



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 April 9, 2025

The Board of Directors of the Green River Area Development District (GRADD) held its monthly meeting April 9, 2025 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: Judge/Executive Charlie Castlen, Mayor Patsy Mayfield, Henrietta Harris, Lauren Osowicz, Nate Pagan
HANCOCK COUNTY: Judge/Executive Johnny Roberts, Mayor Chad Gregory, Franklin Powers
HENDERSON COUNTY: Judge/Executive Brad Schneider, Mayor David Sellers, Janeth Nicolas
McLEAN COUNTY: Vicki Hughes
OHIO COUNTY: Judge/Executive David Johnston, Mayor Jeff Fuqua
UNION COUNTY: Mayor Randy Greenwell
WEBSTER COUNTY: Ryan Hammack

COMMITTEE CHAIRS PRESENT

Green River Workforce Development Board - Mickey Dunbar
Green River Economic Development Corporation - Brad Davis
Green River Area Council on Aging - (Henrietta Harris)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ABSENT

DAVISS COUNTY: *Robert Howard
HANCOCK COUNTY: All present

*Excused absence



HENDERSON COUNTY: *Bill Markwell
*Mayor Brad Staton
McLEAN COUNTY: *Judge/Executive Curtis Dame, *Mayor Betty Howard
OHIO COUNTY *Mayor Paul Sandefur
UNION COUNTY: *Judge/Executive Adam O’Nan, *Melissa Coker
WEBSTER COUNTY: *Judge/Executive Steve Henry, * Mayor Pat Clark

COMMITTEE CHAIRS ABSENT

GRADD Water Management Council - *Eric Hickman
GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council - *Jeremy Moore
Green River Transportation Committee - (*Judge/Executive Adam O’Nan)

GUESTS AND STAFF PRESENT

Senator Stephen Meredith, Kentucky State Senate
Sen. Caucus Chair Robby Mills, Kentucky State Senate
Senator Gary Boswell, Kentucky State Senate
Representative Suzanne Miles, Kentucky State Representative
Representative Jim Gooch, Kentucky State Representative
Representative Scott Lewis, Kentucky State Representative
Representative DJ Johnson, Kentucky State Representative
Mayor LaDonna Tapp, City of Uniontown
Mayor Shannon Nell Boyken, City of Livermore
Chris Wooldridge, Murray State University
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
Sarah Duncan, Director of Waiver Services, GRADD
Leslie Wilson Director of Social Services, GRADD
Bryan Kennedy, Communications Officer, GRADD
Jennifer Alvey, GIS Analyst, GRADD
Tom Lovett, MPO Coordinator, GRADD
Tiffany Donahue, Local Government Analyst, GRADD
Amy Matheny, Community Development Planner, GRADD
Hunter Phillips, DRA Program Advisor, GRADD
Janet Johnston-Crowe, Planning and Zoning Advisor, GRADD
Alex Kretzer, Local Government Advisor, GRADD
Dana Garrett, Community Development Planner, GRADD
Reenee Fogle, Fiscal Manager, GRADD
Marissa Haight, Fiscal Contracts Coordinator, GRADD
Beth Ferguson, Accounting Clerk, GRADD
Kelsey Smith, Payroll Coordinator, GRADD
Amber Gebhard, Community Services Manager, GRADD
Lauren Wellman, Aging Case Management Supervisor, GRADD
Lisa Flahardy, Aging Contract Specialist, GRADD
Abigail Newmeyer, ADRC/SHIP Coordinator, GRADD

Mary Ashford, Certified Ombudsman, GRADD
Libby Watson, Social Services Administrative Assistant, GRADD
Charity DeHart, Waiver Finance Manager, GRADD
Lexi Camron, Family Caregiver Program Specialist, GRADD
Kathryn Gould, ADRC/SHIP Counselor, GRADD
Sarah Clark, Case Management PDS Supervisor, GRADD
Megan Joines, Waiver Case Manager, GRADD
Emiley Fallaway, Waiver Case Manager, GRADD
Lindsey Worthington, Waiver Case Manager, GRADD
Donna Behl, ADRC Counselor, GRADD
Bailey Wright, AmeriCorps Program Assistant, GRADD
Leanne Mabrey, AmeriCorps, GRADD

