



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 January 8, 2025

The Board of Directors of the Green River Area Development District (GRADD) held its monthly meeting January 8, 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

DAVISS COUNTY:	Judge/Executive Charlie Castlen, Mayor Patsy Mayfield, Henrietta Harris, Lauren Osowicz, Nate Pagan
HANCOCK COUNTY:	Judge/Executive Johnny Roberts, Mayor Chad Gregory, Franklin Powers
HENDERSON COUNTY:	Judge/Executive Brad Schneider, Mayor David Sellers, Mayor Brad Staton, Janeth Nicolas
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
WEBSTER COUNTY:	Judge/Executive Steve Henry, Mayor Pat Clark, Ryan Hammack

COMMITTEE CHAIRS PRESENT

GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council - Jeremy Moore
GRADD Water Management Council - Eric Hickman
Green River Area Council on Aging - (Henrietta Harris)
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

DAVIESS COUNTY:	*Robert Howard
HANCOCK COUNTY:	All present
HENDERSON COUNTY:	*Bill Markwell
McLEAN COUNTY:	All present
OHIO COUNTY:	*Mayor Jeff Fuqua, *Mayor Paul Sandefur
UNION COUNTY:	*Melissa Coker
WEBSTER COUNTY:	All present

COMMITTEE CHAIRS ABSENT

GUESTS AND STAFF PRESENT

Mark Lord, Congressman Brett Guthrie's Office
Katie Marks, Congressman Brett Guthrie's Office
Austin Wetherington, Representative James Comer's Office
Alex Caudill, Department for Local Government
Mayor Sharon Nell Boyken, City of Livermore
Mayor LaDonna Tapp, City of Uniontown
Fletcher Long, Kentucky Reentry and Employment Services
Aaron Poynter, Kentucky Reentry and Employment Services
Michael Uptagoff, Kentucky Reentry and Employment Services
Joanna Shake, Executive Director, GRADD
Blake Edge, Director of Community & Economic Development, GRADD
Mariah Myres, Director of Finance & Human Resources, GRADD
Leslie Wilson, Director of Social Services, GRADD
Michelle Drake, Director of Workforce, GRADD
Tiffany Donahue, Local Government Analyst, GRADD
Alex Kretzer, Local Government Advisor, GRADD
Marissa Haight, Fiscal Contracts Coordinator, GRADD
Beth Ferguson, Accounting Clerk, GRADD
Reenee Fogle, Fiscal Manager, GRADD
Kelsey Smith, Payroll Coordinator, GRADD
Amber Gebhard, Community Services Manager, GRADD
Lisa Flahardy, Aging Contracts Specialist, GRADD
Jill Gray, Assistant Director of Workforce Development, GRADD
Paula Payne, Workforce Development Coordinator, GRADD
Alisha Smith, Workforce Development Youth Coordinator, GRADD
Libby Watson, Social Services Administrative Assistant, GRADD
Kim Wells, Executive Assistant, 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

Secretary Curtis Dame presented the minutes of the November 20, 2024 GRADD Board of Directors meeting for approval.

A motion was made by Curtis Dame and seconded by David Johnston to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2024 GRADD Board of Directors meeting. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Secretary Curtis Dame presented the minutes of the December 11, 2024 GRADD Board of Directors meeting for approval.

A motion was made by Curtis Dame and seconded by Brad Davis to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2024 GRADD Board of Directors meeting. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

B. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Charlie Castlen presented the Treasurer's Report for the period of July 1, 2024 - November 30, 2024.

A motion was made by Charlie Castlen and seconded by Adam O'Nan to approve the Treasurer's Report for the period of July 1, 2024 - November 30, 2024, which is subject to audit. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Treasurer Castlen noted the Finance Department reported no concerns with revenue or expenses. The Repairs and Maintenance line is relatively high due to some plumbing repairs. Quotes for repair and/or replacing sections of the GRADD building roof will be sought and will be brought before the Finance Committee along with a revised Fiscal Year 2025 budget.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Guest Speaker

Chair Johnny "Chic" Roberts introduced Aaron Poynter, Director of Kentucky Reentry and Employment Services.

Mr. Poynter gave an overview of Reentry and Employment Services. The department facilitates orientation classes by partnering with local judicial entities to create referral and accountability pipelines for individuals who are seeking employment after incarceration.

It oversees a component of SB 90 which provides eligible Kentuckians with behavioral health disorder treatment and recovery support services instead of incarceration. It results in dismissal of the charges upon successful completion and coordinated with the Kentucky Department of Transportation to facilitate the completion of identification requests for individuals participating in a credentialed training program, Adult Education Program or work-release program. In 2024, 1,004 incarcerated individuals were served in pre-release classes; 420 enrolled in Putting Kentuckians First; 318 enrolled in SB 90 assistance; 400 were provided with general employment referral assistance; and 103 identification credentials were obtained. Mr. Poynter went on to explain the difference the program is making in these individuals' lives. Most participants are at the lowest point in their lives and will come back to report after finishing one of the programs, they secured a job, an interview or were able to get their children back and that is where the planning and hope are cultivated. Plans for "office days" in the GRADD region are being discussed and once those are established, Mr. Poynter and his team will reach out to county leadership to keep them updated. Mr. Poynter introduced Fletcher Long. Mr. Long will be the Green River Region's point of contact.

