentucky Office of Broadband.

Mr. Smith recently participated in a panel discussion with local business owners and entrepreneurs to spread awareness about the GRADD Revolving Loan Fund.

3. GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council

Chairman Jeremy Moore presented the minutes of the November 14, 2023 meeting of the GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council.

A motion was made by Jeremy Moore and seconded by Brad Staton to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2023 GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Chairman Jeremy Moore reported the GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council met on January 30, 2024. At its meeting, bylaws were updated to adopt a quarterly meeting schedule and expand community representation. A discussion was led regarding potential hazard mitigation projects to pursue in 2024 and the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) project as it pertains to hazard mitigation.

4. GRADD Regional Transportation Committee (RTC)

Chairman O’Nan reported the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet has released the Recommended Highway Plan. The GRADD Regional Transportation Committee will review the results at the February 26, 2024 meeting.

5. GRADD Water Management Council

Chairman Johnny Roberts reported the Area Development District (ADD) water planners held a quarterly meeting in Frankfort and met with Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (KIA) staff. State Revolving Funds (SRF) loan cap limits for 2024 are \$20 million for sewer projects and \$7.5 million for water projects per system. There is a new definition of disadvantaged communities for KIA project scoring. The Median Household Income is now based on the project area, not the entire system area. Dana Garrett is responding to the Department of Water (DOW) comments on SRF projects submitted in December to KIA. GRADD submitted sixteen sewer projects and sixteen water projects for potential SRF loan funding. Mrs. Garrett is currently conducting Annual System Visits with each utility, which are scheduled to be complete by early April.

6. Green River Workforce Development Board

Chairman Mickey Dunbar reported the Green River Workforce Development Board met on February 7, 2024. Monica Rice, College Career Coach for Owensboro Public Schools, shared information regarding opportunities to assist students with their career or postsecondary education. The Workforce Board will reestablish the Youth Committee with the goal of focusing their efforts on the workforce of tomorrow. The Department of Labor (DOL) recently monitored the Green River Workforce Development Board to assess the status of the Skills to Succeed (S2S) grant.

A report from the Department of Labor (DOL) monitoring was received and there were no questioned costs. Responses to observations are due to DOL March 1, 2024. The Workforce Development Department continues to serve employers and job seekers with the Skills to Succeed (S2S) grant to provide individualized employment recovery activities. Over 300 participants have been enrolled, with over \$1,000,000 being obligated for training and \$81,000 obligated for supportive services. A final Rapid Response meeting for employees of Diacel will be held February 15, 2024 in Ohio County. Diacel will close its doors in March and 251 employees are being displaced because of this closure.

G. Frankfort and Washington Updates

Katie Marks reported Congressman Brett Guthrie was recently in Owensboro. He congratulated Apollo High School student, Paulie Frashure, as an honorable mention in the Congressional Art Competition. Ms. Marks noted there has been no word on earmarks yet. But field staff are reviewing city/county projects once those are announced.

Austin Wetherington reported the following grant deadlines: FEMA Assistance to Firefighters applications are due March 8, 2024; Land and Water applications are due May 31, 2024 and the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant applications are due February 28, 2024.

Alex Caudill reminded mayors and judge/executives that Governor Andy Beshear continues to hold Zoom calls every two weeks. The next will be held on February 28, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. Governor Beshear has earmarked 100 percent of coal severance dollars to go back into coal counties. West Kentucky Thank You Night will be held on February 15, 2024 at the Frankfort Country Club. Governor Beshear will be speaking at 5:30 p.m. Governor Beshear will be in Henderson on March 1, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. at Henderson County High School to make comments regarding broadband. County Budget Workshops will be held at the Pennyrile ADD on February 28, 2024 and at the Barren River ADD on February 29, 2024. The Governor's Local Issues Conference will take place August 7 - 9, 2024, in Louisville.

IV. INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

Jessie Saalwaechter presented the following regional Executive Orders:

Henderson County Water District - Creek Crossing & Water Tanks Rehabilitation

Henderson Water District KY2024-0102-0001

Sturgis WWTP Emergency Upgrades

City of Sturgis KY2024-0109-0031

Community Ventures 2024 CHDO Homebuyer Program

Community Ventures Corporation KY2024-0111-0042

Island Sewer Plant and Lift Station Generators Project

City of Island KY2024-0123-0097

A motion was made by Brad Staton and seconded by Charlie Castlen to approve the above-stated Regional Executive Orders. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

V. CHAIRMAN COMMENTS

Vice Chairman Adam O’Nan made the following comments:

- Board meeting date changes - June 12, 2024 meeting will be reschedule to June 19, 2024 and the November 13, 2024 meeting will be rescheduled to November 20, 2024, due to scheduling conflicts on the original dates; and
- Area Development District (ADD) Day in Frankfort will be held on February 15, 2024. This will be an opportunity for constituents to meet with legislators to discuss the impact the ADDs have had on communities in Kentucky. Individuals are also invited to lunch at the Capitol from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. followed by the quarterly Kentucky Council of ADDs meeting at 1:30 p.m. in room 149 at the Capitol.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Joanna Shake made the following comments:

- Grant opportunities hand-out was distributed to each member; and
- Welcome to GRADD - Abigail Arrendell, Parent Engagement Meeting Facilitator and Emily Mitchell, Waiver Case Manager.

Savannah Edge reported twenty-two immunizations were administered at a February 21, 2024 event at Poole’s Pharmacy. GRADD has plans to work with Poole’s Pharmacy again on March 15, 2024 to host a vaccine clinic and a colorectal verbal screening in conjunction with Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. GRADD has teamed up with Poole's Pharmacy to offer free vaccine clinics for individuals 55+ and those with disabilities.

Leslie Wilson reported on February 21, 2024 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. the Department for Aging and Independent Living (DAIL) in partnership with BerryDunn, will be conducting a community forum at GRADD to gather information from key stakeholders to identify and prioritize the service needs for the Commonwealth. This will also include an evaluation of the current programs provided by DAIL.

Mariah Shyver announced the STAND Against Child Abuse will be held on April 12, 2024 from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m. at Kentucky Wesleyan College.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

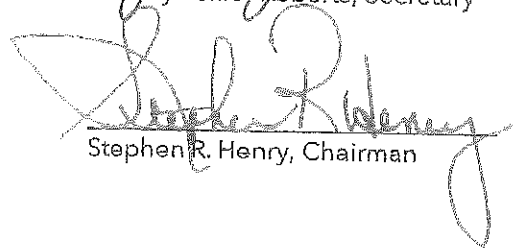
Dr. Scott Williams reported Owensboro Community & Technical College recently concluded a 23-year Economic Impact and Investment Analysis, which showed through alumni and direct spending, an additional \$196 million contribution to the counties OCTC serves.

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VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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


Johnny "Chic" Roberts, Secretary


Stephen R. Henry, Chairman

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