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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 May 8, 2024

The Board of Directors of the Green River Area Development District (GRADD) held its monthly meeting May 8, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. The meeting was held at the McLean County Senior Center, 875 Walnut Street, Calhoun, KY. A quorum was present with members in attendance listed below.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DAVISS COUNTY:	Judge/Executive Charlie Castlen, Mayor Patsy Mayfield, Lauren Osowicz
HANCOCK COUNTY:	Judge/Executive Johnny Roberts, Franklin Powers
HENDERSON COUNTY:	Judge/Executive Brad Schneider, Mayor Brad Staton, Bill Markwell, Mayor David Sellers
McLEAN COUNTY:	Judge/Executive Curtis Dame, Vicki Hughes
OHIO COUNTY:	Judge/Executive David Johnston, Mayor Paul Sandefur
UNION COUNTY:	Judge/Executive Adam O'Nan
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
Green River Area Council on Aging - (Henrietta Harris)
Green River Transportation Committee - (Judge/Executive Adam O'Nan)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ABSENT

DAVISS COUNTY:	*Mayor Tom Watson, *Robert Howard
HANCOCK COUNTY:	*Mayor Chad Gregory



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

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HENDERSON COUNTY: *Janeth Nicolas
McLEAN COUNTY: All present
OHIO COUNTY: *Mayor Betty Howard, *Mayor Jeff Fuqua
UNION COUNTY: *Mayor Randy Greenwell, *Melissa Coker
WEBSTER COUNTY: All present

COMMITTEE CHAIRS ABSENT

All present

GUESTS AND STAFF PRESENT

Rep. Suzanne Miles, Kentucky State Representative
Alex Caudill, Department for Local Government
Mayor Sharon Nell Boyken, City of Livermore
Dr. Jason Warren, Henderson County Community & Technical College
Mike Moser, Webster County Industrial Development Authority
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
Leslie Wilson, Director of Social Services, GRADD
Andrew Rudkosky, IT Director, GRADD
Jessie Saalwaechter, Public Information Officer, GRADD
Jill Gray, Assistant Director of Workforce Development, GRADD
Amber Gebhard, Community Services Manager, GRADD
Amber Phelps, Waiver Case Manager, GRADD
Andrew Law, District Ombudsman, GRADD
Tom Lovett, MPO Coordinator, GRADD
Hunter Phillips, Delta Regional Authority Program Advisor, GRADD
Alex Kretzer, Community & Economic Development Intern, 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. Secretary Curtis Dame opened the meeting with prayer.

II. MCLEAN COUNTY SENIOR CENTER GREETING

Treasurer Curtis Dame stated he was incredibly proud to welcome guests to the newly opened facility, now equipped with modern amenities like a sound system and WIFI. The McLean County Senior Center has become a vibrant gathering place for seniors in the community. He explained that it is a testament to resilience and the importance of community support after the center was a complete loss in a fire in 2020.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Secretary's Report

Secretary Johnny "Chic" Roberts presented the minutes of the April 10, 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 April 10, 2024, GRADD Board of Directors meeting. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Secretary Johnny "Chic" Roberts presented the minutes of the April 2, 2024, GRADD Executive Committee meeting for approval.

A motion was made by Johnny Roberts and seconded by Brad Davis to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2024, GRADD Executive Committee meeting. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Secretary Johnny "Chic" Roberts presented the minutes of the April 15, 2024, GRADD Executive Committee meeting for approval.

A motion was made by Johnny Roberts and seconded by Adam O'Nan to approve the minutes of the April 15, 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 - March 31, 2024.

