



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 October 9, 2024

The Board of Directors of the Green River Area Development District (GRADD) held its monthly meeting October 9, 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

DAVISS COUNTY:	Mayor Patsy Mayfield, Henrietta Harris
HANCOCK COUNTY:	Judge/Executive Johnny Roberts, Mayor Chad Gregory, Franklin Powers
HENDERSON COUNTY:	Mayor David Sellers, Bill Markwell
McLEAN COUNTY:	Judge/Executive Curtis Dame, Mayor Betty Howard, Vicki Hughes
OHIO COUNTY:	Judge/Executive David Johnston, Mayor Paul Sandefur
UNION COUNTY:	Judge/Executive Adam O'Nan, 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)

*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: *Judge/Executive Charlie Castlen, Mayor Tom Watson,
*Lauren Osowicz, *Robert Howard
HANCOCK COUNTY: All present
HENDERSON COUNTY: *Judge/Executive Brad Schneider, *Janeth Nicolas,
*Mayor Brad Staton
McLEAN COUNTY: All present
OHIO COUNTY: *Mayor Jeff Fuqua
UNION COUNTY: *Mayor Randy Greenwell
WEBSTER COUNTY: *Ryan Hammack

COMMITTEE CHAIRS ABSENT

All present

GUESTS AND STAFF PRESENT

Hunter Whitaker, Senator Mitch McConnell's Office
Austin Wetherington, Representative James Comer's Office
Sydney Crawford, Representative James Comer's Office
Alex Caudill, Department for Local Government
Mayor LaDonna Tapp, City of Uniontown
Dr. Scott Williams, Owensboro Community & Technical College
Gilbert Mischel, Owensboro Health
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
Beth Ferguson, Accounting Clerk, GRADD
Reenee Fogle, Fiscal Manager, GRADD
Jill Gray, Assistant Director of Workforce Development, GRADD
Alisha Smith, Workforce Development Youth Coordinator, GRADD
Amber Gebhard, Community Services Manager, GRADD
Lisa Flahardy, Aging Contract Specialist, GRADD
Abigail Newmeyer, Benefits Resource Specialist, GRADD
Liberty Watson, Social Services Administrative Assistant, GRADD
Kelsey Smith, Payroll Coordinator, GRADD
David Glover, AmeriCorps Workforce Liaison, 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. Chairman Henry welcomed guests to the meeting.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Secretary's Report

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

A motion was made by Johnny "Chic" Roberts and seconded by Adam O'Nan to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2024 GRADD Board of Directors meeting. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Secretary Johnny "Chic" Roberts presented the minutes of the September 11, 2024 GRADD Executive Committee meeting for approval.

A motion was made by Johnny "Chic" Roberts and seconded by Adam O'Nan to approve the minutes of the September 11, 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, 2024 - August 31, 2024.

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

Treasurer Dame noted a revised budget will be reviewed at the finance committee's next meeting to account for Fiscal Year 2025 allocations and additional grant funds received. The committee will also meet to discuss the 2025 health insurance renewal.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Five Star Unit Cost Increase

Lisa Flahardy reported Five Star Food Services, who supply the catered meals, have requested an increase of .61 cents per meal, effective October 1, 2024. Five Star is citing higher costs of ingredients to prepare meals.

The Green River Area Council on Aging and the GRADD Executive Committee have reviewed and approved the increase and are requesting final approval from the GRADD Board of Directors.

A motion was made by Adam O’Nan and seconded by David Johnston to approve the .61 cents per meal increase for catered meals, effective October 1, 2024. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

B. Loan Review

1. Foam Solutions, LLC

Brad Davis reported the Green River Economic Development Corporation reviewed and approved the Foam Solutions, LLC loan at the September meeting pending the Small Business Administration’s (SBA) approval to guarantee the loan. The guarantee was received from the SBA on September 27, 2024.

Dana Collins is requesting \$210,470 to fund the purchase of equipment, inventory and working capital necessary to start a new foam solutions business after the departure of a long-standing foam fabrication vendor. This departure left a significant void in the foam fabrication market and in the Owensboro community. Foam Solutions, LLC is dedicated to delivering foam parts specifically fabricated and tailored to the unique needs of its customers.

A motion was made by Brad Davis and seconded by Curtis Dame to approve the Foam Solutions, LLC loan in the amount of \$210,470. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

C. Fiscal Year 2024 Impact Report

Joanna Shake presented the 2024 Impact Report, emphasizing the data reflects GRADD’s dedication to positively impacting its communities. This fiscal year marks GRADD’s largest budget to date, totaling \$34 million in direct services.

