



300 GRADD Way
Owensboro, Kentucky
42301-0200

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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 April 8, 2026

The Board of Directors of the Green River Area Development District (GRADD) held its monthly meeting April 8, 2026 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 Ronda Moore Smith
McLEAN COUNTY:	Judge/Executive Curtis Dame, Vicki Hughes, Mayor Betty Howard
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

Green River Workforce Development Board - Mickey Dunbar
GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council - Jeremy Moore
Green River Area Council on Aging - (Henrietta Harris)
GRADD Water Management Council - Eric Hickman
Green River Transportation Committee - (Judge/Executive Adam O'Nan)

*Excused absence

Johnny "Chic" Roberts, Chairman | Adam O'Nan, Vice Chairman | Curtis Dame, Secretary | Charlie Castlen, Treasurer | Kenneth J. Williams, Executive Director



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS ABSENT

DAVISS COUNTY: *Robert Howard, *Lauren Osowicz, *Nate Pagan
HANCOCK COUNTY: All present
HENDERSON COUNTY: *Janeth Nicolas, *Bill Markwell, Mayor Brad Staton
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 Economic Development Corporation - *Brad Davis

GUESTS AND STAFF PRESENT

Mark Lord, Congressman Brett Guthrie's Office
Mayor Sharon Nell Boyken, City of Livermore
Mayor LaDonna Tapp, City of Uniontown
Pat Hardesty, Kentucky Emergency Management
Kenny Williams, Executive Director, GRADD
Kemp Morgan, Deputy Director, GRADD
Michelle Drake, Director of Workforce Development, GRADD
Mariah Myres, Director of Administration, GRADD
Sarah Duncan, Director of Waiver Services, GRADD
Bryan Kennedy, Communications Officer, GRADD
Andrew Rudkosky, IT Director, GRADD
Monte Davenport, Public Administration Specialist, GRADD
Jacob Matson, Infrastructure Planner, GRADD
Jill Gray, Assistant Director of Workforce Development, GRADD
Reenee Fogle, Fiscal Manager, GRADD
Marissa Haight, Staff Accountant, GRADD
Kelsey Smith, Payroll Coordinator, GRADD
Libby Watson, Contract Manager, GRADD
Tiffanye Corsey, Aging Case Manager, GRADD
Lauren Wellman, Aging Case Management Supervisor, GRADD
Nikki Rouse, Aging Case Manager, GRADD
Dawn Tignor, Aging Case Manager, GRADD
Keleigh Boehman, Waiver Case Manager, GRADD
Kim Wells, Executive Assistant

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Johnny "Chic" Roberts called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Mickey Dunbar opened the meeting with prayer. Chair Johnny "Chic" Roberts led the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed guests to the meeting.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Secretary's Report

Secretary Curtis Dame presented the March 11, 2026 minutes of the GRADD Board of Directors meeting.

A motion was made by Curtis Dame and seconded by Adam O'Nan to approve the March 11, 2026 minutes of the GRADD Board of Directors. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Secretary Curtis Dame presented the March 11, 2026 minutes of the GRADD Executive Committee meeting.

A motion was made by Curtis Dame and seconded by Steve Henry to approve the March 11, 2026 minutes of the GRADD Executive Committee. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

B. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Charlie Castlen presented the Treasurer's Report for the period of July 1, 2025 - February 28, 2026.

A motion was made by Charlie Castlen and seconded by David Johnston to approve the Treasurer's Report for the period of July 1, 2025 - February 28, 2026, which is subject to audit. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Guest Speaker

Chair Johnny "Chic" Roberts introduced Judge/Executive Steve Henry, Webster County Judge/Executive and Kentucky Council of Area Development Districts (KCADD) Legislative Committee Chair to discuss legislative impact on the GRADD region.

Judge/Executive Steve Henry explained Kentucky's 2026 legislative session saw over 1,300 bills filed. He highlighted key budget items, including a \$31 billion state budget and \$1.7 billion in one-time appropriations. Though large sums go to various projects, there is still a \$10 million shortfall for senior nutrition programs. Without additional funding, thousands of seniors statewide could lose access to meals.

The Joint Funding Agreement (JFA) which supports grant writing, infrastructure planning, and technical assistance for local governments has not seen an increase in several years.

Although JFA received a \$2 million increase (to about \$3.9 million), it still has not kept up with inflation. Judge Henry expressed how important JFA funding is to continue projects within the region.

The Senior Nutrition Program is going to see a \$10 million shortfall resulting in 4,800 to 5,000 seniors losing their access to meals by the end of fiscal year. These meals not only offer nutrition to seniors but also could be the only point of contact these fragile individuals have.

Judge Henry also referenced the lack of State support for county jails, noting counties endure heavy costs such as housing inmates, often without reimbursement until after sentencing which leads to a severe financial strain. He warned that if not addressed, jail expenses could eventually bankrupt Counties by diverting funds from community services like parks or economic development.

B. Auditor Services Recommendation Approval

Treasurer Charlie Castlen reported GRADD received three audit proposals during the recent procurement cycle. The Executive Committee met earlier today to review proposals and recommendations from the Finance Committee and are recommending Calhoun & Company for audit services for Fiscal Year 2026 and the option for four additional years.

A motion was made by Charlie Castlen and seconded by David Johnston to approve Calhoun & Company for audit services for Fiscal Year 2026 and the option for four additional years. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

C. Legal Services Recommendation Approval

Treasurer Charlie Castlen reported GRADD received five legal services proposals during the recent procurement cycle. The Executive Committee met earlier today to review proposals and recommendations from the Finance Committee and are recommending both the Law Office of David Johnson and Thacker, Hodskins & Knight, LLP. David Johnson currently assists GRADD with legal matters (Revolving Loan Fund and ConnectGRADD Inc.) Utilizing both will allow GRADD to separate services and keep costs low, depending on needs.

