



300 GRADD Way
Owensboro, Kentucky
42301-0200

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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 March 12, 2025

The Board of Directors of the Green River Area Development District (GRADD) held its monthly meeting March 12, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. The meeting was held at the Green River Area Development District, 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, Lauren Osowicz, Nate Pagan
HANCOCK COUNTY:	Judge/Executive Johnny Roberts, Mayor Chad Gregory, Franklin Powers
HENDERSON COUNTY:	Mayor David Sellers
McLEAN COUNTY:	Judge/Executive Curtis Dame, 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

GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council - Jeremy Moore
Green River Workforce Development Board - Mickey Dunbar
Green River Economic Development Corporation - Brad Davis
Green River Transportation Committee - (Judge/Executive Adam O’Nan)

*Excused absence



Johnny "Chic" Roberts, Chairman | Adam O’Nan, Vice Chairman | Curtis Dame, Secretary | Charlie Castlen, Treasurer | Joanna Shake, Executive Director

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS ABSENT

DAVISS COUNTY: *Henrietta Harris, *Robert Howard
HANCOCK COUNTY: All present
HENDERSON COUNTY: *Judge/Executive Brad Schneider, Bill Markwell,
*Mayor Brad Staton, Janeth Nicolas
McLEAN COUNTY: All present
OHIO COUNTY *Mayor Paul Sandefur
UNION COUNTY: All present
WEBSTER COUNTY: *Judge/Executive Steve Henry, *Ryan Hammack

COMMITTEE CHAIRS ABSENT

Green River Area Council on Aging - (*Henrietta Harris)
GRADD Water Management Council - *Eric Hickman

GUESTS AND STAFF PRESENT

Hunter Whitaker, Senator Mitch McConnell's Office
Katie Marks, Congressman Brett Guthrie's Office
Alex Caudill, Department for Local Government
Mayor LaDonna Tapp, City of Uniontown
Commissioner Jonathan Shell, Kentucky Department of Agriculture
Jeremy Ferguson, Kentucky Department of Agriculture
Kara Gardner, City of Slaughters
Cheryl Burks McCary, Daviess County Extension Office
Whitney Risley, Henderson Economic Development
Missy Vanderpool, Henderson Economic Development
Joe Berry, Public Life Foundation/Serve Kentucky
Mike Baker, Hancock County Industrial Foundation
Lona Morton, Hancock County Senior Services
Scott Hagerman, *Messenger-Inquirer*
Joanna Shake, Executive Director, GRADD
Mariah Myres, Director of Finance & Human Resources, GRADD
Michelle Drake, Director of Workforce Development, GRADD
Sarah Duncan, Director of Waiver Services, GRADD
Bryan Kennedy, Communications Officer, GRADD
Jennifer Alvey, GIS Analyst, GRADD
Tom Lovett, MPO Coordinator, GRADD
Tiffany Donahue, Local Government Analyst, GRADD
Amy Matheny, Community Development Planner, GRADD
Janet Johnston-Crowe, Planning and Zoning Advisor, GRADD
Alex Kretzer, Local Government Advisor, GRADD
Marissa Haight, Fiscal Contracts Coordinator, GRADD
Beth Ferguson, Accounting Clerk, GRADD
Amber Gebhard, Community Services Manager, GRADD
Libby Watson, Social Services Administrative Assistant, GRADD
Charity DeHart, Waiver Finance Manager, GRADD

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Lexi Camron, Family Caregiver Program Specialist, GRADD
Kathryn Gould, ADRC/SHIP Counselor, GRADD
Megan Joines, Waiver Case Manager, GRADD
Emiley Fallaway, Waiver Case Manager, GRADD
Donna Behl, ADRC Counselor, GRADD

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Johnny "Chic" Roberts called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and led with prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Roberts welcomed guests to the meeting.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Secretary's Report

Due to incorrect information the minutes from the February 12, 2025 GRADD Board of Directors meeting will be presented at the April meeting.

B. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Charlie Castlen presented the Treasurer's Report for the period of July 1, 2024 - January 31, 2025.

A motion was made by Charlie Castlen and seconded by Curtis Dame to approve the Treasurer's Report for the period of July 1, 2024 - January 31, 2025, which is subject to audit. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Guest Speaker

Chair Johnny "Chic" Roberts introduced Commissioner Jonathan Shell, Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

Commissioner Jonathan Shell spoke on the future of Kentucky agriculture and how agriculture drives local economies by creating jobs and supporting businesses especially in rural communities. Commissioner Shell explained how agriculture is very much a critical component of economic development. His goal is to provide education to the communities on why agriculture is important from a health perspective. Additionally, Commissioner Shell spoke about farm to table initiatives including Owensboro Health and the local school districts.