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

Treasurer Dame noted GRADD is currently operating at around seventy-eight percent, which is slightly higher than expected. GRADD is expected to end the year on target. GRADD staff will continue to monitor both revenues and expenses for any major changes. The Fiscal Year 2024 budget will require revision before it is presented at the next GRADD Board of Directors meeting.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Fiscal Year 2025 Draft Budget

Mariah Myres presented the Fiscal Year 2025 Draft Budget with a review of revenues. GRADD has partnered with the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) for a Community Support Program which will result in additional revenues. She highlighted the increase in the Water Resource Planning (WRIS) through the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (KIA), resulting in an increase of \$27,000. The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds provided through Department of Aging & Independent Living (DAIL) are slated to expire in September 2024. GRADD staff are currently deliberating on potential expenditures for these funds. Any unutilized funds will be reverted to the Department of Aging and Independent Living (DAIL). Additionally, the Waiver Program demonstrates significant growth with an estimated \$22 million earmarked for participant disbursements in Fiscal Year 2025. Additionally, the Skills 2 Succeed (S2S) grant expires July 2024.

Following the revenue overview, Mrs. Myres discussed expenditures for FY 2025. GRADD's proposal includes a three percent increase per employee with one percent earmarked for merit raises/salary adjustments. Moreover, the hiring of a new position within the Workforce Development Department along with the recent recruitment of three employees in the Community & Economic Development Department will contribute to increased expenditures. Mrs. Myres noted the potential rise in Kentucky Association of Counties (KACo) insurance premiums. At the meeting earlier today, the GRADD Executive Committee requested GRADD staff to conduct further reviews on insurance and explore other potential cost-saving measures.

A motion was made by Mickey Dunbar and seconded by
Curtis Dame to approve the Fiscal Year 2025 Draft Budget.
A vote was taken and the motion carried.

B. Capital Assets Policy

Mariah Myers reviewed the Capital Assets Policy which outlines the procurement procedures for purchases. The requested policy revision increases the threshold from \$500 to \$5,000 for purchased items made by GRADD and its staff. Items purchased having a value more than \$5,000 will be added to the inventory and a depreciation schedule drawn.

A motion was made by Brad Schneider and seconded by
Brad Davis to approve the updated Capital Assets Policy.
A vote was taken and the motion carried.

C. Scope of Work

Joanna Shake presented the GRADD Scope of Work outlining the various projects and programs administered by the GRADD staff. She expressed gratitude to the team for their ongoing support and dedication to improving the GRADD region.

A motion was made by Adam O’Nan and seconded by Curtis Dame to approve the Scope of Work. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

D. Ombudsman Conflict of Interest

Andrew Law explained annually the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program requires volunteers and governing board members of organizations to complete an individual conflict of interest screening. This screening is essential to ensure transparency and integrity within the program. The completed forms are due to GRADD by June 14, 2024.

E. Racial Equity and Cultural Humility Annual/Elder Abuse Annual Trainings

Joanna Shake reminded the members of an email with links to the Racial Equity and Cultural Humility/Elder Abuse Annual Trainings. Mrs. Shake emphasized the importance of completing the trainings; as they are not only a contractual requirement with the Department for Aging and Independent Living (DAIL) but also essential instruction for the GRADD Executive Committee and Board of Directors. Achieving full completion ensures compliance and demonstrates a commitment to these important issues.

F. Title VI Resolution

Tom Lovett explained the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) at the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) returned GRADD’s Title VI plan for revision. He stated that the Title VI plan was submitted saying GRADD would not discriminate on the basis of race, color or national origin. OCR suggested GRADD revise the plan to say GRADD will not discriminate on the basis of “race, color, sex or national origin.” Mr. Lovett told members that he was told by OCR “sex” in this usage referred to more than just gender, that it has been interpreted by federal courts to include sexual orientation and gender identity. Mr. Lovett told the board the only changes between this plan and the one previously approved was the addition of 33 instances of the word “sex.”

A motion was made by Johnny Roberts and seconded by Pat Clark to approve the Title VI Plan and Resolution which has been updated to include “sex.” A vote was taken and the motion carried.

