



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 July 10, 2024

The Board of Directors of the Green River Area Development District (GRADD) held its monthly meeting July 10, 2024 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, Henrietta Harris

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

OHIO COUNTY: Judge/Executive David Johnston, Mayor Paul Sandefur, Mayor Betty Howard, Mayor Jeff Fuqua

UNION COUNTY: Judge/Executive Adam O'Nan, 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)
Green River Transportation Committee - (Judge/Executive Adam O'Nan)



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



BOARD OF DIRECTORS ABSENT

DAVIESS COUNTY:	*Mayor Tom Watson, *Lauren Osowicz, *Robert Howard
HANCOCK COUNTY:	All present
HENDERSON COUNTY:	*Janeth Nicolas
McLEAN COUNTY:	*Vicki Hughes
OHIO COUNTY:	All present
UNION COUNTY:	All present
WEBSTER COUNTY:	*Ryan Hammack

COMMITTEE CHAIRS ABSENT

All present

GUESTS AND STAFF PRESENT

Rep. Suzanne Miles, Kentucky State Representative
Hunter Whitaker, Senator Mitch McConnell's Office
Jason Hasert, Senator Rand Paul's Office
Kylie Foushee, Congressman Brett Guthrie's Office
Austin Wetherington, Representative James Comer's Office
Colsen Thomas, Representative James Comer's Office
Chase Hendricks, Representative James Comer's Office
Alex Caudill, Department for Local Government
Tonia Duncan, Webster County Fiscal Court
Monique Brooks, City of Whitesville
Freddie Bourne, *Messenger-Inquirer*
Josh Kelly, *Owensboro Times*
Laura Lewis, Owensboro
Victoria Lewis, Owensboro
Kevin Nelson, Morganfield
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
Sarah Duncan, Director of Waiver Services, GRADD
Leslie Wilson, Director of Social Services, GRADD
Andrew Rudkosky, IT Director, GRADD
Jessie Saalwaechter, Public Information Officer, GRADD
Cheryl Peters, Accounting Clerk, GRADD
Beth Ferguson, Accounting Clerk, GRADD
Marisa Haight, Fiscal Contracts Coordinator, GRADD
Jill Gray, Assistant Director of Workforce Development, GRADD
Amber Gebhard, Community Services Manager, GRADD
Amber Phelps, Waiver Case Manager, GRADD
Bethanney McPherson, Waiver Intake Specialist, GRADD

*Excused absence

Lisa Daugherty, Waiver Program Assistant, GRADD
Lisa Flahardy, Aging Contract Specialist, GRADD
Andrew Law, District Ombudsman, GRADD
Tom Lovett, MPO Coordinator, GRADD
Jeannie Quattrochi, Public Administration Specialist, GRADD
Dana Garrett, Community Development Planner, GRADD
Hunter Phillips, Delta Regional Authority Program Advisor, GRADD
Tiffany Donahue, Local Government Analyst, GRADD
Alex Kretzer, Community & Economic Development Intern, GRADD
Kim Wells, Executive Assistant, 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 Roberts presented the minutes of the May 8, 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 May 8, 2024, GRADD Board of Directors meeting. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Secretary Johnny Roberts presented the minutes of the May 8, 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 May 8, 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 - April 30, 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 - April 30, 2024, which is subject to audit. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Treasurer Curtis Dame presented the Treasurer's Report for the period of July 1, 2023 - May 31, 2024.

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

Treasurer Dame noted GRADD is currently operating at around eighty-two percent, which is slightly higher than expected. GRADD is expected to end the year on target. Mariah Myers will continue to monitor both revenues and expenses for any major changes.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Guest Speaker

Chairman Steve Henry introduced Shelby Lewis, Executive Policy Advisor for the Kentucky Medical Cannabis Program.

Ms. Lewis gave an overview of the Kentucky Medical Cannabis Program. The program aims to ensure Kentuckians suffering from serious medical conditions have safe and affordable access to medical cannabis. Kentuckians may apply for a medical cannabis card beginning in 2025. She provided information for city and county governments on business license applications for dispensary licenses and locations where dispensaries are allowed. Ms. Lewis noted the most up to date information for local governments can be found on the Kentucky Medical Cannabis Program website as updates are made daily. She also warned there are already scams for fake medical cannabis cards, so Kentuckians should be aware.

