



300 GRADD Way  
Owensboro, Kentucky  
42301-0200  
**GRADD.COM**

### 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 April 10, 2024

The Board of Directors of the Green River Area Development District (GRADD) held its monthly meeting April 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 Patsy Mayfield, Mayor Tom Watson, Lauren Osowicz
HANCOCK COUNTY:	Judge/Executive Johnny Roberts, Mayor Chad Gregory, Franklin Powers
HENDERSON COUNTY:	Judge/Executive Brad Schneider, Mayor Brad Staton, 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

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

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS ABSENT

DAVIESS COUNTY:	Robert Howard
HANCOCK COUNTY:	All present

Steve Henry, Chairman | Adam O'Nan, Vice Chairman | Johnny "Chic" Roberts, Secretary | Curtis Dame, Treasurer | Joanna Shake, Executive Director



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



HENDERSON COUNTY:       \*Janeth Nicolas  
McLEAN COUNTY:         All present  
OHIO COUNTY:            All present  
UNION COUNTY:           \*Judge/Executive Adam O’Nan  
WEBSTER COUNTY:        \*Ryan Hammack

COMMITTEE CHAIRS ABSENT

Green River Transportation Committee - (\*Judge/Executive Adam O’Nan)

GUESTS AND STAFF PRESENT

Secretary Michael Adams, Kentucky Secretary of State  
Representative DJ Johnson, Kentucky State Representative  
Rebecca Seidel, Senator Rand Paul’s Office  
Katie Marks, Congressman Brett Guthrie’s Office  
Mark Lord, Congressman Brett Guthrie’s Office  
Austin Wetherington, Congressman James Comer’s Office  
Hunter Whitaker, Senator Mitch McConnell’s Office  
Ed West, Secretary of State Office  
Alex Caudill, Department for Local Government  
Mayor Sharon Nell Boyken, City of Livermore  
Josh Kelly, *Owensboro Times*  
Jim Mayse, *Messenger-Inquirer*  
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  
Michelle Drake, Director of Workforce Development, GRADD  
Jessie Saalwaechter, Public Information Officer, GRADD  
Jill Gray, Assistant Director of Workforce Development, GRADD  
Cheryl Peters, Accounting Clerk, GRADD  
Beth Ferguson, Accounting Clerk, GRADD  
Lisa Flahardy, Aging Contract Specialist, GRADD  
Jana Billingsley, Family Caregiver Program Specialist, GRADD  
Libby Watson, Social Services Administrative Assistant, GRADD  
Sarah Clark, Case Management PDS Supervisor, GRADD  
Amy Rowe, Waiver Case Manager, GRADD  
Tom Lovett, MPO Coordinator, GRADD  
Tiffany Donahue, Local Government Analyst, GRADD  
Kim Wells, Executive Assistant, GRADD

\*Excused absence

I.     CALL TO ORDER

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

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Secretary's Report

Secretary Johnny "Chic" Roberts presented the minutes of the March 13, 2024, GRADD Board of Directors meeting for approval.

A motion was made by Johnny Roberts and seconded by Charlie Castlen to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2024, GRADD Board of Directors meeting. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Secretary Johnny "Chic" Roberts presented the minutes of the March 13, 2024, GRADD Executive Committee meeting for approval.

A motion was made by Johnny Roberts and seconded by Tom Watson to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2024, GRADD Executive Committee meeting. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

B. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Curtis Dame presented the Treasurer's Report for the period of July 1, 2023 - February 29, 2024.

A motion was made by Curtis Dame and seconded by Brad Davis to approve the Treasurer's Report for the period of July 1, 2023 - February 29, 2024, which is subject to audit. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Treasurer Dame noted GRADD is currently running under budget at around fifty-nine percent. Revenues are continuing to come in quickly. Staff previously reported a delay in payments from the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) for the Hire to Operate (H2O) grant but revenues have now been received by GRADD. Staff will continue to monitor both revenues and expenses for any major changes. Lastly, the GRADD Finance Committee will meet on April 15, 2024 to review the Fiscal Year 2025 draft budget.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Guest Speaker

Chairman Steve Henry introduced Secretary of State Michael J. Adams.

Secretary Adams gave an update from his office regarding the legislative session. House Bill 53 would allow for a post-election audit of one randomly chosen ballot scanner for hand-to-eye recount was signed by Governor Steve Beshear. He also expressed the need to improve civic education to develop the knowledge and skills needed to improve society.

Secretary Adams spoke on the Safe at Home Program, a confidentiality program aimed at assisting survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, trafficking, stalking and other crimes. Victims can safely hide their address on public records including voter rolls.

