



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 November 20, 2024

The Board of Directors of the Green River Area Development District (GRADD) held its monthly meeting November 20, 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, Henrietta Harris
HANCOCK COUNTY:	Judge/Executive Johnny Roberts, Mayor Chad Gregory, Franklin Powers
HENDERSON COUNTY:	Judge/Executive Brad Schneider, Mayor David Sellers, Mayor Brad Staton, Janeth Nicolas
McLEAN COUNTY:	Judge/Executive Curtis Dame, Mayor Betty Howard, Vicki Hughes
OHIO COUNTY:	Judge/Executive David Johnston
UNION COUNTY:	Judge/Executive Adam O'Nan, Mayor Randy Greenwell, Melissa Coker
WEBSTER COUNTY:	Judge/Executive Steve Henry, Mayor Pat Clark, Ryan Hammack

COMMITTEE CHAIRS PRESENT

GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council - Jeremy Moore
GRADD Water Management Council - (Judge/Executive Johnny Roberts)
Green River Area Council on Aging - (Henrietta Harris)
Green River Transportation Committee - (Judge/Executive Adam O'Nan)

*Excused absence



Johnny Roberts, Chairman | Adam O'Nan, Vice Chairman | Curtis Dame, Secretary | Charlie Castlen, Treasurer | Joanna Shake, Executive Director

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS ABSENT

DAVISS COUNTY:	Mayor Patsy Mayfield, Mayor Tom Watson *Lauren Osowicz, *Robert Howard
HANCOCK COUNTY:	All present
HENDERSON COUNTY:	Bill Markwell
McLEAN COUNTY:	All present
OHIO COUNTY:	*Mayor Paul Sandefur Mayor Jeff Fuqua
UNION COUNTY:	All present
WEBSTER COUNTY:	All present

COMMITTEE CHAIRS ABSENT

Green River Workforce Development Board - *Mickey Dunbar
Green River Economic Development Corporation - *Brad Davis

GUESTS AND STAFF PRESENT

Senator Stephen Meredith, Kentucky Senator
Representative Suzanne Miles, Kentucky Representative
Representative Scott Lewis, Kentucky Representative
Representative DJ Johnson, Kentucky Representative
Representative Gary Boswell, Kentucky Representative
Jason Hasert, Senator Rand Paul's Office
Alex Caudill, Department for Local Government
Mayor LaDonna Tapp, City of Uniontown
Mayor Sharon Nell Boyken, City of Livermore
Richard Kolodey, Webster County
Mandy Fambrough, Webster County
Randy Norman, Webster County
Carla Wallace, Ohio County
Charlotte Whitaker, Ohio County
CeCe Robinson, Ohio County Healthcare
Joanna Shake, Executive Director, GRADD
Mariah Myres, Director of Finance & Human Resources, GRADD
Sarah Duncan, Director of Waiver Services, GRADD
Leslie Wilson, Director of Social Services, GRADD
Andrew Rudkosky, IT Director, GRADD
Tiffany Donahue, Local Government Analyst, GRADD
Alex Kretzer, Local Government Advisor, GRADD
Chris Cunningham, Regional Resiliency Coordinator, GRADD
Marissa 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
Taylar Howard, Waiver Case Manager, GRADD
Kyndall Wolf, Waiver Case Manager, GRADD

Amber Gebhard, Community Services Manager, GRADD
Lisa Flahardy, Aging Contract Specialist, GRADD
Kelsey Smith, Payroll Coordinator, GRADD
Linda Zuerner, Receptionist, GRADD
Donna Behl, ADRC Counselor, 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. Randy Norman, Webster County Road Department Supervisor 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 October 9, 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 October 9, 2024 GRADD Board of Directors meeting. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Secretary Johnny "Chic" Roberts presented the minutes of the October 9, 2024 GRADD Executive Committee meeting for approval.

A motion was made by Johnny "Chic" Roberts and seconded by Pat Clark to approve the minutes of the October 9, 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 - September 30, 2024.

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

Treasurer Dame noted the finance staff has no concerns and the budget is running right on target for this period. Revenues are still being collected, with 90% of the expected receivables already received.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Guest Speaker

Chairman Steve Henry introduced Richard Kolodey, World War II Veteran, who will be 100 years old on his birthday, February 14, 2025.

Mr. Kolodey shared he was born in Brady, Texas on Valentine's Day, 1925. He moved to San Antonio in 1926, two blocks from the Alamo and later to Dallas where he graduated from high school. At 17, right after high school, he enlisted in the Marine Corps. Since the military required recruits to be at least 18, his parents had to sign for him to join. He became part of the 1st Marine Air Wing in San Diego, California and was assigned to the newly established Marine Torpedo Bombing Squadron, which was formed on May 22, 1943. The squadron, VMTB-233, flew Grumman TBF planes and landed on Guadalcanal on August 9, 1943. Mr. Kolodey reflected on his time during WWII, the challenges he witnessed firsthand and the immense hardships of the loss of many brave men.

