

## 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 January 10, 2024

The Board of Directors of the Green River Area Development District (GRADD) held its monthly meeting January 10, 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 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, Bill Markwell
McLEAN COUNTY:	Judge/Executive Curtis Dame, Mayor Betty Howard, Vicki Hughes
OHIO COUNTY:	Judge/Executive David Johnston, Mayor Jeff Fuqua, Mayor Paul Sandefur
UNION COUNTY:	Judge/Executive Adam O’Nan
WEBSTER COUNTY:	Judge/Executive Steve Henry, Mayor Pat Clark, Ryan Hammack

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS PRESENT

Green River Area Council on Aging - (Henrietta Harris)  
Green River Economic Development Corporation - Brad Davis  
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

**270.926.4433 | Fax: 270.684.0714 | GRADD.com | TDD Users: 800.648.6056**

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



BOARD OF DIRECTORS ABSENT

DAVIESS COUNTY:	Mayor Patsy Mayfield, Robert Howard
HANCOCK COUNTY:	All present
HENDERSON COUNTY:	Janeth Nicolas
McLEAN COUNTY:	All present
OHIO COUNTY:	All present
UNION COUNTY:	*Mayor Randy Greenwell, *Melissa Coker
WEBSTER COUNTY:	All present

COMMITTEE CHAIRS ABSENT

All present

GUESTS AND STAFF PRESENT

Mayor Beau Wright, City of Hartford  
Dr. Brian Parr, Murray State University  
Dr. Jason Warren, Henderson Community and Technical College  
Mayor Sharon Nell-Boyken, City of Livermore  
Tammy Belt, United Community Bank of West Kentucky  
Austin Wetherington, Congressman James Comer's Office  
Katie Marks, Congressman Brett Guthrie's Office  
Alex Caudill, Department for Local Government  
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  
Jessie Saalwaechter, Public Information Officer, GRADD  
Amy Matheny, Community Development Planner, GRADD  
Reenee Fogle, Fiscal Manager, GRADD  
Cheryl Peters, Accounting Clerk, GRADD  
Beth Ferguson, Accounting Clerk, GRADD  
Marissa Haight, Fiscal Contracts Coordinator, GRADD  
Lisa Flahardy, Aging Contracts Specialist, GRADD  
Jana Billingsley, Family Caregiver Program Specialist, GRADD  
Carrie Mann, Waiver Case Manager, GRADD  
Venus Smith, Waiver Case Manager, GRADD  
Libby Watson, Social Services Administrative Assistant, GRADD  
Kim Wells, Executive Assistant, GRADD  
Donna Behl, ADRC Counselor, GRADD

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Steve Henry called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. He opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Secretary's Report

Secretary Johnny "Chic" Roberts presented the minutes of the November 8, 2023 GRADD Board of Directors meeting for approval.

A motion was made by Johnny Roberts and seconded by Adam O'Nan to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2023 GRADD Board of Directors meeting. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

B. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Curtis Dame presented the Treasurer's Report for the periods of July 1, 2023 - October 31, 2023 and July 1, 2023 - November 30, 2023.

A motion was made by Brad Staton and seconded by David Johnston to approve the Treasurer's Report for the periods of July 1, 2023 - October 31, 2023 and July 1, 2023 - November 30, 2023, which is subject to audit. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Nominating Committee Report

Chairman Jeremy Moore reported the Nominating Committee met on December 15, 2023 and are making the following recommendations for the 2024 GRADD Board of Directors.

Officers for a one-year term ending on December 31, 2024:

Chairman	Hon. Steve Henry
Vice Chairman	Hon. Adam O'Nan
Secretary	Hon. Johnny "Chic" Roberts
Treasurer	Hon. Curtis Dame

Executive Committee Members for a one-year term ending on December 31, 2024:

Daviess	Hon. Charlie Castlen
Hancock	Hon. Johnny Roberts
Henderson	Hon. Brad Schneider
	Bill Markwell
McLean	Hon. Curtis Dame
Ohio	Hon. David Johnston
Union	Hon. Adam O'Nan

Webster	Hon. Steve Henry
Minority	Henrietta Harris
	Janeth Nichols
Emeritus	Robert Howard

The following have been nominated to serve as the Mayor's Representative for a two-year term ending on December 31, 2025:

Owensboro	Hon. Tom Watson
Daviess	Hon. Patsy Mayfield
Hancock	Hon. Chad Gregory
Henderson	Hon. David Sellers
Ohio	Hon. Paul Sandefur
Webster	Hon. Pat Clark

The following have been nominated to serve as the Citizen's Representative for three-year term ending on December 31, 2026:

Daviess	Lauren Osowicz
Hancock	Franklin Powers
Henderson	Bill Markwell
McLean	Vicki Hughes
Ohio	Hon. Jeff Fuqua
Union	Melissa Coker
Webster	Ryan Hammack

The following have been nominated to serve as the Minority Representative for three-year term ending on December 31, 2026:

Henrietta Harris  
Janeth Nicolas

The following have been nominated to serve as chairperson for a one-year term ending on December 31, 2024

Green River Area Council on Aging	Henrietta Harris
Green River Workforce Development Board	Mickey Dunbar
Green River Economic Development Corporation	Brad Davis
GRADD Regional Transportation	Hon. Adam O'Nan
GRADD Water Management Council	Hon. Johnny Roberts
GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council	Jeremy Moore

A motion was made by David Johnston and seconded by Adam O'Nan to approve the above-mentioned GRADD Board of Directors members. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

B. Murray State University (MSU) Veterinarian Resolution

Chairman Steve Henry introduced Dr. Brian Parr, Dean of Agriculture at Murray State University.

Dr. Brian Parr explained that currently there are only 32 veterinary colleges accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). Based on statistics collected by the AVMA, approximately 85,000 veterinarians are currently practicing in the United States. Though Kentucky funds a total of 168 veterinary slots, students must go out of state to obtain a veterinarian degree. Murray State University is proposing the creation of a School of Veterinary Medicine and are asking state and local officials for support to bring this project to fruition. The University is asking for endorsement from area agencies by passing a resolution showing support.

A motion was made by Adam O’Nan and seconded by Curtis Dame to approve the Murray State University School of Veterinary Medicine Resolution. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

C. Kentucky Intergovernmental Review

Joanna Shake and Jessie Saalwaechter gave an overview of the Intergovernmental Review process. Enacted in 1982 to foster the partnership between Federal, State and local governments. Though endorsement of an Executive Order (EO) project does not approve for funding, it informs state and local governments of planned projects in their areas and provides an opportunity to review and make comments. Executive Orders also inform applicants of potential impacts of the project and required actions.

D. Aging Program Contracts

Chair Henrietta Harris reported the Green River Area Council on Aging met on December 5, 2023 and is submitting recommendations for Legal Assistance and In-Home Services for Fiscal Years 2025 - 2027. The current providers, Kentucky Legal Aid and Comfort Keepers, were the only bidders for these programs, are in good standing and their proposals have been reviewed by GRADD staff, as well as approved by the Review Committee.

A motion was made by Henrietta Harris and seconded by Charlie Castlen to approve Kentucky Legal Aid for legal services and Comfort Keepers for in-home services for Fiscal Years 2025 - 2027. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

E. Committee Reports

1. Green River Area Council on Aging

Chair Henrietta Harris presented the minutes of the October 3, 2023 meeting of the Green River Area Council on Aging.

A motion was made by Henrietta Harris and seconded by David Johnston to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2023 Green River Area Council on Aging. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Chair Henrietta Harris reported the Green River Area Council on Aging met on December 5, 2023. Carl Lewis with Bluegrass Apothecary shared information about vaccines. The Nominating Committee presented the following slate of officers for the council's approval for 2024: Franklin Powers, Vice Chair and Connie O'Leary, Secretary. Contracts for Legal Assistance and In-Home Services were also discussed for Fiscal Years 2025 through 2027.

2. Green River Economic Development Corporation (EDC)

Chairman Brad Davis presented the minutes of the October 4, 2023 meeting of the Green River Economic Development Corporation.

A motion was made by Brad Davis and seconded by Pat Clark to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2023 Green River Economic Development Corporation. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Chairman Davis reported the Green River EDC met on December 6, 2023. At this meeting, the EDC approved a loan application for Hollison LLC in the amount of \$110,000 from the CARES Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) and appointed officers for 2024. They are Brad Davis, Chair; Kim Humphrey, Vice Chair; and Brandon Gentry, Secretary. Chairman Davis announced in late November 2023, the U.S. Economic Development Administration informed GRADD its Revolving Loan Fund received an A rating based on the Fiscal Year 2023 financial report. This is the highest possible rating for an EDA funded RLF and means GRADD will transition from semi-annual to annual reporting. Chairman Davis commended the Community & Economic Development staff on their efforts.

3. GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council

Chairman Jeremy Moore presented the minutes of the July 19, 2023 meeting of the GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council.

A motion was made by Jeremy Moore and seconded by Adam O'Nan to approve the minutes of the July 19, 2023 GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Chairman Jeremy More reported the Bylaws Subcommittee met to discuss proposed changes to the bylaws in preparation for the next Hazard Mitigation Plan update. The Committee is proposing to add representation from across the region for each of the FEMA Community Lifelines, add county emergency managers from each county in addition to the county Judge/Executive and setting a quarterly meeting schedule. These changes will be voted on at the next meeting.

GRADD staff submitted two Hazard Mitigation Grant Program applications to the State, one for the OMU Electric Resiliency Project in Daviess County and the Airline Road Flood Mitigation Scoping Project in Henderson County. GRADD staff will continue to work with Council members and communities to develop hazard mitigation projects which are ready for future funding opportunities.

4. GRADD Regional Transportation Committee (RTC)

Chairman Adam O’Nan presented the minutes of the August 31, 2023 meeting of the GRADD Regional Transportation Committee.

A motion was made by Adam O’Nan and seconded by Johnny Roberts to approve the minutes of the August 31, 2023 GRADD Regional Transportation Committee. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Chairman O’Nan reported the nominating committee recommended the following as officers for 2024: Judge Adam O’Nan, Chair; Brian Howard, Vice-Chair; and Donnie Mayton, Secretary. The Committee approved the 2024 Goals and Objectives and RTC Bylaws. It also reviewed the 2024 Kentucky Freight Network, Intermodal Connectors and Truck Parking Inventory data. Jennifer Alvey presented an update on the Safe Streets for All and the Kentucky Broadband Challenge projects.

5. GRADD Water Management Council

Chairman Johnny “Chic” Roberts presented the minutes of the October 19, 2023 GRADD Water Management Council.

A motion was made by Johnny Roberts and seconded by Brad Schneider to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2023 GRADD Water Management Council. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Chairman Roberts reported the GRADD Water Management Council met on December 15, 2023. At this meeting, 41 sewer projects totaling \$114.1 million and 99 drinking water projects totaling \$155.3 million were ranked for submission to the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (KIA). Projects were due for consideration in December.

There were 16 drinking water projects totaling \$86.9 million and 16 sewer projects totaling \$68 million submitted as well. Regional Water/Sewer Project rankings were due to Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (KIA) in December. The Water Management Council also approved 18 new drinking water projects and seven new sewer projects. BJ Bland from Department of Water (DOW) spoke to the Council and provided several ways to reduce the time required for operators to obtain certification.



6. Green River Workforce Development Board

Chairman Mickey Dunbar reported the Green River Workforce Development Board was recently monitored by the Department of Labor to assess the status of the Skills to Succeed (S2S) grant. A report from the monitor has not yet been received. The Workforce Development Department continues to serve employers and job seekers with the Skills to Succeed (S2S) grant to provide individualized employment recovery activities. Three-hundred fourteen participants have been enrolled, with over \$1,000,000 being obligated for training and \$81,000 obligated for supportive services. The Hire to Operate (H2O) grant is well underway with thirteen current apprentices enrolled with local water and wastewater utilities. The remaining four apprentice positions will be filled by early spring 2024. The Green River Reentry Council will host an expungement fair January 11, 2024 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Webster County Community Center. The \$40 Certificate of Eligibility will be covered for the first twenty-five qualified Webster County residents. Free background checks will be available from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

G. Frankfort and Washington Updates

Austin Wetherington reported he would assume the role of field representative for Congressman James Comer's office. He announced Congressman Comer's office assisted over 200 constituents with issues in 2023.

Chairman Steve Henry congratulated Alex Caudill on the birth of his daughter then asked Mr. Caudill to come forward and give an update from the Department for Local Government.

Mr. Caudill reported the state legislature is in full swing. Governor Andy Beshear has presented his budget proposal to the legislators. The Governor's Local Issues Conference will take place August 7 - 9, 2024, in Louisville.

Katie Marks reported she would be the new field representative for Congressman Brett Guthrie's office. Congressman Guthrie has been making district visits and has recently returned to Washington to work on the budget, which is a priority as the deadline to pass the budget is January 19, 2024.

