



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 February 12, 2025

The Board of Directors of the Green River Area Development District (GRADD) held its monthly meeting February 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:	Judge/Executive Brad Schneider, Mayor David Sellers, Mayor Brad Staton, Janeth Nicolas
McLEAN COUNTY:	Judge/Executive Curtis Dame, Vicki Hughes
OHIO COUNTY:	Judge/Executive David Johnston, Mayor Jeff Fuqua, Mayor Paul Sandefur
UNION COUNTY:	Judge/Executive Adam O'Nan, Mayor Randy Greenwell, Melissa Coker
WEBSTER COUNTY:	Judge/Executive Steve Henry

COMMITTEE CHAIRS PRESENT

GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council - Jeremy Moore
GRADD Water Management Council - Eric Hickman
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 | Joanne Shale, Executive Director

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS ABSENT

DAVIESS COUNTY:	*Henrietta Harris, *Robert Howard
HANCOCK COUNTY:	All present
HENDERSON COUNTY:	Bill Markwell
McLEAN COUNTY:	*Mayor Betty Howard
OHIO COUNTY	All present
UNION COUNTY:	All present
WEBSTER COUNTY:	*Mayor Pat Clark, *Ryan Hammack

COMMITTEE CHAIRS ABSENT

Green River Area Council on Aging - (*Henrietta Harris)

GUESTS AND STAFF PRESENT

Hunter Whitaker, Senator Mitch McConnell's Office
Mark Lord, Congressman Brett Guthrie's Office
Clark Arnett, Senator Rand Paul's Office
Alex Caudill, Department for Local Government
Mayor LaDonna Tapp, City of Uniontown
Kara Gardner, City of Slaughters
Joanna Shake, Executive Director, GRADD
Mariah Myres, Director of Finance & Human Resources, GRADD
Leslie Wilson, Director of Social Services, GRADD
Bryan Kennedy, Communications Officer, GRADD
Tom Lovett, MPO Coordinator, 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
Charity DeHart, Waiver Finance Manager, GRADD
Heather Mullican, Waiver Case Manager, GRADD
Ashley Dowell, Waiver Case Manager, GRADD
Paula Payne, Workforce Development Coordinator, GRADD
Alisha Smith, Workforce Development Youth Coordinator, 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 January 8, 2025 GRADD Board of Directors meeting for approval.

A motion was made by Curtis Dame and seconded by Charlie Castlen to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2025 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 - December 31, 2024.

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

Treasurer Castlen noted there are no concerns with reported revenue or expenses. The Finance Committee will meet on February 24, 2025, to discuss a revised Fiscal Year 2025 budget.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Guest Speaker

Chair Johnny "Chic" Roberts introduced Alisha Smith, Workforce Development Youth Coordinator.

Ms. Smith shared an update on the "Putting Young Kentuckians to Work" initiative. This statewide program is designed to enhance employment opportunities for Kentuckians aged 16 to 24 by addressing existing gaps and boosting economic stability. It offers a range of services, including career exploration, employer outreach, job placement support, on-the-job training, short-term occupational skills training and additional assistance to help participants succeed. The Green River Area Workforce Board is assisting employers in meeting their workforce needs while helping young Kentuckians achieve higher income levels as they gain valuable new skills. Ms. Smith provided her contact information for the members.

B. Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Planning Discretionary Grant/Daviess County

Tom Lovett, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Coordinator reported the Owensboro-Daviess County MPO is conducting a study to assess the feasibility of adding an interchange to I-165 in southern Daviess County.

The \$200,000 grant is funded by \$160,000 of Planning Discretionary funds and a \$40,000 local match. As the fiscal authority for the MPO, GRADD is required to fund the local match. As the ultimate beneficiary, Daviess County Fiscal Court has formally committed the \$40,000 to cover this cost. Mr. Lovett noted in order to move forward, the GRADD Board of Directors would need to approve for the Executive Director to sign an agreement with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet for the study.

A motion was made by Mickey Dunbar and seconded by Randy Greenwell authorizing the Executive Director to sign the agreement between the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and GRADD for the I-165 interchange study in Daviess County. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

C. Providence Intermediary Relending Program Application

Alex Kretzer, Local Government Analyst, explained the City of Providence has applied for funding through GRADD's Intermediary Relending Program in the amount of \$45,000. The purpose of this project is to replace and clean the filter media to improve the drinking water filtration for distribution. The total project cost is \$75,000 and \$30,000 will be paid by the City of Providence. Mr. Kretzer noted the GRADD Executive Committee approved the loan contingent upon the Providence City Council resolution approval, committing \$30,000 to the project.

A motion was made by Mickey Dunbar and seconded by David Johnston to approve the City of Providence Intermediary Relending Loan Application contingent upon the City of Providence City Council resolution designating funding to the project. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

D. Legislative Update

Joanna Shake provided updates on several legislative bills impacting local governments, utilities and workforce development. Notable bills included the establishment of a statewide grant database and tax incentives for first-time homebuyers. Mrs. Shake encouraged board members to attend the Area Development District (ADD) Day in Frankfort at the Capitol on February 13, 2025.