B. Yager Materials Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP)  
Grant Resolution

Chairman Steve Henry reported the GRADD Executive Committee held a special called meeting on April 2, 2024 to discuss GRADD entering into a lead applicant agreement with Yager Materials. The grant through the Department of Transportation Maritime Administration Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) would assist Yager Materials in fulfilling plans for a critical expansion while addressing current safety and logistical challenges. It was approved after several avenues were researched for other lead applicants. It requires Board approval to proceed, allowing the executive director to review and execute the application and all ancillary documents.

A motion was made by Tom Watson and seconded by Charlie Castlen to approve the Yager Material Port Infrastructure Development Program Resolution.  
A vote was taken and the motion carried.

C. Title VI Plan and Resolution

Tom Lovett reported the federal government requires annually a metropolitan planning commission or its host agency to complete a Title VI Plan. The Plan is designed to prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin. Mr. Lovett has updated the Plan, which has been reviewed by the Transportation Cabinet. The Plan was also sent to the members of the GRADD Board of Directors for review prior to the meeting.

Chairman Steve Henry read the Title VI Resolution.

A motion was made by Brad Schneider and seconded by Brad Davis to approve the Title VI Plan and Resolution.  
A vote was taken and the motion carried.

D. Legislative Update

Chairman Steve Henry gave a brief update on the legislature session. He noted that so far, the session has been positive for the Area Development Districts. Specifically, he referenced:

- HB561 which permanently establishes the Employee Childcare Assistance Partnership (ECCAP) and allows employers to support employee access to childcare. It also creates the Certified Childcare Community Designation Program to boost access to family childcare homes; and

- HB723 addresses the grant program and how local governments apply for federal funding.

E. Committee Reports

1. Green River Area Council on Aging

Chairperson Henrietta Harris reported Older Americans Month will be celebrated in May. This year's theme is Powered by Connection. Events and activities are planned in each of the seven counties. Social Services staff are preparing for annual monitoring to be conducted by the Department for Aging & Independent Living in May. At the March 13, 2024 GRADD Board of Directors meeting Leslie Wilson presented the 2025 update for the Regional Plan on Aging. As a matter of record, approval for the plan is needed.

A motion was made by Henrietta Harris and seconded by David Johnston to approve the Fiscal Year 2025 Regional Plan on Aging Update. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

2. Green River Economic Development Corporation (EDC)

Brad Davis reported Colie Smith continues to market the Revolving Loan Fund Program throughout the region. Mr. Davis encouraged the members to contact Mr. Smith if they know of a business that is looking to start or expand and may be interested in obtaining funding through the GRADD Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) program.

3. GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council

Chairman Jeremy Moore reported the GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council will meet on April 16, 2024. Colie Smith will discuss the results of a regional energy resilience survey and potential mitigation projects to enhance the regions' ability to respond to power outages. Framework for updating the GRADD Hazard Mitigation plan will also be discussed. The plan update process is very involved and will begin in July 2024 and continue through June of 2026.

4. GRADD Regional Transportation Committee (RTC)

Committee member Curtis Dame reported the final 2024 Highway Plan has made its way through the legislature and was signed by Governor Andy Beshear on April 9, 2024. Jennifer Alvey will send out a list of projects in the GRADD region as soon as it is released. The next meeting of the GRADD RTC will be held May 20, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. at the GRADD office.

5. GRADD Water Management Council

Chairman Johnny Roberts presented the minutes of the December 11, 2023 meeting of GRADD Water.

A motion was made by Johnny Roberts and seconded by Franklin Powers to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2023 GRADD Water Management Council. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Chairman Roberts reported the GRADD Water Management Council met on March 21, 2024. Three projects were reviewed and approved:

- Daviess County Water District for Town and Country Lead Line Replacement;
- City of Livermore for an upgrade at the wastewater treatment plant; and
- City of Beaver Dam Lift Station Rehab.

A Water and Wastewater Workforce meeting with operators from the GRADD region will be held on April 19, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. at the GRADD office. Owensboro Community & Technical College and Kentucky Rural Water will discuss program needs. The GRADD Water Management Council will meet on June 20, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. at the GRADD office.

#### 6. Green River Workforce Development Board

Chairman Mickey Dunbar presented the minutes of the November 1, 2023, Green River Workforce Development Board meeting.

A motion was made by Mickey Dunbar and seconded by David Johnston to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2023 Green River Workforce Development Board. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Chairman Dunbar reported Grab-A-Bag Job Fairs are scheduled in Daviess and Henderson Counties. These easy access fairs allow job seekers to make a quick stop to pick up a bag containing current job openings.

- Daviess County Public Library – April 10, 2024  
from 2:00 PM – 6:00 p.m.; and
- Henderson County Public Library April 11, 2024  
from 2:00 PM – 6:00 p.m.

Enrollment for the QUEST grant is ongoing. Job seekers or anyone interested in training should be referred to the Kentucky Career Center. The next meeting of the Workforce Development Board will be held on May 1, 2024, at 12:30 p.m. at the GRADD office.