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Johnny "Chic" Roberts called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Henrietta Harris led with prayer. Chair Roberts led the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed guests to the meeting.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Secretary's Report

Chair Johnny "Chic" Roberts presented the February 12, 2025 minutes of the GRADD Board of Directors meeting.

A motion was made by Johnny "Chic" Roberts and seconded by Charlie Castlin to approve the February 12, 2025 minutes of the GRADD Board of Directors. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Chair Johnny "Chic" Roberts presented the February 12, 2025 minutes of the GRADD Executive Committee meeting.

A motion was made by Johnny "Chic" Roberts and seconded by Brad Davis to approve the February 12, 2025 minutes of the GRADD Executive Committee. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Chair Johnny "Chic" Roberts presented the March 12, 2025 minutes of the GRADD Board of Directors meeting.

A motion was made by Johnny "Chic" Roberts and seconded by Charlie Castlin to approve the March 12, 2025 minutes of the GRADD Board of Directors. 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, 2024 - February 28, 2025.

A motion was made by Charlie Castlen and seconded by David Johnston to approve the Treasurer's Report for the period of July 1, 2024 - February 28, 2025, which is subject to audit. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Legislative Update

GRADD welcomed several legislative leaders to give an update of the general session which ended on March 28, 2025.

Senator Stephen Meredith reported on the reduction in income tax that will change to three and half percent effective January 2026. Senator Meredith also voiced concern on Medicaid reform and stated it will be on the forefront of the next 2027 legislative session.

Senator Gary Boswell noted House Bill 240 will require kindergarten students to be given a universal screening. If benchmarks are not met, the student will be required to remain in kindergarten for an additional year.

Senator Robby Mills thanked the GRADD staff for the services it provides throughout the region. He noted having both the Senate and House Caucus Chairs hailing from northwest Kentucky assisted in voicing concerns for the area.

Representative Suzanne Miles reported the passing of Senate Bill 1 will establish the Kentucky Film Office within the Cabinet for Economic Development. This office was created to encourage the film and entertainment industry to choose locations in the Commonwealth for filming of motion picture or entertainment productions.

Representative Jim Gooch noted that several bills were passed that would make future investments for water and road infrastructure and post secondary capital construction. He emphasized the need for Medicaid reform, pointing out that with one-third of Kentucky's population relying on Medicaid, it creates a significant burden on the state.

Representative Scott Lewis, Chair of the Primary and Secondary Education Committee, reiterated comments made by Representative Jim Gooch that the focus of the committee was primary education and making changes so that students do not get passed through the system.

He noted that putting benchmarks into place through State requirements will take the burden off schools.

Representative DJ Johnson reported House Bill 15 will allow people who are at least 15 years of age to apply for a motor vehicle instruction permit. Also, House Bill 11 will require the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) to oversee wholesalers and retailers that unlawfully sell vape nicotine devices.

B. Calhoun Pharmacy Loan Request

Brad Davis reported Dr. Austin Bailey recently purchased and renovated Calhoun Pharmacy in McLean County.

Dr. Austin is requesting \$125,000 for the purchase of pharmaceutical equipment, pharmaceutical inventory and working capital. The Green River Economic Development Corporation met on April 2, 2025 and has reviewed and approved the loan contingent on obtaining EITHER second position on 117 KY 815 (business) OR a letter of credit from a bank as collateral.

A motion was made by Brad Davis and seconded by Mickey Dunbar to approve the Calhoun Pharmacy loan request in the amount of \$125,000, as long as the exception mentioned above is fulfilled. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

C. Aging Plan Update

Leslie Wilson, Director of Social Services explained the Regional Plan on Aging for Fiscal Year 2026 is an update only. A full rewrite will be done for Fiscal Year 2027 - 2029.