G. Legislative Update

Chairman Steve Henry provided a legislative wrap-up from the General Assembly session, highlighting crucial funding and policy advancements that are in alignment with the Area Development Districts (ADDs). Notable achievements include:

- \$3,984,000 allocated from the Joint Funding Administration;
- \$1,800,000 allocated from the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority;
- \$10,000,000 allocated for Aging Programs;
- \$1,050,300 allocated for the Ombudsman Program; and
- \$20,000,000 allocated for Workforce Programs.

Chairman Henry expressed gratitude to Representative Suzanne Miles for her dedicated efforts in Frankfort.

H. Committee Reports

1. Green River Area Council on Aging

Chairperson Henrietta Harris encouraged both board members and guests to participate in celebrating Older Americans during the month of May by engaging in activities hosted by the county's senior center.

She also informed the attendees that the Department for Aging & Independent Living (DAIL) will be conducting its annual program monitoring of GRADD programs. Furthermore, Chairperson Harris extended congratulations to the Senior Community Center of Owensboro-Daviess County for its recent announcement regarding the construction of a new senior center adjacent to the Western Kentucky Botanical Gardens. Finally, she announced that the next meeting of the Green River Area Council on Aging will convene on June 4, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

2. Green River Economic Development Corporation (EDC)

Chairman Brad Davis stated Colie Smith remains actively engaged in marketing the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) program across the region. Chairman Davis encouraged members to contact Mr. Smith if they are aware of any start-up or expanding businesses that might be interested in securing funding through the GRADD RLF program.

3. GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council

Chairman Jeremy Moore presented the minutes of the January 30, 2024 GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council.

A motion was made by Jeremy Moore and seconded by Ryan Hammack to approve the minutes of the January 30, 2024 GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council.
A vote was taken and the motion carried.

The GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council convened on April 16, 2024 to review the outcomes of the GRADD Regional Energy Resilience Survey. During the meeting, GRADD planners and representatives from the Kentucky Office of Energy Policy deliberated on potential mitigation projects aimed at enhancing energy resiliency across communities. A final report stemming from this initiative will be submitted to the Kentucky Office of Energy Policy by June. Additionally, the planning prerequisites for the forthcoming update to the GRADD Hazard Mitigation plan were discussed. This update process, slated to span from July 2024 through June 2026, will involve multiple sessions in each community. The next meeting of the GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council is scheduled for July 16, 2024.

4. GRADD Regional Transportation Committee (RTC)

Chairman Adam O’Nan announced Jennifer Alvey has successfully submitted the quarterly report to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC).

Additionally, the legislature has approved the final 2024 Highway Plan. Ms. Alvey is scheduled to present a list of projects in each county at the next RTC meeting on May 20, 2024.

5. GRADD Water Management Council

Chairman Johnny Roberts stated that Dana Garrett has successfully completed system visits in April. A meeting, engaging water and wastewater workforce members across the GRADD region along with Owensboro Community & Technical College and Kentucky Rural Water was held on April 19, 2024 to explore potential opportunities. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for June to further discuss these opportunities. The next GRADD Water Management Council meeting has been scheduled for June 10, 2024.

6. Green River Workforce Development Board

Chairman Mickey Dunbar provided an update on the Green River Workforce Development Board's recent meeting held on May 1, 2024. No actions were taken as there was not a quorum present. During the meeting, Alisher Burikhanov, Executive Director of the Office of Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board, shared the strategy of the Kentucky Workforce Investment Board (KWIB) along with insights garnered from local listening sessions and the state plan priorities. Furthermore, it was noted that the Skills to Succeed (S2S) grant is set to expire in July 2024. Since its inception, the grant has served over 350 participants, with over \$1.13 million allocated for training and supportive services. Earlier this year, the grant underwent monitoring by the Department of Labor and the final report revealed no findings.

I. Frankfort and Washington Updates

Jason Hasert reported Senator Rand Paul has been engaging with constituents, particularly discussing mine reclamation in Western Kentucky. Additionally, Senator Paul is monitoring developments related to potential mandates concerning electric vehicles, expressing concern that a mandated goal of forty percent by 2037 may be unattainable.