B. Green River Area Wellness - Innovative Readiness Training (IRT)

Chairman Steve Henry explained the Green River Area Wellness - Innovative Readiness Training provided training for military personnel while addressing medical, dental, optometry, veterinary and other healthcare needs in the region. Just in the GRADD region, the following number of individuals were served: Daviess 77; Hancock 2; Henderson 1,157; McLean 6; Ohio 2; Union 34; and Webster 77.

Mayor Brad Staton expressed his gratitude to the military and GRADD for spearheading this collaboration. He explained the IRT was a blessing to Henderson and the surrounding counties. In total, 2,233 patients were seen by service members. Additionally, the veterinary team saw 591 veterinary patients and the optometry team facilitated the fabrication and/or distribution of 917 eyeglasses. Service members performed a total of 34,161 procedures, which has a fair market value of an estimated \$998,931.

C. Fiscal Year 2024 Final Revised Budget

Treasurer Curtis Dame presented the Fiscal Year 2024 Final Revised Budget for review and approval. He explained this revision is to align line items for auditing purposes.

Some significant changes to the revenue side included the deferment of project administration revenues under Community and Economic Development. These will be used in the upcoming fiscal years when the work is completed. The second significant change is the addition of \$3.7 million under the Medicaid Waiver Program. In Fiscal Year 2024, GRADD has processed nearly \$22.8 million in wages through this program. The final revenue change is revisions to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Quality Jobs, Equity, Strategy and Training (QUEST) grant and the Hire to Operate (H2O) program under Workforce Development. These grants are multi-year grants, meaning the revenue is being corrected for the ongoing fiscal years. Treasurer Dame continued by discussing the expense side of the revised budget. GRADD is adjusting the board/committee travel and training line to reflect actual expenses for the fiscal year. Additionally, Mariah Myers is correcting the contractual service and direct program expenditures line to reflect actual estimated expenses for year end.

A motion was made by Curtis Dame and seconded by Bill Markwell to approve the Fiscal Year 2024 Final Revised Budget. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

D. Title III Home Delivered Meals Unit Cost Increase

Lisa Flahardy explained GRADD had received requests from the county senior services providers to increase reimbursement cost of the congregate and home delivered meals (HDM). Those requests were made due to the continued increase in the cost of supplies, salary's to retain meal drivers and cost of mileage reimbursements. After much discussion, it was decided the request could be considered due to having remaining American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds that need to be expended by September 30, 2024. Mrs. Flahardy reviewed the funds and each increase requested. GRADD is recommending increasing congregate reimbursement to \$5.00 per meal and Title III HDM reimbursement to \$10.00 per meal. Expanded Senior Meal Program (ESMP) meal cost will not increase because there are no ARPA funds in this program and these programming funds are being reduced in Fiscal Year 2025. Mrs. Flahardy also noted this increase will begin July 1, 2024 and will end September 30, 2024 or when the ARPA funds are depleted, whichever comes first. The Green River Area Council on Aging met on June 4, 2024 and approved the increase.

A motion was made by Henrietta Harris and seconded by Charlie Castlen to approve the temporary increase of unit cost to \$5.00 per meal for congregate meals and \$10.00 per meal for home-delivered meals provided by senior services providers in each of GRADD's seven counties, with an effective date of July 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024, or when available ARPA funds are expended, whichever comes first. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

E. Revolving Loan Fund Loan Summary

Brad Davis reported Chelsea Boling is requesting \$215,000 to purchase the Hancock Clarion newspaper along with the building in which it is housed and business assets.

Ms. Boling plans to modernize the operations, enhance content quality and expand digital presence while preserving local traditions and maintaining local ownership of the newspaper.

A motion was made by Brad Davis and seconded by Charlie Castlen to approve the Hancock Clarion loan in the amount of \$215,000. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

F. Personnel Policy Amendments

Joanna Shake reviewed the following GRADD Personnel Policy amendments, noting that policies are ever evolving and would potentially need to be amended every so often to remain current.

Though the Telework Policy is fairly new, it did need to be amended to add clarification as to who is eligible for telework.

