



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 December 11, 2024

The Board of Directors of the Green River Area Development District (GRADD) held its monthly meeting December 11, 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, Mayor Brad Staton, Bill Markwell, Janeth Nicolas
McLEAN COUNTY:	Judge/Executive Curtis Dame, Mayor Betty Howard
OHIO COUNTY:	Judge/Executive David Johnston, Mayor Paul Sandefur, 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  
GRADD Water Management Council - (Judge/Executive Johnny Roberts)  
Green River Area Council on Aging - (Henrietta Harris)  
Green River Workforce Development Board - Mickey Dunbar

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS ABSENT

DAVIESS COUNTY:	*Mayor Tom Watson, *Robert Howard
HANCOCK COUNTY:	All present

#### \*Excused absence

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



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*Serving the Municipal and County Governments of Daviess, Hancock, Henderson, McLean, Ohio, Union, & Webster*



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HENDERSON COUNTY: All present  
McLEAN COUNTY: \*Vicki Hughes  
OHIO COUNTY: All present  
UNION COUNTY: \*Judge/Executive Adam O’Nan, \*Melissa Coker  
WEBSTER COUNTY: All present

COMMITTEE CHAIRS ABSENT

Green River Economic Development Corporation - \*Brad Davis  
Green River Transportation Committee - (\*Judge/Executive Adam O’Nan)

GUESTS AND STAFF PRESENT

Representative Suzanne Miles, Kentucky Representative  
Representative DJ Johnson, Kentucky Representative  
Jason Hasert, Senator Rand Paul’s Office  
Hunter Whitaker, Senator Mitch McConnell’s Office  
Katie Marks, Congressman Brett Guthrie’s Office  
Alex Caudill, Department for Local Government  
Mayor Robert McCormick, City of Hawesville  
Mayor Sharon Nell Boyken, City of Livermore  
Tonia Duncan, Webster County Fiscal Court  
Gilbert Mischel, Owensboro Health  
Jake Powers, City of Hawesville  
Amy Roberts, City of Hawesville  
Dr. Scott Williams, Owensboro Community & Technical College  
Damian Davis, Tichenor & Associates  
Meagan Cooley, Meadow House Flowers  
Joanna Shake, Executive Director, GRADD  
Mariah Myres, Director of Finance & Human Resources, GRADD  
Leslie Wilson, Director of Social Services, GRADD  
Michelle Drake, Director of Workforce, 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  
Kelsey Smith, Payroll Coordinator, GRADD  
Amber Gebhard, Community Services Manager, GRADD  
Abigail Newmeyer, Benefits Resource Specialist, GRADD  
Libby Watson, Social Services Administrative Assistant, GRADD  
Leanne Mabrey, AmeriCorps  
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. Chairman Henry welcomed guests to the meeting.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Secretary's Report

Secretary Johnny "Chic" Roberts presented the minutes of the November 20, 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 November 20, 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 Charlie Castlen 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 have reported no concerns about revenue or expenses. The GRADD building Repairs and Maintenance line is high due to some plumbing repairs, but this will be corrected with a revised budget in 2025. Treasurer Dame stated the GRADD Executive Committee was made aware of some potential repairs or partial replacement of the building roof that were surveyed for damage.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Fiscal Year 2024 Audit Approval

Damion Davis presented a draft version of GRADD's Fiscal Year 2024 Audit Report which was conducted by Tichenor & Associates. Mr. Davis explained that GRADD's net position changed from \$5.3 million in Fiscal Year 2023 to \$6.9 million in Fiscal Year 2024, an increase of \$1.6 million. GRADD received an unmodified opinion and no issues with internal controls over financial reporting or major federal programs.

A motion was made by Curtis Dame and seconded by Mickey Dunbar to approve the Fiscal Year 2024 Draft Audit. A vote was taken and motion carried.

B. Revolving Loan Fund Loan Review

Mayor Chad Gregory reported Meagan Cooley is requesting \$60,000 to finance the purchase of inventory and associated items at Simply Chic. The business is closing later this month due to the owner retiring. Ms. Cooley plans to combine Simply Chic with her current business Meadow House Floral and reopen as Simply Chic Home, Gift & Floral in January 2025 in Owensboro.

A motion was made by Brad Schneider and seconded by Brad Staton to approve the Meadow House Floral Design, LLC loan in the amount of \$60,000. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

C. Service Award

Chairman Steve Henry presented Marissa Haight with a five-year service award. He thanked Ms. Haight for her continued dedication to GRADD.

