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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 13, 2024

The Board of Directors of the Green River Area Development District (GRADD) held its monthly meeting March 13, 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

DAVISS COUNTY:	Judge/Executive Charlie Castlen, Mayor Patsy Mayfield, Mayor Tom Watson, Lauren Osowicz
HANCOCK COUNTY:	Judge/Executive Johnny Roberts, Mayor Chad Gregory, Franklin Powers
HENDERSON COUNTY:	Judge/Executive Brad Schneider, Bill Markwell, Mayor David Sellers
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:	Mayor Randy Greenwell, Melissa Coker
WEBSTER COUNTY:	Judge/Executive Steve Henry, Mayor Pat Clark, Ryan Hammack

COMMITTEE CHAIRS PRESENT

GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council - Jeremy Moore
Green River Workforce Development Board - Mickey Dunbar
GRADD Water Management Council - (Judge/Executive Johnny Roberts)
Green River Economic Development Corporation - Brad Davis

*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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BOARD OF DIRECTORS ABSENT

DAVIESS COUNTY:	*Henrietta Harris, Robert Howard
HANCOCK COUNTY:	All present
HENDERSON COUNTY:	*Janeth Nicolas, Brad Staton
McLEAN COUNTY:	All present
OHIO COUNTY:	All present
UNION COUNTY:	*Judge/Executive Adam O’Nan
WEBSTER COUNTY:	All present

COMMITTEE CHAIRS ABSENT

Green River Area Council on Aging - (*Henrietta Harris)
Green River Transportation Committee - (*Judge/Executive Adam O’Nan)

GUESTS AND STAFF PRESENT

Austin Wetherington, Congressman James Comer’s Office
Jason Hasert, Senator Rand Paul’s Office
Alex Caudill, Department for Local Government
Dr. Scott Williams, Owensboro Community and Technical College
Mayor Sharon Nell Boyken, City of Livermore
Commissioner Mary Rothenburger Steely, Serve Kentucky
Joanna Shake, Executive Director, GRADD
Mariah Myres, Director of Finance & Human Resources, GRADD
Blake Edge, Director of Community & Economic 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
Paula Payne, Workforce Development Coordinator, GRADD
Brad Alley, AmeriCorps Program Director, GRADD
Amber Phelps, In-Home Services Manager, GRADD
Lisa Flahardy, Aging Contracts Specialist, GRADD
Andrew Law, District Ombudsman, GRADD
Kelli King, Family Caregiver Coordinator, GRADD
Jana Billingsley, Family Caregiver Program Specialist, GRADD
Maria Shyver, Community Collaborations for Children Administrator, GRADD
Colie Smith, Regional Resiliency Coordinator/Economic Development Specialist, GRADD
Mary Ashford, AmeriCorps Program Assistant, GRADD
Kim Wells, Executive Assistant, GRADD
Amanda Burke, Social Services Intern, GRADD

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Secretary's Report

Secretary Johnny "Chic" Roberts presented the minutes of the February 14, 2024, GRADD Board of Directors meeting for approval.

A motion was made by Johnny Roberts and seconded by Randy Greenwell to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2024, GRADD Board of Directors meeting. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

B. Treasurer's Report

Chairman Steve Henry presented the Treasurer's Report for the period of July 1, 2023 – January 31, 2024.

A motion was made by Curtis Dame and seconded by David Johnston to approve the Treasurer's Report for the period of July 1, 2023 – January 31, 2024, which is subject to audit. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. AmeriCorps Program

Brad Alley presented an overview of GRADDs AmeriCorps Senior Connections Program. Established in 1997, GRADD boasts one of longest running programs in Kentucky and is the only Area Development District (ADD) currently administering a program. Senior Connections places members in county senior centers, senior residential facilities, public agencies and emergency services. In program year 2022, Senior Connections members assisted in preparing, serving and delivering approximately 315,000 pounds of food to over 1,000 seniors in the region. The members also assisted in providing 700 friendly visits, 3,500 phone reassurance calls, 8,000 hours of transportation and 25,000 hours of social activities. Mr. Alley explained GRADD has 28 full-time member slots. Each member serves for 1,700 hours, receives a living allowance. After the successful completion of a program year, members earn an education award.