A motion was made by Charlie Castlen and seconded by Adam O’Nan to recommend the Law Office of David Johnson and Thacker, Hodskins & Knight, LLP for legal services. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

D. Janitorial Services Recommendation Approval

Treasurer Charlie Castlen reported GRADD received three janitorial services proposals during the recent procurement cycle. The Executive Committee met earlier today to review proposals and recommendations from the Finance Committee.

The GRADD Executive Committee's recommendation is that GRADD reject all bids received in the procurement cycle. Instead, an on-staff, part-time custodian would be hired. This will give GRADD the ability to provide direct supervision of the service and correct issues in a timelier manner.

A motion was made by Charlie Castlen and seconded by Adam O'Nan to recommend GRADD hire a part-time custodian in lieu of hiring a janitorial service. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

E. Committee Reports

1. Green River Area Council on Aging

Chair Henrietta Harris reported state monitoring and the Aging Area Plan have been submitted to the Department of Aging and Independent Living (DAIL). Recently, several residents were displaced, due to a fire at Davco Rest Home. Mrs. Harris is happy to report residents are back in the Owensboro facility. May is Older Americans Month and several activities are planned across GRADD service area. Lastly, Chair Harris invited all to the Stand Against Child Abuse on April 24, 2026 at Smother's Park in Owensboro from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

2. Green River Economic Development Corporation (EDC)

Mayor Chad Gregory reported Monte Davenport is currently working with two potential loan clients and has sent out ten applications in the last month. Marketing of the Revolving Loan program continues across the region. The next meeting of the Green River EDC will be held on May 6, 2026.

3. GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council

Chair Jeremy Moore reported the National Weather Service will be presenting the new structure for the National Weather Service and how it will affect the GRADD region at the April 21, 2026 meeting.

4. GRADD Regional Transportation Committee (RTC)

Chair Adam O'Nan reported Jennifer Alvey has begun working on sidewalk data collection. The next meeting of the GRADD RTC will be held on May 18, 2026.

5. GRADD Water Management Council

Chair Eric Hickman reported the GRADD Water Management Council met on March 19, 2026. Two projects were reviewed and approved. The East Daviess County Water Association Kentucky 69 Pressure Zone Emergency Tie-In and the Henderson County Water District Water Loss Project. Jacob Matson will conclude system visits this month. The next meeting of the GRADD Water Management Council will be June 18, 2026.

6. Green River Workforce Development Board

Chair Mickey Dunbar reported Green River Career Center staff attended a number of hiring events and high school career fairs in March. A Rapid Response meeting was held on March 17, 2026 for employees impacted by the upcoming Swedish Match layoff. The Green River 2026 Youth Summit was held on March 12, 2026 at Owensboro Community and Technical College. Nearly 250 middle and high school students from the region attended. A short video highlighting the event was shown to the Board.

F. Executive Director Report

Kenny Williams introduced new staff Keith Piersawl, ADRC/SHIP Specialist and Keleigh Boehman, Waiver Case Manager. Mr. Williams referenced an email he recently sent to the Board regarding the Senior Meal Nutrition funding shortfall. He encouraged members to reach out to legislators and let them know how important this funding is for some of the most vulnerable citizens in the District. On April 1, 2026 local leaders, students and GRADD staff gathered at the Daviess County Courthouse while Judge Jennifer Hendricks read a proclamation, claiming April as child abuse awareness month. May is Older Americans Month and the senior centers and GRADD have several events planned during the month.

G. Frankfort and Washington Updates

Mark Lord with Congressman Brett Guthrie's office reported Congressman Guthrie is making plans to be in the District in May. He noted it is encouraging to constituents to see how Congress is looking to reduce the financial burden through tax relief, such as no tax on tips and overtime. Mr. Lord thanked the GRADD staff for assisting with the earmark process, as it was a very quick turnaround to get project applications submitted. There were over 90 applications, 20 of those project applications will move forward in the process.

IV. INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEWS

Monte Davenport, Public Administration Specialist, presented the following regional Executive Orders.

Hancock County Regional Water Treatment Plant

City of Lewisport KY202603270330

Fiscal Year 2027 Unified Planning Work Program

Daviess County Fiscal Court KY202603090308

A motion was made by David Johnston and seconded by Adam O'Nan to recommend endorsement of the above-stated Regional Executive Orders. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

V. CHAIR COMMENTS

Chair Johnny "Chic" Roberts made the following announcements:

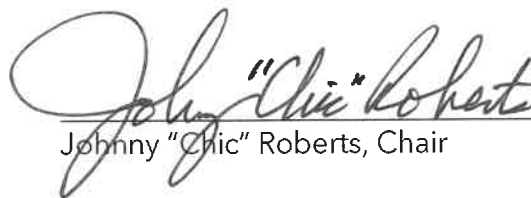
- Mayor Paul Sandefur made an appearance on Kentucky Newsmakers with Bill Bryant. As President of the Kentucky League of Cities (KLC), Mayor Sandefur represented communities across the Commonwealth;
- Congratulations to Ryan Hammack on being sworn in as Deputy Judge/Executive in Webster County;
- More than 150 community members attended the I-165 Study Public meeting in Utica;
- Commissioner Victoria Eldridge with the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services made a visit to GRADD and the Senior Community Center of Owensboro-Daviess County;
- Congratulations to the City of Beaver Dam on receiving \$888,548 from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for Beaver Dam Park renovations; and
- Congratulations to the City of Corydon on receiving \$24,870 from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for Crawford Park updates.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

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



Curtis Dame, Secretary



Johnny "Chic" Roberts, Chair

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