Suzanne Miles detailed Congressman Brett Guthrie's recent visit to a construction site in Daviess County, where he toured Habitat for Humanity's development of a livable community. Congressman Guthrie also made a stop in Hancock County.

Alex Caudill provided information on Governor Andy Beshear's upcoming visit to Ohio County and other relevant information. Governor Beshear will be attending an AARP luncheon on May 28, 2024, in Ohio County and will also tour Neo Industries LLC during his visit to the district. Additionally, Mr. Caudill mentioned that grant deadlines are approaching on June 1, 2024.

Mr. Caudill explained that Sam Flynn, Kentucky's Medical Cannabis Director, is scheduled to be the guest speaker at the GRADD Board of Directors meeting on July 10, 2024. These updates provide insight into important events and deadlines within the community and regional governance.

Dr. Jason Warren, President of Henderson Community College (HCC), expressed gratitude to Blake Edge and the staff at GRADD for their assistance in securing \$450,000 for the Industrial Maintenance Training (MAINTech) program. This funding will greatly benefit the program and its participants. Additionally, HCC is applying for funds through the Federal TRIO Programs, which support outreach and student services for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. This initiative reflects a commitment to providing opportunities for all students to succeed. Furthermore, he explained there is exciting news about the expansion of the HealthForce Kentucky health lab in Owensboro, with plans to welcome students in January 2025. This expansion will enhance educational opportunities in the healthcare field for students in the region.

V. INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

Jessie Saalwaechter presented the following regional Executive Order:

Washington/Vine Water Main

Henderson Water Utility KY2024-0424-0620

A motion was made by Charlie Castlen and seconded by Patsy Mayfield to endorse the above-stated Regional Executive Order. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

VI. CHAIRMAN/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Chairman Steve Henry announced the cancellation of the June GRADD Board of Directors meeting due to several members' attendance at the Kentucky County Judge/Executives and Kentucky Magistrates and Commissioners Association Summer Conference in Lexington.

Joanna Shake made the following comments:

- The Delta Regional Authority (DRA) and the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) are teaming up to provide no cost vision, dental, sports physicals, nutritional/dietitian, basic medical and veterinary care through the Green River Area Wellness Mission. The mission is open to all residents in the district however, low to moderate income residents are emphasized.

Mayor Brad Staton announced the event will take place June 15 - 25, 2024 at South Middle School in Henderson. The Innovative Readiness Training program, not only enhances military readiness for servicemen and servicewomen, but it also brings essential health care services to underserved communities in the Delta region.


- The Kentucky Office of Homeland Security will be holding a Cyber Incident Response – Basics Training for water and wastewater facilities on May 30, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. at the GRADD office;
- The STAND Against Child Abuse was held on April 19, 2024 on the front lawn of Kentucky Wesleyan College. The event welcomed over 250 guests who had the opportunity to visit 23 vendors offering information on services;
- The Ohio County Health Fair was held on May 1, 2024 and Union County Health Fair was held on May 3, 2024. The events allowed participants to speak one on one with agencies offering services in their county and the surrounding area;
- Save the Date – Senior Day Out will be held on October 15, 2024 at Owensboro Christian Church; and
- Welcome to GRADD: Hunter Phillips, DRA Program Advisor and Alex Kretzer, Community & Economic Development Intern.

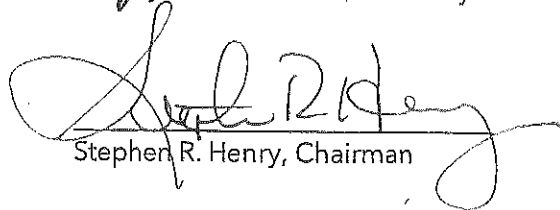
VI. OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Steve Henry encouraged members to exercise extreme caution during travels today as Kentucky could have potentially hazardous weather situations.

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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