B. Aging Program Contracts

Chair Henrietta Harris, on behalf of Green River Area Council on Aging, is requesting approval for aging services' providers. Members of the Council on Aging and GRADD Board of Directors met November 20, 2024 to review and evaluate proposals for catered meals and senior center/supportive services. The current providers were the only bidders. Review of the proposals found all bidders met the requirements of a qualified bidder. With no competitive bids, the review committee granted GRADD staff the ability to enter non-competitive negotiations with each applicant. During this process, areas of concern were addressed to ensure proposals met program regulations and budget requirements. As a result, all applicants being qualified bidders and areas of concern having been addressed, it is the recommendation to approve the following as service providers for Fiscal Years 2026, 2027 and 2028.

Catered Meal Services

- Five Star Breaktime Solutions, Inc.

Supportive Services/Senior Centers

- Senior Community Center of Owensboro-Daviess County
- Hancock County Fiscal Court
- The Gathering Place
- McLean County Fiscal Court
- Ohio County Fiscal Court
- Union County Fiscal Court
- Webster County Fiscal Court

A motion was made by Henrietta Harris and seconded by Brad Davis to approve the above-mentioned catered meal provider and supportive service providers for Fiscal Years 2026, 2027 and 2028. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

C. Committee Reports

1. Green River Area Council on Aging

Chair Harris presented the October 1, 2024 minutes of the Green River Area Council on Aging.

A motion was made by Henrietta Harris and seconded by Charlie Castlen to approve the October 1, 2024 minutes of the Green River Area Council on Aging. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Chair Harris reported senior centers across the District have been closed during the recent inclement weather. Prior to the inclement weather, home-delivered meal clients received a five-day package of shelf stable meals. A second round of shelf stable meals have been ordered for delivery to clients. During the closures, senior center staff have made phone calls to clients to ensure their safety and well-being.

2. Green River Economic Development Corporation (EDC)

Chair Brad Davis presented the September 4, 2024 minutes of the Green River Economic Development Corporation.

A motion was made by Brad Davis and seconded by Brad Schneider to approve the September 4, 2024 Minutes of the Green River Economic Development Corporation. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Chair Brad Davis reported Alex Kretzer has been working with several businesses in the District to develop projects for future applications to the Revolving Loan Fund.

3. GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council

Chair Jeremy Moore reported the GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council will meet January 21, 2025 with guest speakers from the US National Weather Service Paducah. This meeting will be a hazard-based discussion to add data for the Hazard Mitigation Plan updates. A Hazard Mitigation Survey was released to the public prior to the holidays. Chair Moore encouraged the Board and guests to complete the survey. The survey can be found on the GRADD website and social media. The Plan Update community meetings will commence this month with Daviess County and run through the Fall of 2025.

Chris Cunningham will be reaching out to local officials to schedule these meetings 60 days in advance for each respective county.

4. GRADD Regional Transportation Committee (RTC)

Chair Adam O’Nan reported Jennifer Alvey met with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet for the semi-annual review. Ms. Alvey will be attending the Kentuckians for Better Transportation Conference later in January in Louisville. The next GRADD Regional Transportation Committee meeting is scheduled for February 24, 2024.

5. GRADD Water Management Council

Chair Eric Hickman presented the September 26, 2024 minutes of the GRADD Water Management Council.

A motion was made by Eric Hickman and seconded by Brad Davis to approve the September 26, 2024 minutes of the GRADD Water Management Council. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Chair Eric Hickman reported GRADD submitted 46 open projects for possible State Revolving Fund funding. Invitations to apply will not be announced until late summer of 2025. The next GRADD Water Management Council meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2025.

6. Green River Workforce Development Board

Chair Mickey Dunbar reported the Green River Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Title I Program was recently monitored by the State and revealed no financial or programmatic observations or findings. The Board looks forward to providing services to individuals and employers in the region through Putting Young Kentuckians to Work. This initiative focuses on assisting individuals aged 16-24 with short-term training, work experience, on-the-job training and other services to secure full-time employment that provides a livable wage. A Rebuild and Rehire Career & Resource Fair will be held on January 30, 2024 from 3:30 PM – 6:30 PM at Unity Fellowship Church in Owensboro. The next meeting of the Green River Workforce Development Board will be on February 5, 2025.

E. Frankfort and Washington Updates

Mark Lord reported Congressman Brett Guthrie has been selected as the next Chair of the Energy and Commerce Commission. This Committee has authority over energy, health care, telecommunications and consumer product safety policies.

Austin Wetherington reported during 2024 23,000 constituents reached out to Congressman James Comers office for assistance. Of those, 561 were from the counties of Henderson, Union and Webster. Most of the calls were questions regarding veteran issues or Internal Revenue Service questions.

Alex Caudill reported Governor Andy Beshear has issued a State of Emergency for Kentucky after the recent ice/snowstorm. Governor Beshear will present the State of the Commonwealth Address tonight at 6:00 p.m. GRADD will be hosting a Department for Local Government County Budget Workshop on February 27, 2025.

IV. INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEWS

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

Wing Avenue-Wimsatt Court Waterline Upgrade

Daviess County Water District KY2024-1209-1645

OMU's Resilient Initiative: Tower 22 Replacement

Owensboro Municipal Utilities KY2024-1209-1646

A motion was made by Pat Clark 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 made the following announcement:

- Congratulations to Henderson on receiving \$3,317,672 for their Drive to Zero project from the Federal Highway Administration Safe Streets for All program. GRADD was able to secure \$805,259 for the match portion through HB 9 funding. The plan is to design and select safety features that are proven countermeasures to reduce crashes on the roadways.

Executive Director Joanna Shake made the following announcements:

- The Silver Bells holiday bags were assembled and delivered to approximately 250 residents of long-term personal care home facilities in Daviess, Hancock and Henderson counties; and
- Bryan Kennedy will be joining GRADD as the new Communications Director on January 16, 2025.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

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



Curtis Dame, Secretary



Johnny "Chic" Roberts, Chair

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