The following will be added to the policies:

Page 34 E. Telework

- GRADD employees may apply to their supervisors for periodic remote work opportunities not to exceed more than two days per week, except in situations of extreme weather, natural disaster or at the discretion of the Executive Director. Rarely, positions may be created at GRADD with full remote work, in which case, those opportunities will be posted in the job description. In general, it is the intention of GRADD leadership to foster a positive and collaborative working environment that includes in-office interactions and dialogue. To qualify for discretionary remote work request, a GRADD employee must receive permission from their immediate supervisor as well as their department's Director and meet the following provisions:
 - Work a position that allows for remote work not requiring constant physical presence;
 - Have a quiet and distraction-free working space;
 - Have an internet connection that is adequate for their job;
 - Dedicate their full attention to their job duties during working hours;
 - Have worked for GRADD for more than 90 days;
 - Be in good standing with no disciplinary action in the last year;
 - Receive a performance evaluation at least meeting or exceeding all expectations;
 - Be in continual communication with supervisor regarding responsibilities and work deliverables; and

- Demonstrate an ability to work effectively with limited supervision.

Page 36 V. Holidays

GRADD currently observes 12 and one half paid holidays, paid to its full-time employees but would like to request approval to follow the State Executive Orders office closures. This would make more sense as GRADD works very closely with state offices on a daily basis. Making this amendment would add Juneteenth to the schedule of days off and exclude President's Day from the schedule of days off. The GRADD Executive Committee approved adding a full day for Good Friday for observance.

Page 18 A. Automobile Safety

The following will be added to the Automobile Safety portion of the GRADD Personnel Policies: Unless hands-free devices are available, employees are prohibited from cell phone use, use of PDA's and texting while driving.

If hands-free capability does not exist, drivers need to pull off the road to conduct conversations or to review e-mails and text messages. GRADD does not require employees to make business calls while driving.

A motion was made by Charlie Castlen and seconded by Adam O'Nan to approve the Telework, Holidays and Automobiles (GRADD-Owned Vehicles) amendments to the GRADD Personnel Policies. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

G. Conflict of Interest

Joanna Shake explained as part of its annual compliance requirements, GRADD requires each board member to complete the Conflict of Interest form. Completed forms should be returned to Kim Wells.

H. Service Award

Chairman Steve Henry presented Blake Edge with a five-year service award. He thanked Mr. Edge for his continued dedication to GRADD.

I. Committee Reports

1. Green River Area Council on Aging

Chairperson Henrietta Harris presented the minutes of the February 6, 2024, meeting of the Green River Area Council on Aging.

A motion was made by Henrietta Harris and seconded by Adam O’Nan to approve the February 6, 2024, minutes of the Green River Area Council on Aging. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Chairperson Harris reported the Green River Area Council on Aging met on June 4, 2024. At this meeting, a presentation was given by Adult Protective Services regarding Preventing, Identifying and Reporting Abuse in older adults. Reports were provided by providers and GRADD program staff. The next meeting will be held August 6, 2024.

2. Green River Economic Development Corporation (EDC)

Chairman Brad Davis presented the minutes of the February 7, 2024, meeting of the Green River EDC.

A motion was made by Brad Davis and seconded by Randy Greenwell to approve the February 7, 2024 minutes of the GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Chairman Davis reported the Green River EDC met on July 3, 2024. At this meeting, a loan application for Boling Enterprises Inc. in the amount of \$215,000 from the CARES RLF was approved. The EDC also appointed Kenny Brown from Farmers Bank & Trust to serve as the banker position for McLean County for a two-year term. Colie Smith continues to market the RLF throughout the region. Mr. Davis reminded the members, if they know of someone or a business looking to start or expand, please have them contact Mr. Smith.

3. GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council

Chairman Jeremy Moore reported Colie Smith is working on the next update to the GRADD Hazard Mitigation Plan, which will be a two-year process ending in June of 2026. Communities can expect to see more information on the Plan update process during the fourth quarter of this year. The next meeting of the GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council is scheduled for October 15, 2024.

4. GRADD Regional Transportation Committee (RTC)

Chairman Adam O’Nan presented the minutes of the February 22, 2024, meeting of the GRADD Regional Transportation Committee.

A motion was made by Adam O’Nan and seconded by Johnny Roberts to approve the February 22, 2024 minutes of the GRADD Regional Transportation Committee. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Chairman O'Nan reported the GRADD RTC met on May 20, 2024. At this meeting, Jennifer Alvey provided an update on the Safe Streets 4 All grant and distributed a list of Focus Roadways for review. The committee reviewed transportation projects that made it into the final KYTC 2024 Highway Plan, the existing Freight User and Traffic Generator lists and heard updates from the Highway District Office.