F. Frankfort and Washington Updates

Hunter Whitaker thanked members for the warm welcome as this is her first meeting at GRADD. Ms. Whitaker noted Senator Mitch McConnell had a very productive recess as he spent time in Kentucky. Prior to the recess, Senator McConnell was successful in securing language in appropriation and funding bills from improvements in childcare, opioid treatment and workforce development.

Rebecca Seidel explained although this is her first meeting at GRADD she joined Senator Rand Paul's office a year ago. Within Senator Paul's office, Ms. Seidel is responsible for researching grant opportunities. Senator Paul will also hold a Virtual Military Services Academy Fair on April 16, 2024.

Mark Lord reported Congressman Brett Guthrie, along with the Health Subcommittee, have been working on telehealth accessibility and cyber security issues with healthcare as data breach concerns continue to rise.

Austin Wetherington congratulated Henderson on behalf of Congressman James Comer on the Henderson City/County Airport for its inclusion in 2024 appropriations for reconstruction and extension of the runway.

Alex Caudill reported Governor Andy Beshear was in Union County on April 4, 2024 to view tornado damage from recent storms in the area. The Delta Regional Authority (DRA) announced Governor Beshear as its 2024 States' Co-Chair. Mr. Caudill congratulated the cities of Centertown, Hartford, Hawesville, Henderson, and Waverly and Daviess County on the recent Land and Water Grant announcements. The awards totaled over \$700,000 for the district.

G. Service Award

Chairman Steve Henry presented Amy Rowe with a five-year service award plaque. He thanked Mrs. Rowe for her service and continued dedication to GRADD.

IV. INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEWS

Jessie Saalwaechter presented the following regional Executive Orders:

**Suburban Manor CDBG-DR**

Suburban Manor KY2024-0304-0247

**Knottsville Tank Rehab**

East Daviess County Water District KY2024-0307-0260

**OMU Electrical Resiliency-Poet Area**

Owensboro Municipal Utilities KY2024-0325-0340

**City of Whitesville Physical Security Improvements**

City of Whitesville KY2024-0326-0343

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

V. CHAIRMAN/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Chairman Steve Henry made the following comments:

- Henderson Community College received \$450,000 from the Delta Workforce Grant Program (DWGP) for their “MAINTech: Multi-skilled Advanced Industrial Maintenance Training” program. This advanced industrial maintenance training program aims to fill the employment gap between the current skill level of the available workforce talent pool and the current talent needs of local manufacturers;
- The Delta Regional Authority (DRA) and the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) are teaming up to provide medical, dental, optical and veterinary care through the Green River Area Wellness Mission this summer in Western Kentucky. This Innovative Readiness Training program, not only enhances military readiness for servicemen and servicewomen, but brings essential health care services to underserved communities in the Delta region; and
- Delta Regional Authority - States’ Economic Development Assistance Program (DRA SEDAP) is the main investment tool used by DRA to provide direct investment into community-based and regional projects that address DRA’s mandated four funding categories: Basic Public Infrastructure, Transportation Infrastructure, Business Development and Job Training or Employment-Related Education. The funding cycle opened March 26, 2024 and closes June 25, 2024. Contact Hunter Phillips to discuss potential ideas.

Joanna Shake made the following comments:

- Welcome new staff Tiffany Donahue, Local Government Analyst;
- 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;
- Senior Center will be celebrating Older Americans Month in May by offering health fairs in the counties;
- McLean County Senior Center will hold its Grand Opening on April 13, 2024 at 1:30 p.m., in Calhoun;
- The Community Collaboration for Children hosted a “Health and Harmony: Cultivating Wellness for Individuals and Communities” free workshop on March 22, 2024; and
- An Older Adult Mental Health Awareness Day Symposium will be held virtually on May 2, 2024.

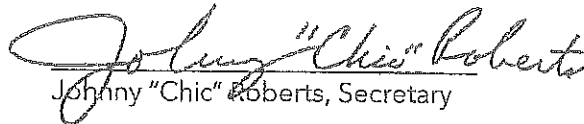
VI. OTHER BUSINESS

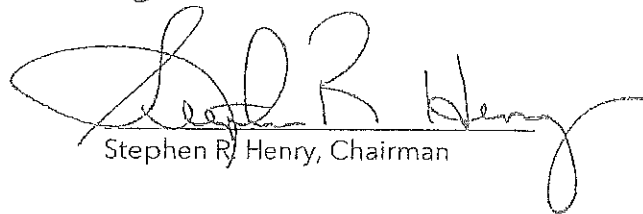
Chairman Steve Henry announced there would be an Interagency Working Group on Coal and Power Plant Communities and Economic Revitalization (Energy Communities IWG) regional event held on April 16, 2024 at the University of Southern Indiana.

Judge/Executive Brad Schneider thanked Chairman Steve Henry on his commitment to the region during the legislative session.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

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

  
Johnny "Chic" Roberts, Secretary

  
Stephen R. Henry, Chairman

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