B. AmeriCorps Proclamation

Commissioner Mary Rothenburger Steely presented a proclamation declaring March 10-16, 2024, as AmeriCorps Week.

C. Legislative Update

Chairman Steve Henry informed the Board that the Senate A & R Committee has presented its budget. As it stands it is favorable to the Area Development Districts. The transportation budget has also been presented.

He will continue to monitor and report back to the board as needed.

D. Regional Aging Plan Update

Leslie Wilson presented the Fiscal Year 2025 Regional Aging Plan Summary Update. She noted two major changes: the exclusion of the National Council on Aging (NCOA) grant, which was not refunded; and the Feed Seniors Now initiative, which several of the donating partners did not have in their budgets to continue the food drive.

Chairman Steve Henry asked Leslie Wilson to share her son's journey on becoming a member of the armed forces. Ms. Wilson explained after many hurdles and his perseverance to serve his country, Preston Wilson has been sworn in and will begin his journey in April.

E. Committee Reports

1. Green River Area Council on Aging

Franklin Powers reported the GRADD social services team has been working to spend ARPA dollars which will expire in September 2024. Items that have been purchased through these funds include recumbent exercise bikes, additional coolers, heated meal bags and cambros, as well as tables and chairs for the senior service providers in all seven counties. Six GRADD staff members participated in Senior Advocacy Day in Frankfort on March 7, 2024. March is National Social Worker month. On behalf of the Green River Area Council on Aging, Mr. Powers expressed his appreciation for the dedication shown by GRADD social workers.

2. Green River Economic Development Corporation (EDC)

Mayor Chad Gregory reported the Green River Economic Development Corporation met on February 7, 2024. A loan application for J.R. Williams TV & Appliance in the amount of \$50,000 from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Revolving Loan Fund(RLF) was approved. Alision Collard from Cecilian Bank in Hartford was appointed to serve as the banker representative for Ohio County for a two-year term. Colie Smith discussed the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) project as part of GRADD's 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 reported GRADD staff are beginning to work on the next update to the GRADD Hazard Mitigation Plan which, is due in December 2026. FEMA introduced new planning guidance that requires additional plan details for each local government's assets and vulnerabilities to identified hazards, instead of the regional perspective in the existing plan.

GRADD staff are working on the budget and timeline for the 2026 plan update and anticipate applying for funding later this year and for the plan update process to begin in the summer of 2025. The next meeting of the GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, in the GRADD Boardroom.

4. GRADD Regional Transportation Committee (RTC)

Committee member Curtis Dame reported the GRADD Regional Transportation Committee met on February 26, 2024. During the meeting Jennifer Alvey provided an update on the Safe Streets 4 All grant and distributed a list of Focus Roadways for the counties to review. The committee reviewed the Governor's 2024 Recommended Highway Plan was published in January. The plan is currently being reviewed by the State Legislature. The final Highway Plan should be available in June. The committee reviewed the existing Rail Freight and Park-and-Ride inventories.

5. GRADD Water Management Council

Chairman Johnny Roberts reported Kentucky Rural Water held its Annual Management Conference. GRADD was in attendance along with other facility operators across the district. Dana Garrett is currently conducting Annual System Visits with each utility. The visits should be completed by early April. The Water Management Council is scheduled to meet on March 21, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.

6. Green River Workforce Development Board

Chairman Mickey Dunbar reported there will be a Second Chance Extravaganza on March 23, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at the H.L. Neblett Community Center located in Owensboro. Attorneys will be present to discuss the expungement process and free background checks will be offered. On March 23, 2024 the Career Center will have a booth at the Daniel Pitino Shelter 30 Year Celebration: Stand Up for Families, to highlight services. Enrollment has begun for the QUEST grant. Anyone searching for employment or interested in training should be referred to the Career Center.