Mrs. Shake highlighted several key accomplishments: the Aging & Disability Resource Center successfully matched 6,118 callers to services; over 162,000 home-delivered meals were provided to 916 seniors and the Hire to Operate (H2O) program enrolled seventeen apprentices on their journey to becoming certified water and wastewater operators. Additionally, 823 seniors and individuals with disabilities received support to live independently through waiver and veteran caregiver services. GRADD also funded 177 grant applications, totaling more than \$88 million invested in community and economic development. She acknowledged numerous events, including ribbon-cutting ceremonies for new facilities, outreach efforts, and guest speakers that benefit GRADD’s communities.

Mrs. Shake expressed gratitude to Representative DJ Johnson for his role in securing House Bill 9, which strengthened the partnership between the Department for Local Government and the Area Development Districts, as well as for advocating increased funding for Joint Funding Administration, water and wastewater initiatives and the Waiver program.

She concluded by thanking the GRADD staff, who serve as extended city and county staff, for their exceptional work ethic and commitment to the organization and the region.

D. Nominating Committee Appointment

Chairman Steve Henry appointed Treasurer Curtis Dame, Mayor David Sellers and Melissa Coker to the nominating committee.

E. Committee Reports

1. Green River Area Council on Aging

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

A motion was made by Henrietta Harris and seconded by Johnny "Chic" Roberts to approve the August 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 October 1, 2024. At this meeting, reports were provided by legal services and in-home services providers, as well as GRADD program managers. Officers were elected for 2025. Hospice and Palliative Care gave a presentation on available bereavement services. The next meeting of the Green River Council on Aging will be held on December 3, 2024.

2. Green River Economic Development Corporation (EDC)

Chairman Brad Davis presented the minutes of the July 3, 2024 meeting of the Green River Economic Development Corporation.

A motion was made by Brad Davis and seconded by Mickey Dunbar to approve the July 3, 2024 minutes of the Green River Economic Development Corporation. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Chairman Davis reported the Green River Economic Development Corporation met on September 4, 2024. A loan application for Foam Solutions LLC in the amount of \$210,470 was approved. Six businesses who are in default on loans have been submitted to Joanna Shake for final approval to begin legal action.

GRADD staff have been invited to present at an event organized by the Greater Owensboro Economic Development Corporation on October 16, 2024. The event will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Owensboro Community & Technical College Downtown Campus.

Chairman Davis noted if members know a business owner or entrepreneur to please invite them to attend this workshop where a range of funding opportunities to help grow ventures will be discussed. More information and registration can be found at edc.owensboro.com/funding/.

3. GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council

Chairman Jeremy Moore reported the next meeting of the GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council is scheduled for October 15, 2024. The fundamentals of the update process for the GRADD Hazard Mitigation Plan will be discussed. This plan update cycle will require active participation from all cities and counties in the GRADD region. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

4. GRADD Regional Transportation Committee (RTC)

Chairman Adam O'Nan presented the minutes of the May 20, 2024 meeting of the GRADD Regional Transportation Committee.

A motion was made by Adam O'Nan and seconded by Brad Davis to approve the May 20, 2024 minutes of the GRADD Regional Transportation Committee. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Chairman O'Nan reported the GRADD Regional Transportation Committee met on August 26, 2024. During the meeting, the committee reviewed and discussed:

- List of Major Traffic Generators
- Public Involvement Plan
- Regional Transportation Asset Inventory
- Safe Streets 4 All project

Jennifer Alvey has submitted the Major Traffic Generators deliverable to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and attended trainings on Legacy Highways and Transportation Systems Management. The next RTC meeting is November 25, 2024.

5. GRADD Water Management Council

Chairman Johnny "Chic" Roberts presented the minutes of the June 10, 2024 meeting of the GRADD Water Management Council.

A motion was made by Johnny "Chic" Roberts and seconded by Adam O'Nan to approve the June 10, 2024 minutes of the GRADD Water Management Council. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Chairman Roberts reported a call for projects for 2026 State Revolving Funds (SRF) funding cycle is open. Dana Garrett will be reaching out to each county to set up ranking meetings. The GRADD Water Management Council will meet next on December 5, 2024.

6. Green River Workforce Development Board

Chairman Mickey Dunbar reported Rapid Response meetings are being scheduled with Big Lots in Henderson and Party City in Owensboro as both have recently announced plans for closure. Alisha Smith, Youth Coordinator, attended Healthy on the Hill at Henderson Community College and the Phoenix Future Fair at Heritage Park in an effort to recruit youth for employment. The next meeting of the Green River Workforce Development Board will be November 6, 2024.

