



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 August 14, 2024

The Board of Directors of the Green River Area Development District (GRADD) held its monthly meeting August 14, 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, Lauren Osowicz
HANCOCK COUNTY:	Judge/Executive Johnny Roberts, Mayor Chad Gregory, Franklin Powers
HENDERSON COUNTY:	Judge/Executive Brad Schneider, Mayor David Sellers, Bill Markwell
McLEAN COUNTY:	Judge/Executive Curtis Dame, Mayor Betty Howard, Vicki Hughes
OHIO COUNTY:	Judge/Executive David Johnston, Mayor Jeff Fuqua
UNION COUNTY:	Mayor Randy Greenwell
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)

*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:	*Mayor Tom Watson, *Robert Howard
HANCOCK COUNTY:	All present
HENDERSON COUNTY:	Janeth Nicolas, Mayor Brad Staton
McLEAN COUNTY:	All present
OHIO COUNTY:	*Mayor Paul Sandefur
UNION COUNTY:	*Judge/Executive Adam O’Nan, Melissa Coker
WEBSTER COUNTY:	All present

COMMITTEE CHAIRS ABSENT

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

GUESTS AND STAFF PRESENT

Hunter Whitaker, Senator Mitch McConnell’s Office
Austin Wetherington, Representative James Comer’s Office
Alex Caudill, Department for Local Government
Mayor Sharon Nell Boyken, City of Livermore
Mayor LaDonna Tapp, City of Uniontown
Dr. Jason Warren, Henderson Community College
Michele Ruxer, *Messenger-Inquirer*
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
Jessie Saalwaechter, Public Information Officer, GRADD
Marisa Haight, Fiscal Contracts Coordinator, GRADD
Lexi Camron, Family Caregiver Program Specialist, GRADD
Molly Sperling, Waiver Case Manager, GRADD
Kelsey Smith, Payroll Coordinator, 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 and opened the meeting with prayer.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Secretary’s Report

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

Secretary Johnny Roberts presented the minutes of the July 10, 2024, GRADD Executive Committee meeting for approval.

A motion was made by Johnny Roberts and seconded by Charlie Castlen to approve the minutes of the July 10, 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 - June 30, 2024.

A motion was made by Curtis Dame and seconded by Betty Howard to approve the Treasurer's Report for the period of July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024, which is subject to audit. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Treasurer Dame noted GRADD ended the fiscal year in a great position. Although expenses show seven percent over budget, this is attributed to the contractual services and direct program expenditures line items. These line items include GRADD's contractor reimbursements and the Waiver Program, which had higher costs than anticipated due to available funding and program growth. GRADD received reimbursement for these overages. GRADD also earned \$209,058 in interest revenue on checking accounts for the fiscal year. Allocations for Fiscal Year 2025 have been received and a revised budget will be presented in the coming months.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Guest Speaker

Chairman Steve Henry introduced Leslie Wilson, GRADD's Director of Social Services.

Ms. Wilson gave an overview of upcoming senior events in the region. Senior Games premiered in 2004 and is still strong today. There have been several changes to the event over the years but the competitive sports tournament for seniors continues to draw individuals from the seven-county region for a fun-filled day. Games include washer toss, football throw and cornhole. This year's event will be held on September 12, 2024 at Vastwood Park in Hawesville.

Another highly attended event is Senior Day Out, which began in 1999. This event, orchestrated by TRIAD, a subcommittee of the Green River Area Council on Aging, focuses on scam/fraud awareness and other topics of interest to seniors. Senior Day Out will be held on October 15, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Owensboro Christian Church.

Lastly, Ms. Wilson shared details on the Silver Bells Project. Coordinated by the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program since 2011. Silver Bells receives several donations from individuals and local businesses to provide gift bags containing socks, gloves, lip balm, snacks and puzzle books to residents in personal care homes during the Christmas season. The donation drive begins in October and delivery will be in December before the holidays.

B. Committee Reports

1. Green River Area Council on Aging

Chairperson Henrietta Harris presented the minutes of the June 4, 2024, meeting of the Green River Area Council on Aging.

A motion was made by Henrietta Harris and seconded by Jeremy Moore to approve the June 4, 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 August 6, 2024. At this meeting, County Aging Services Providers shared activities taking place in the centers including Drums Alive. Seniors are also enjoying the new menus. Owensboro Health is hosting a Partners in Aging drop-in event on September 20, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the hospital.

2. Green River Economic Development Corporation (EDC)

Chairman Brad Davis reported GRADD staff met with Jody Hulsey, the new Business Coach for the Kentucky Small Business Development Center (SBDC) in Owensboro, to discuss the GRADD Revolving Loan Fund program and how GRADD and the SBDC work together to support small businesses in local communities. Colie Smith continues to market the revolving loan fund (RLF) program throughout the region. Inquiries into the RLF program have increased over the past several weeks and Mr. Smith is working on several projects. Mr. Smith has been reviewing five loans in default to determine how borrowers can bring those accounts current and prevent being sent to collections. GRADD's attorney will present an update on the status of RLF loans sent to collections at the next EDC meeting on September 4, 2024.

3. GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council

Chairman Jeremy Moore reported Colie Smith is laying the groundwork for the next update to the GRADD Hazard Mitigation Plan, a two-year process ending in June 2026. Communities can expect to see more information on the plan update process during the fourth quarter of this year. The 2024 Kentucky Association of Mitigation Managers annual conference is being held in Owensboro from September 17- 19, 2024. Sessions will cover a wide array of mitigation topics and the Director of Kentucky Emergency Management, Eric Gibson, is the keynote speaker.

4. GRADD Regional Transportation Committee (RTC)

Treasurer Curtis Dame reported Jennifer Alvey has completed and submitted the annual timeline, work elements and allocation of costs to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet.

5. GRADD Water Management Council

Chairman Johnny Roberts reported the Clean and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan invitations have been sent from the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (KIA) to systems that had high ranking projects. The Kentucky Water and Wastewaters Assistance for Troubled or Economically Restrained Systems Program (KYWWATERS) guidance and applications opened on July 19, 2024 and are due August 30, 2024.

6. Green River Workforce Development Board

Chairman Mickey Dunbar announced the Green River Workforce Development Board has received \$790,000 from the state legislature for workforce development programming. This project, Putting Young Kentuckians to Work, is a two-year allocation aimed at helping those aged 16 to 24 find employment. The Board's plan is to serve 230 youth in the Green River Region. A Heatwave Hiring Event was held at the National Guard Armory in Owensboro on August 6, 2024. Over 40 employers participated and 473 job seekers attended. Rapid Response meetings have been held for Hickory Springs and Daramic employees. Both have recently announced plans for closure.

I. Frankfort and Washington Updates

Hunter Whitaker reported Senator Mitch McConnell continues to keep a watchful eye on increasing the national defense spending. She explained how beneficial it is to Kentuckians as several manufacturing companies in Kentucky supply military vehicles with parts. The Farm Bill is set to expire in September and unfortunately, there is not a lot of push for the bill, which ultimately would cause another extension.

Austin Wetherington noted the session begins on September 9, 2024 and high priority will be the budget. Congressman James Comer has sent a letter in support of a community project funding for Fiscal Year 2025 for the Henderson Water Utility Biosolids Reduction Project, an upgrade to the city's sludge treatment technology.

Alex Caudill reported Lieutenant Governor Jacklyn Coleman was recently at Ellis Park in Henderson for Horses and Hope breast cancer event. Mr. Caudill noted at each member's seat is a listing of available grants from the Energy Environment Cabinet. He also thanked everyone who attended the Governor's Local Issues Conference in Louisville and noted that there was representation from every county in the GRADD region.

Dr. Jason Warren reported classes begin August 19, 2024 at Henderson Community College. The Health Force Kentucky program will be expanding to Owensboro in the Spring. The FAME program has seventeen new students bringing the total to thirty active apprenticeships in the program who are working for about fifteen different manufacturers in the region.

IV. INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEWS

Jessie Saalwaechter presented the following regional Executive Orders:

South Sebree Industrial Park Improvements

Webster County Fiscal Court KY2024-0702-1087

Apron Expansion and Wind Cone Relocation

Ohio County Airport Board KY2024-0702-1091

Grateful Living Residences

Wabuck Development Company, Inc. KY2024-0705-1112

Job Corps Rehabilitation and Replacement Project

City of Morganfield KY2024-0717-1174

A motion was made by Brad Davis and seconded by Charlie Castlen 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 announcements:

- Chairman Henry was asked to serve on a panel at the National Association of Counties (NACo) annual conference, where he discussed the importance for county leaders engaging with their local Area Development Districts; and
- GRADD's annual meeting will take place September 11, 2024 at Canaan Ridge Park in Dixon. The meeting will begin at 11:30 a.m. with lunch followed by a brief meeting. The Regional Excellence Awards and Community of the Year award will be presented during the meeting. Members may RSVP at www.gradd.com or by using the QR code on the invitation that is at their place. Must RSVP no later than September 5th.

Joanna Shake made the following comments:

- Nominations for GRADD's Regional Excellence Awards and Community of the Year award may be submitted until August 16, 2024. Applications can be found at www.gradd.com or by contacting the GRADD office; and
- Welcome to GRADD: Molly Sperling, Waiver Case Manager; Kelsey Smith, Payroll Coordinator; and Lexi Camron, Family Caregiver Program Specialist.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

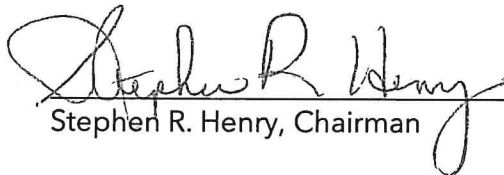
Judge/Executive Brad Schneider expressed his gratitude to the cities and counties that have supported a Henderson family who recently lost their daughter on the first day of school after she collapsed on the playground. He emphasized that, although no place is perfect, the strong motivation to do great things for our community reflects the special value we find in our counties. Our collective effort to help our community thrive and survive highlights the unique place each of us holds in this world.

Chairman Steve Henry encouraged members to contact their legislators now to advocate for their community.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

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


Johnny "Chio" Roberts, Secretary


Stephen R. Henry, Chairman

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