D. Committee Reports

1. Green River Area Council on Aging

Chairperson Harris reported the Green River Area Council on Aging met December 3, 2024. Reports were provided by all seven senior center providers. A variety of activities and events were highlighted which were provided to seniors through partnerships with local businesses and community organizations. The review committee for aging proposals made its recommendations to the Council and those recommendations will be brought before the GRADD Board of Directors in January. The Ombudsman Silver Bells project will be bagging donated items on December 16, 2024. Those items will be delivered to the four personal care homes in the District with approximately 250 residents receiving the gift bags. The next meeting of the Green River Area Council on Aging will be held on February 4, 2025.

2. Green River Economic Development Corporation (EDC)

Mayor Chad Gregory reported the Green River Economic Corporation met on December 5, 2024. A loan application for Meadow House Floral Design, LLC in the amount of \$60,000 was approved. The Corporation authorized GRADD's attorney to file a suit against two businesses who have defaulted on their Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) loans. Officers for 2025 were appointed. They are Brad Davis, Chair; Brandon Gentry, Vice Chair; and Whitney Risley, Secretary. Alex Kretzer continues to market the RLF throughout the region.

3. GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council

Chairman Jeremy Moore presented the April 16, 2024 minutes of the GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council.

A motion was made by Jeremy Moore and seconded by Johnny "Chic" Roberts to approve the April 16, 2024 Minutes of the GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Chairman Jeremy Moore reported the GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council met on November 19, 2024 and reviewed the 2026 Hazard Mitigation Plan update process. A Hazard Mitigation Public Survey will be publicized in the future and will encourage citizens input on hazards faced in their communities. Hazard Mitigation Plan Update community meetings will commence in January of 2025 and continue through the 2025. The next meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2025.

4. GRADD Regional Transportation Committee (RTC)

Judge/Executive Johnny "Chic" Roberts presented the minutes of the August 26, 2024 meeting of the GRADD Regional Transportation Committee.

A motion was made by Johnny "Chic" Roberts and Seconded by David Johnston to approve the August 26, 2024 minutes of the GRADD Regional Transportation Committee. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Judge Roberts reported the GRADD Regional Transportation Committee met on November 25, 2024. During the meeting Judge/Executive Curtis Dame presented the nominating committee report for the upcoming year and officers for 2025 were approved. They are Judge/Executive Adam O'Nan, Chair; Brian Howard, Vice-Chair; and Donnie Mayton, Secretary. The Committee approved the GRADD Regional Transportation Committee Goals and Objectives and Bylaws for 2025. The Committee reviewed the 2025 Kentucky Freight Network, Intermodal Connectors and the Truck Parking Inventory. The next GRADD Regional Transportation Committee meeting will be held on February 24, 2025.

5. GRADD Water Management Council

Chairman Johnny "Chic" Roberts reported the GRADD Water Management Council elected officers for 2025. They are Eric Hickman, Chairman; Gary Shaeffer, Vice Chairman and Trey Pedley, Secretary. The call for projects for the State Revolving Funds is due on December 13, 2024. The next meeting of the GRADD Water Management Council will be held on March 20, 2025.

6. Green River Workforce Development Board

Mickey Dunbar reported additional funds totaling \$76,000 were received for the Quality Jobs, Equity, Strategy and Training (QUEST) grant. Judge/Executive David Johnston was elected Chairman of the Local Elected Officials for an additional term. Mr. Dunbar was excited to attend the KWIB Strategic Advance Briefing in Lexington.

Michelle Drake and Kim Humphrey participated in the inaugural Statewide Workforce Talent Team (SWATT) held in Lexington. Leaders from across Kentucky discussed innovative solutions for economic growth. Mr. Dunbar noted the Green River Workforce Development Board has full membership.

E. Frankfort and Washington Updates

Hunter Whitaker reported Senator Mitch McConnell will be the Chairman of the Rules Committee which oversees the rules and administrative functions of the Senate and is the Committee primarily responsible for federal election law. Ms. Whitaker discussed the possibility of a government shutdown if a continuing resolution is not passed. The continuing resolution would fund the government through March or through the end of the federal fiscal year. The passing of the continued resolution would significantly impact the Workforce Innovation Act and Older Americans Act, both of which GRADD administers. The Assistance to Firefighters Grant application deadline is December 20, 2024. Senator McConnell's office would be happy to write letters of support for those applying for funding.

Katie Marks reported Congressman Brett Guthrie has been selected as the next Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Commission. This Committee has authority over energy, health care, telecommunications and consumer product safety policies.