B. AmeriCorps Proclamation

Joe Berry, as a member of the Serve Kentucky State Commission presented a proclamation declaring March 9 - 15, 2025 as AmeriCorps Week.

Mr. Berry noted that the AmeriCorps program started in 1994 . Since that time, in Kentucky, there have been over 16,000 people that have volunteered in the program logging in over 25 million hours of voluntarism in their communities. In the last year, volunteers served just under 762,000 hours and recruited over 8,700 volunteers statewide.

A motion was made by Adam O'Nan and seconded by Curtis Dame to declare March 9 -15, 2025 as AmeriCorps Week in the GRADD Region. A vote was take and the motion carried.

C. Fiscal Year 2025 Revised Budget

Treasurer Charlie Castlen presented the Fiscal Year 2025 Revised Budget for review. He reported that the Finance Committee met on February 24, 2025 and gave preliminary approval of the revised budget. Treasurer Castlen noted for the revenue side, this modification updates each line item to reflect actual award amounts and allocations. The Waiver and Social Services Departments continue to have the largest increase, specifically for the Medicaid Waiver program. GRADD currently serves approximately 760 clients through this program, with nearly \$2.4 million in wages each month. Workforce Development includes the addition of the Putting Young Kentuckians to Work partnership with Kentuckiana Works. This is a two-year program with a total award of \$790,476.

A motion was made by Charlie Castlen and seconded by David Johnston to approve the Fiscal Year 2025 Revised Budget. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

D. Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Planning Discretionary Grant/Daviess County Resolution

Tom Lovett reported at the February meeting the GRADD Board of Directors approved the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Planning Discretionary Grant for Daviess County. This \$200,000 grant is funded by \$160,000 of Planning Discretionary funds and a \$40,000 local match, which Daviess County Fiscal Court has formally committed. Mr. Lovett noted in order to finalize the agreement, the GRADD Board of Directors would need to approve a resolution.

A motion was made by Mickey Dunbar and seconded by Randy Greenwell to approve the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Planning Discretionary Grant/Daviess County Resolution. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

E. Revolving Loan Fund Loan Summary

Alex Kretzer reported Andy Rideout is requesting \$100,000 to purchase new equipment and fund working capital for Days Garden Center in Henderson. Mr. Rideout recently purchased the business from the previous owner in 2024. Days Garden Center provides trees, shrubs, annual/perennial/ vegetable bedding plants as well as landscaping services.

A motion was made by Brad Davis and seconded by Adam O’Nan to approve the Days Garden Center loan in the amount of \$100,000. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

F. Service Awards

Chair Johnny “Chic” Roberts presented a 20-year service award to Sarah Duncan. He expressed his gratitude for her dedication and valuable contributions to GRADD.

F. Committee Reports

1. Green River Area Council on Aging

Vice Chair Franklin Powers explained an outline of the Regional Plan on Aging Update had been provided to each member. This outline provides the funding sources, as well as the direct provider for each service. For Fiscal Year 2026, services and providers will remain the same as the current fiscal year. The budget for fiscal year 2026 will not be available until June 2025.

A motion was made by Franklin Powers and seconded by Charlie Castlen to approve the Fiscal Year 2026 Regional Plan on Aging Update. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

2. Green River Economic Development Corporation (EDC)

Chair Brad Davis presented the December 5, 2024 minutes of the Green River Economic Development Corporation.

A motion was made by Brad Davis and seconded by Adam O’Nan to approve the December 5, 2024 Minutes of the Green River Economic Development Corporation. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Chair Davis reported the Green River Economic Development Corporation met on March 5, 2025. At this meeting, a loan application for Days Garden Center in the amount of \$100,000 was reviewed and approved. Also, approved was a moratorium on loan payments for Foam Solutions for six months, with interest accrual. Alex Kretzer has been working with eight business owners for a potential total volume of \$703,000 in loan requests and an estimated 70 full-time equivalent jobs created to develop their projects. Mr. Kretzer continues to market the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) throughout the region.

3. GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council

Chair Jeremy Moore reported the GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council will meet on March 18, 2025 to discuss the Hazard Mitigation Plan update process. The National Weather Service meeting was a success with valuable data learned. The Hazard Mitigation Public Survey is complete and has been released to the public. Currently, 40 responses have been received from Daviess, Ohio and McLean Counties. The community meetings for the Hazard Mitigation Plan that were scheduled to occur last month have been postponed pending funding from the Kentucky Emergency Management. Meetings will be rescheduled immediately upon receipt of funds.