F. Frankfort and Washington Updates

Representative DJ Johnson reported legislators are gearing up for the next session. While not in session, the fifteen interim, thirteen statutory and four special committees continue to conduct business.

Hunter Whitaker thanked the leadership at GRADD for its attendance at a luncheon with Senator Mitch McConnell in Owensboro. Conversations from that luncheon were so impactful that Senator McConnell included the visit to Owensboro in his remarks when discussing the Farm Bill in Washington. While back in for a short session the Senate was able to pass the Continuity Act. Senator McConnell recently announced he would work to push federal resources and research to White Oak Forest, which is very important to the Kentucky bourbon industry.

Austin Wetherington reported the Continuing Resolution was passed, which continues government funding to December 20, 2024. Congressman James Comer continues to make stops in Kentucky during the recess and recently announced passport renewals can now be done online.

Alex Caudill reported the Kentucky Ohio River Recreational Authority has received resolutions from twenty-one of the twenty-five river counties to be partners in the Authority. Governor Andy Beshear and Lieutenant Governor Jacqueline Coleman have made stops at the Henderson Brewing Company groundbreaking and in Daviess County for the River Valley Behavioral Health Empowerment Academy, Swedish Match expansion announcement and the Daniel Pitino Shelter. Mr. Caudill announced 5,000 medical cannabis business license applications have been received. Forty-eight business licenses will be issued via lottery on October 28, 2024.

Lastly, the Delta Regional Authority will be making grant announcements in the coming weeks, Community Development Block Grant applications are being reviewed. The Land and Water Conservation Fund Advisory Board will be meeting in November.

Dr. Scott Williams announced in the last year Owensboro Community & Technical College had 987 graduates earning over 1,800 credentials. Dr. Williams also announced, after analyzing the last two graduating classes, about ninety percent graduate without debt. The Work Ready Program has had a significant impact on the decrease.

Gilbert Mischel announced Owensboro Health has hired fifty new physicians in the past year to support the eighteen counties it serves, increasing urgent and primary care. An innovation center ground-breaking will be taking place soon.

G. Service Awards

Chairman Steve Henry recognized Liberty Watson and Mariah Myers with 10-year service awards, expressing his gratitude for their ongoing support.

IV. INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEWS

Jessie Saalwaechter presented the following regional Executive Orders:

Spectrum Ohio County KBIP Project

Spectrum Mid-America, LLC KY2024-0717-1195

Owensboro-Daviess County Regional Airport Airfield Lighting System Replacement

Owensboro-Daviess County Regional Airport Board KY2024-0827-1371

Morganfield GAC Contractor Tank

City of Morganfield KY2024-0911-1420

Morganfield WWTP Rehabilitation & Expansion Project

City of Morganfield KY2024-0911-1421

Melba Lane Waterline Extension

City of Whitesville KY2024-0916-1446

Wimsatt Court Protection Upgrade

Daviess County Water District KY2024-0919-1451

A motion was made by David Johnston and seconded by Johnny "Chic" Roberts 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:

- GRADD's Annual Meeting was held on September 11, 2024 at Canaan Ridge Park in Webster County where over two hundred guests gathered to celebrate. During the meeting, GRADD presented awards to Senator Steven Meredith, Wendell H. Ford Regional Legislative Leadership Award; Mike Baker, Texal Brooks Regional Leadership Award and Kim Humphrey, Charles Reid Regional Citizenship Awarded. Morganfield was also awarded Community of the Year for the Homestead Park Project;
- Congratulations to Dukes Fire Department on the recent ribbon cutting of its new fire station; and
- Congratulations to the City of Whitesville on the recent ribbon cutting of its new inclusive playground.

Joanna Shake made the following comments:

- Welcome to GRADD - Abigail Newmeyer, Benefits Resource Specialist; Alisha Smith, Workforce Development Youth Coordinator; David Glover, AmeriCorps Member Workforce Liaison;
- Senior Games were held on September 12, 2024 at Vastwood Park in Hancock County. Approximately one hundred seniors from around the GRADD region attended and participated in athletic games such as cornhole, bocce ball and frisbee throw; and
- Senior Day Out will be held on October 15, 2024 at Owensboro Christian Church.

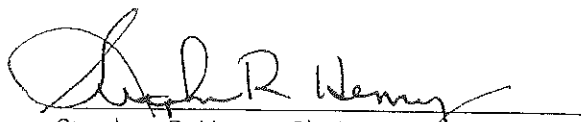
VI. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

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


Johnny "Chic" Roberts, Secretary


Stephen R. Henry, Chairman

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