Alex Caudill reported Governor Andy Beshear visited the Western Kentucky communities hit by devastating tornadoes three years ago. The Land and Water Conservation submissions have been sent to the Governor's Office for review and approval. The Bridge Replacement Program Phase 1 notifications have been sent out. Dr. Steven Stack has released a new campaign, Our Healthy Kentucky Home. This is a Team Kentucky initiative with the Kentucky Department for Public Health to engage and inspire Kentuckians on a personal journey of achievable health and wellness improvements. More information including promotional resources for cities and counties social media can be found at <https://ourhealthykyhome.ky.gov>.

Jason Hasert reported Senator Rand Paul's office will be focused on how government can spend more wisely. Senator Paul will also be researching the possibility of expanding the Delta Regional Authority to include Daviess, Hancock and Ohio Counties.

Dr. Scott Williams reported the Healthforce Kentucky Innovation Center site should be under construction later in December. Owensboro Community & Technical College (OCTC) along with Owensboro Health Hospital are the recipients of a \$150,000 grant from Post Secondary Education to boost radiology technology. OCTC along with two other community & technical systems in Kentucky met with the Kentucky Rural Water Association and are in the process of developing a training program for rural water and wastewater operators.

IV. INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEWS

Tiffany Donahue presented the following regional Executive Orders:

**Habitat for Humanity of Henderson**

Habitat for Humanity of Henderson KY2024-1108-1590

**JQD Apron Extension**

Ohio County Airport Board KY2024-1202-1633

A motion was made by Pat Clark 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 announcement:

- The National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) and the Development District Association of Appalachia's (DDAA) Washington Conference will be held March 9 - 12, 2025 in Arlington, Virginia. If any board members would like to attend, please notify Joanna Shake by January 8, 2025.

Joanna Shake made the following announcements:

- Welcome to GRADD Leanne Mabrey, AmeriCorps, Long Term Care Ombudsman Assistant; and
- During open enrollment for Medicare Part D total money saved for the GRADD counties is over \$225,000 and total people assisted is 197.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Steve Henry wished Mayor Betty Howard and her husband Kenneth a very happy 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

VII. INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

A. Nominating Committee Report

Chairman Brad Schneider made the following Nominating Committee report:

Officers for a one-year term ending on December 31, 2025.

Chairman	Hon. Johnny "Chic" Roberts
Vice Chairman	Hon. Adam O'Nan
Secretary	Hon. Curtis Dame
Treasurer	Hon. Charlie Castlen



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Executive Committee members for a one-year term ending on  
December 31, 2025.

Daviess	Hon. Charlie Castlen
Hancock	Hon. Johnny Roberts
Henderson	Hon. Brad Schneider
	Bill Markwell
McLean	Hon. Curtis Dame
Ohio	Hon. David Johnston
Union	Hon. Adam O'Nan
Webster	Hon. Steve Henry
Minority	Henrietta Harris
	Janeth Nichols
Emeritus	Robert Howard

Mayor's Representative for a two-year term ending on December 31, 2026.

Henderson	Hon. Brad Staton
McLean	Hon. Betty Howard
Union	Hon. Randy Greenwell

Committee/Council Chair for a one-year term ending on December 31, 2025.

Green River Area Council on Aging	Henrietta Harris
Green River Workforce Development Board	Mickey Dunbar
Green River Economic Development Corporation	Brad Davis
GRADD Regional Transportation	Hon. Adam O'Nan
GRADD Water Management Council	Eric Hickman
GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council	Jeremy Moore

A motion was made by Randy Greenwell and seconded by  
Henrietta Harris to approve the 2025 slate of officers and  
board members. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

B. Banking Resolution

Chairman Steve Henry presented a resolution allowing incoming chairman  
Johnny "Chic" Roberts to be authorized to sign all outgoing checks for accounts ending in  
1441, 3240, 8908, 3258, 3266, 4193, 1154, 0801, 1441 and 6418. In addition, Chairman  
Roberts will be authorized to sign for any certificates of deposit or other financing options.

A motion was made by Charlie Castlen and seconded  
by Curtis Dame to approve and authorize the Banking  
Resolution. A vote was taken and the motion carried.



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C. Oath of Office


Bill Markwell called on the incoming officers to come forward and take the Oath of Office.

Chairman Johnny "Chic" Roberts expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve as chairman. Chairman Roberts thanked Judge/Executive Steve Henry for his leadership the past two years and applauded his passion not only for Webster County but for all GRADD counties.

Chairman Steve Henry expressed that it has been both an honor and a privilege to serve as the chairman of the GRADD Board of Directors.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

  
Curtis Dame, Secretary

  
Johnny "Chic" Roberts, Chairman

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