4. GRADD Regional Transportation Committee (RTC)

Chair Adam O'Nan reported Jennifer Alvey submitted updates to the Rail and Freight Loading database. The next RTC meeting is scheduled for March 24, 2025. Chair O'Nan encouraged attendance as the committee will be selecting projects to sponsor in SHIFT.

5. GRADD Water Management Council

Mayor Betty Howard reported Infrastructure Planner Dana Garrett has been conducting system visits with all the systems in the region. These will conclude by early April. The next GRADD Water Management Council meeting will be March 20, 2025.

6. Green River Workforce Development Board

Chair Mickey Dunbar presented the February 5, 2025 minutes of the Green River Workforce Development Board.

A motion was made by Adam O'Nan and seconded by David Johnston to approve the February 5, 2025 minutes of the Green River Workforce Development Board. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Chair Dunbar reported on March 13, 2025 the Green River Workforce Development Board is hosting Empower U 2025, Youth Summit. The summit will take place from approximately 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Owensboro Community and Technical College. The summit will provide students with the opportunity to participate in educational leadership sessions led by various community leaders, local business professionals and educators. Also, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) requires the Governor to review and certify each local board every two years. The Green River Workforce Development Board has received its recertification effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027.

G. Frankfort and Washington Updates

Hunter Whitaker reported that Senator Mitch McConnell sponsored the Chief Herbert D. Proffitt Act which aims to amend the Public Safety Officers' Benefits program to ensure that families of retired law enforcement officers, who are killed in line of duty, are eligible for benefits. Senator McConnell introduced the Protecting American Farmlands Act legislation that reduces the tax burden on selling farmland, encouraging farmers to keep land in agricultural production and curbing the loss of farmland across the country.

Katie Marks reported now that the Continuing Resolution has been signed, Congressman Brett Guthrie is eager to get back to regular business. The Congressional Art Competition deadline is April 9, 2025. This is open to middle school and high school students. Also, Ms. Marks noted the service academy application portal is open.

Alex Caudill thanked GRADD for hosting the County Budget Workshop in February. The Department for Local Government has welcomed a new Chief of Staff, Billie Renee Johnson. Ms. Johnson will be familiar to most as she was the Executive Director of the Federal Grants Office. A storm relief fund has been established after the devastating floods in Kentucky. Donations may be made at <https://governor.ky.gov/flood-resources>.

IV. INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEWS

Tiffany Donahue, Local Government Analyst presented the following regional Executive Orders:

Locust Force Main Replacement/Rehabilitation
Regional Water Resource Agency KY2025-0205-0085

OCWD Unserved Population Waterline Project
Ohio County Water District KY2025-0207-0094

Owensboro Grain Riverbank Stabilization Project
City of Owensboro KY2025-0221-0127

Fairground Lane Sidewalk Project
City of Henderson KY2025-0227-0140

Merrill Trail Extension
City of Henderson KY2025-0227-0141

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

V. CHAIR/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Chair Johnny "Chic" Roberts thanked the staff from Senator Mitch McConnell and Congressman Brett Guthrie's offices for their assistance in scheduling visits for the board members that attended the National Association of Development Organizations Conference in Washington.

Executive Director Joanna Shake made the following announcements:

- Welcomed new staff Janet Johnston Crowe, Planning & Zoning Advisor and Kathryn Gould, ADRC/SHIP Program Counselor;
- Several GRADD members attended the BoldAge PACE Community Advisory Council (CAC) meeting to collaborate with other community partners. The CAC meets quarterly to discuss how to better meet the needs of older adults within the service area, maintaining their goals of independence and aging in place;
- Community & Economic Development staff attended the recent Delta Regional Authority training in Memphis; and
- Alish Smith participated in a College and Career event at Owensboro Christian Church.

Mrs. Shake thanked those members who attended Area Development District (ADD) Day in Frankfort on March 13, 2025.

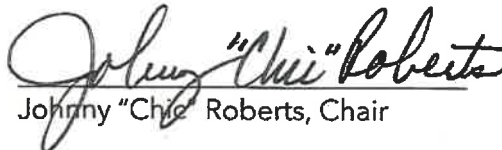
VI. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Johnny "Chic" Roberts invited everyone to stay for lunch and there are to go containers if schedules do not permit members and guests to stay.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

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


Curtis Dame, Secretary


Johnny "Chic" Roberts, Chair