F. Frankfort and Washington Updates

Jason Hasert reported Senator Rand Paul continues to be concerned with the Federal budget and will be proposing his own budget. Senator Paul is also focused on the Farm Bill, specifically how it might impact the H2A Program, which allows foreign nationals to fill temporary agricultural jobs in the United States.

Austin Wetherington reported Congressman James Comer was recently in Union and Henderson Counties. While in Union County, he recognized the Union County High School boys' wrestling team for receiving their 15th state championship. The Appropriations Bill has been passed. The Bill includes funding for Henderson City/County Airport grant request. Grant requests for Fiscal Year 2025 are due March 18, 2024.

Alex Caudill congratulated Henderson on the recent grant announcement for broadband. On April 8, 2024, Governor Beshear will be in Daviess County for a Habitat for Humanity groundbreaking ceremony and will then head to Henderson County to view the solar eclipse. Clean Water Grant applications are due April 15, 2024, the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) grant cycle is now open, and the Land & Water Grant applications are due May 31, 2024. The Governor's Local Issues Conference will take place August 7 – 9, 2024, in Louisville. Mr. Caudill asked members to keep the family of Jessica Hill in their thoughts and prayers. Mrs. Hill was a program specialist for DLG who passed away on March 8, 2024.

Dr. Scott Williams reported in the last five months Health Force Kentucky, the mobile unit that can be used to simulate a hospital experience, has visited eleven counties, 3,800 participants and 2,300 hours of education and training.

IV. CHAIRMAN/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Chairman Steve Henry made the following comments:

- Governor Andy Beshear was in Henderson on March 1, 2024, and presented \$700,000 for Site Development in Henderson County. These funds will assist to complete a site grading plan with an approximately one million-square-foot building pad at the Sandy Lee Watkins site;
- Governor Andy Beshear announced more than \$15 million in state funding to support job growth and economic development. The Webster County Fiscal Court, on behalf of the Webster County Industrial Development Authority, aims to complete site preparation and road improvements to provide Webster County with new business opportunities. The total anticipated project investment is over \$1 million, with \$529,000 in state funding approved for the site; and
- Training programs such as On-The-Job Training and Work-Based Learning Internships offer invaluable benefits to both companies and participants. Not only do they provide practical, hands-on experience to workers, but they also alleviate some of the financial burdens associated with hiring and training new employees. By subsidizing wages and covering costs, companies can invest in the development of their workforce while simultaneously reducing expenses by thousands of dollars per person. It's a win-win situation that fosters skill development, enhances productivity, and ultimately contributes to the growth and success of the organization and community. Please reach out to the Workforce Team for assistance.

Joanna Shake made the following comments:

- Welcome to GRADD! Amanda Burke, Social Services Intern;
- McLean County opened a new senior nutrition site in February at the Sacramento Fire Station! Meals will be served on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:30;
- AmeriCorps members of GRADDs Senior Connections program spent February 21, 2024 serving unhoused men and women at St. Benedict's Homeless Shelter for their annual National Day of Service;

- Senior Advocacy Day was held March 7, 2024 in Frankfort. Several GRADD staff were in attendance and Waiver Director Sarah Duncan spoke to the group and highlighted the Medicaid Waiver Program;
- The STAND against child abuse will take place on April 12, 2024 from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m. on the front lawn of KY Wesleyan College;
- Make plans to attend Senior Games in Hancock County at Vastwood Park on September 12, 2024!

Mrs. Shake informed the group a tree would be planted in each area development district to honor Jessica Hill and her work with the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program and the Recreational Trails Program.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Randy Greenwell invited all in attendance to Morganfield on March 16, 2024 for a St. Patrick's Day celebration. On April 6, 2024 the City of Morganfield will hold Country on Main and on April 8, 2024 for an Eclipse Party beginning at 12:00 p.m.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

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


Johnny "Chir" Roberts, Secretary


Stephen R. Henry, Chairman

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