Mr. Kolodey met his late wife, Florence, in 1944 through a blind date in Murray. Their connection was immediate and they were married on May 7, 1945. Together, they shared 52 wonderful years. The Kolodey's settled in Slaughters, where they raised two sons, Monte and Randy. In 1948, Mr. Kolodey began attending Sunday School at Slaughters Methodist Church and for an incredible 72 years, he never missed a Sunday service, until the COVID-19 pandemic caused the temporary closure of church services.

B. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Resolution

Alex Kretzer reported the CEDS regional planning process and document is updated annually to track progress toward goals and incorporate new information about factors affecting the economy. It serves as a blueprint for the region's overall economic development plan. This document is required for designation by the Economic Development Administration (EDA). Mr. Kretzer noted that the plan must be fully rewritten every five years to remain eligible for EDA funding as well as to qualify for funds from the Joint Funding Administration (JFA).

A motion was made by Adam O'Nan and seconded by Pat Clark to approve the CEDS Resolution. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

C. Employee Insurance 2025

Treasurer Curtis Dame reported the GRADD Finance Committee had met and reviewed several options for employee health insurance, including SIHO (current provider), Kentucky Association of Counties (KACo) and the Kentucky Employee's Health Plan. Our current carrier, SIHO, presented GRADD with an alternate renewal increase of 12.3%. This alternate renewal included a switch in networks, shifting from the Center Care network to the United Healthcare (UHC) network. A disruption report of providers employees used in the past year showed a 100% match for the UHC network.

Both the KACo and the Kentucky Employee's Health Plan would be a substantial increase of up to 163%. The Finance Committee is recommending a 7% increase for 2025, with the remaining 5% being covered by reserves. The Finance Committee presented the renewal and other proposals to the GRADD Executive Committee earlier this morning and both are submitting to the GRADD Board of Directors for final approval.

A motion was made by Curtis Dame and seconded by Brad Schneider to approve the renewal proposal submitted by SIHO for health insurance for 2025. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

D. Wendell H. Ford Regional Legislative Leadership Award Presentation

Vice Chairman Adam O'Nan presented Senator Stephen Meredith with the Wendell H. Ford Regional Legislative Leadership Award. Vice Chairman O'Nan highlighted during the 2024 legislative session Senator Meredith strongly advocated for the area development districts and was instrumental in opening doors at the Capitol and at the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. Senator Meredith went the extra mile to schedule and attend meetings no matter the time or the place. As a result of Senator Meredith's efforts, the ADDs received critical investments in Joint Funding Agreement, water and sewer, workforce and human and family services. Vice Chairman O'Nan stated the GRADD Board of Directors is grateful for his tireless efforts on behalf of the ADDs and all citizens of the Commonwealth.

E. Committee Reports

1. Green River Area Council on Aging

Chairperson Harris reported the Green River Area Council on Aging Review Committee met earlier today and approved staff to enter into non-competitive negotiations with all bidders for Catered Meals and Senior Centers Supportive Services. The Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program is collecting donations for Silver Bells. The annual project provides gifts to residents of personal care homes.

2. Green River Economic Development Corporation (EDC)

Mayor Chad Gregory reported the Green River Economic Corporation held a closing for Foam Solutions LLC and is working with several business owners to develop projects for future applications to the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF). Colie Smith and Alex Kretzer continue to market the RLF program throughout the District. Chairman Henry noted if board members know of a business looking to start or expand and may be interested in obtaining funding through the GRADD RLF to contact Alex Kretzer.

3. GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council

Chairman Jeremy Moore reported the GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council met November 19, 2024 to discuss the Hazard Mitigation Plan update process that is currently underway.

The Nominating Committee was appointed and charged with adding members to the Council to assist with the plan update process. The next meeting of the GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council will take place on January 21, 2024. A representative from National Weather Service will give a presentation about natural hazards affecting the GRADD region.

4. GRADD Regional Transportation Committee (RTC)

Chairman Adam O’Nan reported Jennifer Alvey has completed and submitted the following deliverables to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet:

- RTC Goals and objectives
- RTC Bylaws

Ms. Alvey attended the annual Kentucky Association of Mapping Professionals conference and the quarterly Area Development District (ADD) Planners and Statewide Transportation Planning meetings in Ashland. The next RTC meeting will be held on November 25, 2024.