E. Service Awards

Chair Johnny "Chic" Roberts presented 15-year service awards to Heather Mullican and Britney Ammon. He expressed his gratitude for their dedication and valuable contributions to GRADD.

F. Committee Reports

1. Green River Area Council on Aging

Franklin Powers presented the December 3, 2024 minutes of the Green River Area Council on Aging.

A motion was made by Franklin Powers and seconded by David Johnston to approve the December 3, 2024 minutes of the Green River Area Council on Aging. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Franklin Powers reported Green River Area Council on Aging met on February 4, 2025. Reports were provided by legal services and in-home services providers, as well as GRADD program managers. Leslie Wilson presented the Fiscal Year 2026 Update for the Regional Plan on Aging.

2. Green River Economic Development Corporation (EDC)

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 presented the November 19, 2024 minutes of the GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council.

A motion was made by Jeremy Moore and seconded by Brad Davis to approve the November 19, 2024 minutes of the GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

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 big success with valuable data learned. The Hazard Mitigation Public Survey is complete and has been released to the public. Currently, 30 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 met with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet for the semi-annual review. Ms. Alvey attended the Kentuckians for Better Transportation Conference in January in Louisville.

Secretary Curtis Dame and Jennifer Alvey made a presentation at the Kentucky County Judge Executives Association (KCJEA) Winter Conference, "The Power of Where: GIS Services." This presentation focused on how counties and area development districts (ADDs) can use maps to make data-driven decisions. The next GRADD Regional Transportation Committee meeting is scheduled for March 24, 2024.

5. GRADD Water Management Council

Chair Eric Hickman reported the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (KIA) approved two projects in the region, the City of Sturgis Wastewater Plant Improvements Project and the City of Morganfield Wastewater Treatment Plant Planning and Design Project. Infrastructure Planner, Dana Garrett, has been conducting system visits and will complete these meetings by early April. The next meeting of the GRADD Water Management Council is scheduled for March 2, 2025.

6. Green River Workforce Development Board

Chair Mickey Dunbar reported a Rebuild and Rehire Career & Resource Fair was held on January 30, 2025. Ninety job seekers were welcomed and attendees were offered a blanket and a to-go meal. Comments from attendees as well as participating employers were overwhelmingly positive. A short video from the event was shared. The Green River Workforce Development Board is preparing for a youth summit scheduled for March 13, 2025. The Summit will provide students with the opportunity to participate in educational leadership sessions led by various community leaders, local business professionals and educators.

E. Frankfort and Washington Updates

Hunter Whitaker reported that Senator Mitch McConnell sponsored the Career Act of 2025, which focuses on housing and workforce reentry for individuals affected by the opioid epidemic. Additionally, Senator McConnell sponsored the White Oak Resilience Act, aimed at conserving White Oak trees, which are essential for crafting bourbon barrels.

Mark Lord provided a report from Congressman Brett Guthrie's office on Medicaid reform and budget planning as the continuation resolution expires on March 14, 2025.

Alex Caudill reported Governor Andy Beshear announced several grant awards for the GRADD region which included a bridge replacement in Ohio County. Land and Water Conservation Funding through the National Park Services was announced for Hancock, Ohio and Webster Counties and the Cities of Clay and Dixon totaling \$468,000. All submitted projects through the Land and Water Conservation Fund were approved. Doug Taylor with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet has retired after 30 years of service with the Commonwealth. West Kentucky Night will be held February 13, 2025 in Frankfort. GRADD will be hosting a County Budget Workshop on February 27, 2025 at the GRADD office beginning at 9:00 a.m. Governor Beshear will be in Owensboro and Henderson on February 28, 2025 and the Governor's Local Issues Conference will be held August 13-15, 2025 at the Galt House in Louisville.

Clark Arnold reported Senator Rand Paul is the chair of the Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee and is proposing a bill that would prevent the act of threatening a government shutdown in order to get a resolution passed.

IV. CHAIR/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Chair Johnny "Chic" Roberts made the following announcement:

- Mayor Patsy Mayfield was recently featured in the latest edition of "Kentucky City." The article highlights her service to the community, including roles as a bus driver, city commissioner, mayor and volunteer firefighter: and
- Several future board meetings have conflicts and it was decided at the Executive Committee meeting alternate dates would be considered as each month draws closer. The dates which have conflicts are June 11, 2025, August 13, 2025 and November 12, 2025. Alternate dates to be considered are June 18, 2025, August 20, 2025 and November 19, 2025.

Executive Director Joanna Shake made the following announcements:

- Welcomed new GRADD staff Breanna Smith, Waiver Case Manager and Bryan Kennedy, Communications Director; and
- Congratulated GRADDs AmeriCorps Program for its successful National Day of Service on January 20, 2025 at St. Benedict's Homeless Shelter.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Johnny "Chic" Roberts announced lunch would be served following the March 12, 2025 meeting.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

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



Curtis Dame, Secretary



Johnny "Chic" Roberts, Chair