Dr. Jason Warren announced Ryan Quarles was selected as president of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System. Dr. Warren suggested everyone take the opportunity to see Health Force 1, which is a mobile medical simulation vehicle and will be at Henderson Community College on January 24, 2024.

IV. INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

Jessie Saalwaechter presented the following regional Executive Orders:

**City of Lewisport New Water Treatment Plant**  
City of Lewisport KY2023-1103-1676



**Wathen Lane Upgrade 02-382**

City of Henderson KY2023-1115-1698

**Ohio County Lead Service Line Asset Management & Inventory Project**

Ohio County Water District KY2023-1129-1736

**OMU Lead Service Line Inventory Project**

Owensboro Municipal Utilities KY2023-1219-1822

**Yelvington-Knottsville Road Water Line Extension**

East Daviess County Water District KY2023-1208-1777

A motion was made by Brad Staton and seconded by Curtis Dame 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:

- The Feed Seniors Now Initiative was selected as a recipient of a 2023 National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Aliceann Wohlbruck Impact Award. This award recognizes innovative approaches to regional economic and community development;
- The Green River Workforce Development Board was awarded \$1.5 million through the Department of Labor's Quality Jobs, Equity, Strategy and Training (QUEST) Dislocated Worker Grant. The grant will assist dislocated workers and long-term unemployed in finding a career with a sustaining wage, focusing on marginalized populations;
- Webster County Fiscal Court was awarded \$150,000 from the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) Strategic Planning Program grant. Funds will be used to develop a comprehensive economic development plan focusing on economic diversification and resilience;
- Owensboro Municipal Utilities was granted \$1,000,000 in 100-percent forgivable loans from Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (KIA) for their Lead Service Line Inventory Project;
- Ohio County Water District was granted \$185,000 in 100-percent forgivable loans from KIA for their Lead Service Line Inventory Project;
- The Cities of Sturgis, Fordsville and Uniontown were selected for direct technical assistance from KIA to prepare their Lead Service Line Inventory Projects;
- Daviess County Water District was awarded \$640,000 from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to construct a new waterline on Daniels Lane and Hayden Road to provide a backup waterline to Owensboro Health Regional Hospital;

- Habitat for Humanity of Owensboro - Daviess County and Daviess County Fiscal Court were awarded \$1,000,000 from Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for their Neighborhood Development Project, in which 12 new homes will be built; and
- Governor Andy Beshear was in Ohio County for a ribbon cutting at WPT Nonwovens Corporation's \$19.5 million state-of-the-art manufacturing facility. The project will create 35 new jobs. Founded in 2008, the company is a third-generation family-owned nonwoven manufacturer located in Beaver Dam.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Joanna Shake made the following comments:

- Welcome to GRADD: Venus Smith and Carrie Mann, Waiver Case Managers and Amy Matheny, Community Development Planner;
- GRADD was honored to receive the Ohio County Chamber of Commerce's quarterly Chamber Excellence Award;
- GRADD's Regional Resiliency Coordinator/Economic Development Specialist, Colie Smith, presented at the NADO Annual Training Conference in Cleveland, Ohio;
- The Silver Bells Project wrapped up in December. GRADD staff packed 250 gift bags for delivery to personal care home residents;
- A vaccine clinic will be held on February 2, 2024 from 10 am-12 pm at Poole's Pharmacy in Owensboro. Flu, COVID, pneumonia and shingles vaccines will be available for free to people aged 55+ or with a disability. Vaccine recipients will receive a t-shirt and a gift card; and
- During the 2023 open enrollment period for Medicare Part D, State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) counselors in the GRADD region helped beneficiaries save a grand total of \$522,197.52. SHIP counselors help Medicare beneficiaries compare available prescription plans to find the plan that best fits the client's needs.

Mrs. Shake noted one client was able to save over \$300,000 on prescriptions with the assistance of Union County Senior Center Coordinator Melissa Polities.


VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Steve Henry presented out-going board members Tammy Belt and Mayor Beau Wright with a token of appreciation. He noted Nate Pagan would also be rotating off the Board but was unable to attend the meeting. Chairman Henry thanked all three for their leadership and direction during their tenure on the GRADD Board of Directors.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

  
Johnny "Chic" Roberts, Secretary

  
Stephen R. Henry, Chairman

/kw