5. GRADD Water Management Council

Chairman Johnny “Chic” Roberts reported ranking meetings have concluded. Dana Garrett is compiling the total GRADD region rankings for water/wastewater projects for final approval and submission to the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority. The Kentucky Water/Wastewaters program released eligible project applications and all nine GRADD applications were deemed eligible for legislative review. The next GRADD Water Management Council will be held on December 5, 2024.

6. Green River Workforce Development Board

Judge/Executive David Johnston presented the minutes of the February 7, 2024, May 1, 2024 and August 7, 2024 Green River Workforce Development Board meetings.

A motion was made by David Johnston and seconded by Johnny “Chic” Roberts to approve the February 7, 2024, May 1, 2024 and August 7, 2024 minutes of the Green River Workforce Development Board. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Judge/Executive Johnston reported the Hire to Operate (H2O) Project was monitored by the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) on November 5, 2024, with no findings.

F. Frankfort and Washington Updates

Jason Hasert, from Senator Rand Paul's office, reported Senator Paul has been named the Congressional Chair for the Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee.

This committee is responsible for further investigating the assassination attempt on President Donald Trump. Additionally, Senator Paul will be releasing his annual Festivus list.

Alex Caudill reported that a total of \$6.4 million will be awarded to Kentucky from the Delta Regional Authority. Of that amount, \$2.4 million will be allocated to the Green River region. On November 25, 2024, Governor Andy Beshear will be holding the medical cannabis dispensary drawing on the Kentucky Lottery YouTube Channel.

Representative Suzanne Miles expressed her gratitude to Mr. Koloedy for his service and promised to make his favorite dessert for his 100th birthday. She also congratulated Senator Stephen Meredith on receiving the Wendell H. Ford Award and thanked him for his contributions throughout the session.

Representative DJ Johnson reported the Kentucky legislature recently held leadership elections in the House. The leadership will remain the same, with Representative Suzanne Miles continuing in her role as Majority Caucus Chair. A caucus retreat will be taking place soon, making it a great time to meet with elected officials and discuss needs.

Senator Stephen Meredith reported that the Senate had some leadership changes. The new caucus chair is Senator Robby Mills from Henderson and Senator Max Wise will become the floor leader. During the January session, income tax reduction will be a high priority.

IV. INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

Tiffany Donahue presented the following regional Executive Order:

Mizkan Wate Line Extension

Owensboro Municipal Utilities KY2024-1001-1496

A motion was made by David Johnston and seconded by Johnny "Chic" Roberts to endorse the above-stated Regional Executive Order. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

V. CHAIRMAN/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Chairman Steve Henry made the following announcements:

- GRADD was the recipient of three National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Impact Awards at the recent annual conference in New Orleans. The Green River Wellness Mission Innovative Readiness Training; GRADD Aging and Disability Vaccination Collaborative; and the GRADD Skills to Succeed programs were all recognized;
- Congratulations to Mayor Paul Sandefur on being sworn in as the Kentucky League of Cities (KLC) 2024-25 first vice president during the KLC Conference and Expo in Lexington;

- Congratulations to Judge/Executive Adam O’Nan on being sworn in as the Kentucky Association of Counties (KACo) President-elect at the association’s 50th annual conference in Louisville;
- Henderson County Water District was awarded more than \$227,000 for a water loss reduction project that will upgrade the county’s supervisory control and data acquisition system;
- City of Providence was awarded more than \$2 million from the Delta Regional Authority to make upgrades to an aging public infrastructure to address existing violations;
- Henderson County Riverport was awarded more than \$150,000 for an equipment acquisition project that will replace aging equipment with operational equipment; and
- Union County Fairgrounds was awarded \$100,000 from the State Agriculture Commission to support the installation of new bleachers.

Joanna Shake made the following announcements:

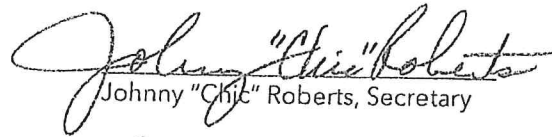
- Welcome to GRADD Chris Cunningham, Regional Resiliency Coordinator;
- An Expungement Fair was held on November 19, 2024 in Owensboro. This event provided access to legal assistance, resources and support for expungement;
- Senior Day Out was held October 15, 2024 at Owensboro Christian Church. More than 320 seniors spent the afternoon learning about scam prevention and community resources;
- Maria Shyver, Reenee Fogle, Kelli King and Amber Gebhard recently completed Supervisor Training Program through Western Kentucky University;
- GRADD's Ombudsman Program hosted a Residents' Rights Forum, where residents of long-term care facilities discussed their experiences and shared their stories; and
- The Silver Bells project donation drive is in full swing. Donations of socks, gloves, ChapStick, snacks, canned drinks and puzzle books may be dropped off at the GRADD office.


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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