Jennifer Alvey has completed and submitted the Title VI Accomplishments, Bike/Ped inventory, Public Involvement Plan update, Regional Transportation Asset Inventory update, Socioeconomic Profiles and the Major Freight Users Inventory update to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. The next RTC meeting is scheduled for August 26, 2024.

5. GRADD Water Management Council

Chairman Johnny Roberts presented the minutes of the March 21, 2024, meeting of the GRADD Water Management Council.

A motion was made by Johnny Roberts and seconded by Adam O'Nan to approve the March 21, 2024 minutes of the GRADD Water Management Council. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Chairman Roberts reported the GRADD Water Management Council met on June 10, 2024. At this meeting, the Clean Water Program dates and deadlines were discussed along with the Kentucky Water Wastewater Program, which guidance is to be released this month for additional funding opportunities. Draft rankings for 2025 Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Funds have been released. Dana Garrett will continue to monitor and notify agencies if they are invited for funding. The next GRADD Water Management Council meeting will be held September 26, 2024.

6. Green River Workforce Development Board

Chairman Mickey Dunbar reported the Skills to Succeed (S2S) grant will expire in July. This grant has served 368 individuals with over \$1.12 million spent on training and \$100,000 for supportive services. An Expungement Clinic & Resource Fair will be held July 15, 2024 from 1:00 - 5:00 PM at the One Stop Help Center, 410 Southtown Boulevard in Owensboro. This clinic is for those who need help removing charges from their record. There will also be community resources on site. Based on the recent announcement of the closure of Daramic Manufacturing and the significant impacts such closures can have on the local community and employees involved, GRADD's Rapid Response Team will be working to schedule meetings for those affected. Rapid Response meetings consist of sharing information with employees about unemployment insurance and other services and benefits available to them as a dislocated worker.

I. Frankfort and Washington Updates

Hunter Whitaker reported Senator Mitch McConnell, along with other leaders, sent letters to President Joe Biden with regards to the recent severe weather outbreaks in Kentucky asking for support for those communities.

The Senate passed the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization Act of 2024, which contains significant resources to support Kentucky's airports and aviation operations including \$300,000 to Owensboro-Daviess County Regional Airport for airport improvements.

Other topics which Senator McConnell is keeping an eye on include the upcoming NATO Summit in Washington and the Farm Bill, which expires in September 2024.

Jason Hasert noted Billy Matthews in Senator Rand Paul's office can assist with any natural disaster assistance cities and counties may need. Mr. Hasert also reported just a little under a year ago Senator Paul's Bowling Green office had a fire but the new office is up and running and will have an open house soon. Senator Paul would like to adorn the new office with artwork from each of the Area Development Districts.

Kylie Foushee reported Congressman Brett Guthrie has been focused on the Brownfield Nuclear Sites Bill which has been signed into law. This bill will address those coal sites which have been left unused since closing with the possibility of transforming those into nuclear sites. Ms. Foushee also reminded the members of the Congressional App Challenge deadline is in October. Each year students are challenged to create and submit an original app for a chance to win the Congressional App Challenge (CAC). Each challenge is district specific.

Austin Wetherington introduced Congressman James Comer's summer interns Colsen Thomas and Chase Hendricks. Congressman Comer was able to assist Kentucky in securing \$29.35 million from the Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Program. Congressman Comer is hopeful the Farm Bill will be approved by the end of the year but if not, it will be extended.

Chairman Steve Henry encouraged Senator Mitch McConnell and Senator Rand Paul's offices to do what they can to keep language in the AML for Western Kentucky so it can continue to tap into those funds.

Alex Caudill announced Matt Sawyers has been named as the new commissioner for the Department for Local Government (DLG). The Governor's Local Issues Conference will take place August 7 - 9, 2024 at the Galt House in Louisville. Mr. Caudill congratulated Ohio County on being named one of "America's Best Counties" in the July issue of Site Selection Magazine.

V. INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEWS

Jessie Saalwaechter presented the following regional Executive Orders:

Beaver Dam-Cagle's Lift Station Rehab

City of Beaver Dam KY2024-0501-0677

City of Hartford Little Tank Repair & Rehab

City of Hartford KY2024-0626-1055

Kenergy Fiber Broadband Project

Kenergy Corp. KY2024-0502-0682

Owensboro Sidewalk Expansion and Improvement Project

City of Owensboro KY2024-0605-0914

US 60 Sidewalk Project

City of Morganfield KY2024-0604-0909

Ohio County Park-Youth Football Field Lighting

Ohio County Fiscal Court KY2024-0520-0785

Baker Park Revitalization Project

City of Dixon KY2024-0524-0837

Vastwood Park Playground Revitalization

Hancock County Fiscal Court KY2024-0524-0843

Canaan Ridge Park Walking Trail Renovation

Webster County Fiscal Court KY2024-0528-0853

Glenn Armstrong Walking Trail

Ohio County Fiscal Court KY2024-0514-0742

Canaan Ridge Bridge Project

Webster County Fiscal Court KY2024-0524-0838

Myer Creek Park Walking Trail

McLean County Fiscal Court KY2024-0524-0839

Centertown Park Exercise Path

City of Centertown KY2024-0524-0841

Vastwood Park Trail Amenities Upgrades

Hancock County Fiscal Court KY2024-0524-0842

A motion was made by Adam O'Nan and seconded by Johnny Roberts to endorse the above-stated Regional Executive Order. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

VI. CHAIRMAN/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Chairman Steve Henry made the following announcement:

- Governor Andy Beshear visited Ohio County on May 28, 2024 where he announced funding for several projects:
 - \$522,500 from the Kentucky Product Development Initiative will be used to upgrade the Bluegrass Crossings Business Centre;
 - \$25,000 from the Land and Water Conservation Fund will add swing sets, a pavilion and walking trails to Centertown's city park; and
 - \$87,680 from the Land and Water Conservation Fund will install playground equipment, resurface a basketball court and renovate two baseball fields at Ellis Park in Hartford.
- Webster County will receive a Tire-Derived Product Grant for \$75,000 to create a poured-in-place walking trail at Canaan Ridge Park;
- City of Livermore will receive a Tire-Derived Product Grant for \$14,800 to purchase benches and picnic tables for the Livermore Riverfront and the Depot Park;
- On June 20, 2024 Governor Beshear and Delta Regional Authority Federal Co Chair Dr. Corey Wiggins visited Webster County where they made the following funding announcements:
 - City of Sturgis - \$2 million to rehabilitate its wastewater treatment plant and lift stations;
 - Henderson Community College - \$450,000 to support the MAINTech advanced industrial maintenance training program;
 - Webster County Fiscal Court - \$326,657 to purchase workforce training equipment for students in manufacturing, health care, industrial and computer; and
 - Webster County Fiscal Court - \$150,000 to develop a comprehensive economic development plan.
- The following grant announcements have been made through the Government Resources Accelerating Needed Transformation (Grant Program):
 - City of Sacramento Gravity Sewer Project - \$1,250,000;
 - City of Morganfield Splashpad Project - \$72,313;
 - City of Morganfield US 60 Sidewalk Project - \$227,723.
- In the May edition of Southern Living the City of Henderson was named as one of the top twenty friendliest towns in the South.

Joanna Shake made the following comments:

- Welcome new staff: Bethanne McPherson, Medicaid Waiver Initiator;
- GRADD's AmeriCorps Senior Connections Program is now recruiting new members to serve seniors in our communities. More information can be found at www.gradd.com;
- An expungement clinic and resource fair will be held July 15, 2024 at the One Stop Help Center located at 410 Southtown Boulevard in Owensboro;

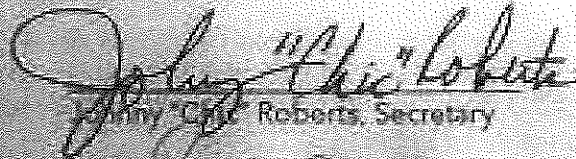
- Senior Games will take place September 12, 2024 at Vardaman Park in Hancock County;
- The GRADO Annual Meeting will take place September 16, 2024 at Franklin Ridge Park in Webster County; and
- Nominations for GRADO's Regional Excellence Awards and Community of the Year are now being accepted through August 16, 2024. Nomination forms can be found at www.gradd.com

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

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


Johnny "Chic" Roberts, Secretary


Stephen R. Henry, Chairman