Updates to the plan included:

- Removed references to the Feed Seniors Now food drive;
- Added language regarding training in Applied Suicide Intervention Skills (ASIST) for all GRADD case managers and two senior service directors;
- Senior service providers have developed an emergency response plan for each site in the counties;
- Removed staff participation in the Area Homeless Council;
- Added Aging staff participation in the Geriatric Patient Family Advisory Council; and
- Changed all references of SAMS/Wellsky to "state approved database" or "state reporting system."

D. Service Award

Chair Johnny "Chic" Roberts presented a 30+-years of service award to Joanna Shake. He expressed his gratitude for her dedication and valuable contributions to GRADD.

F. Committee Reports

1. Green River Area Council on Aging

Chair Henrietta Harris presented the February 4, 2025 minutes of the Green River Council on Aging.

A motion was made by Henrietta Harris and seconded by David Johnston to approve the February 4, 2025 minutes of the Green River Area Council on Aging. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Chair Henrietta Harris reported the Green River Area Council on Aging met on April 1, 2025. In addition to providing regular services and programs, providers have been busy with the multiple weather events since the beginning of the year ensuring the health, safety and the well-being of clients throughout the district. Providers are gearing up to celebrate Older Americans Month in May with a variety of activities and health fairs. Chair Harris encouraged members and guests to contact local Senior Services Directors for details of events.

2. Green River Economic Development Corporation (EDC)

Chair Brad Davis presented the March 5, 2025 minutes of the Green River Economic Development Corporation.

A motion was made by Brad Davis and seconded by Charlie Castlen to approve the March 5, 2025 minutes of the Green River Economic Development Corporation. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Chair Brad Davis reported the Green River Economic Development Corporation met on April 2, 2025. A loan in the amount of \$125,000 for the Days Garden Center in Henderson was reviewed and approved. Alex Kretzer is working with six business owners to develop projects for applications through the Revolving Loan Fund.

3. GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council

No report.

4. GRADD Regional Transportation Committee (RTC)

Jennifer Alvey, GIS Specialist, presented the November 25, 2024 minutes of the GRADD Regional Transportation Committee.

A motion was made by Randy Greenwell and seconded by Charlie Castlen to approve the November 25, 2024 minutes of the GRADD Regional Transportation Committee. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Jennifer Alvey reported the GRADD Regional Transportation Committee met on March 24, 2025. As part of the SHIFT process to get transportation projects funded in the next Kentucky Highway Plan, the committee selected 21 out of 125 projects to "sponsor." The sponsored projects are then reviewed and scored by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) for possible funding. Members reviewed and suggested changes to the Park-n-Ride Inventory and the Major Freight Users Inventory. The next meeting of the RTC is May 19, 2025.

5. GRADD Water Management Council

Dana Garrett, Community Development Planner presented the December 5, 2024 minutes of the GRADD Water Management Council.

A motion was made by David Johnston and seconded by Randy Greenwell to approve the December 5, 2024 minutes of the GRADD Water Management Council. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Dana Garrett reported system visits will conclude in April. The next meeting of the GRADD Water Management Council will be June 26, 2025.

6. Green River Workforce Development Board

Chair Mickey Dunbar reported the Empower U 2025 Youth Summit took place at Owensboro Community and Technical College on March 13, 2025. More than 160 students from local middle and high schools took part in leadership sessions which were led by community leaders, local business professionals and educators. A Grab-A-Bag Job Fair is taking place today, April 9, 2025 at the Daviess County Public Library and April 11, 2025 at the Henderson County Public Library.

G. Frankfort and Washington Updates

None.

IV. INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

Blake Edge, Director of Community and Economic Development presented the following regional Executive Order:

Fiscal Year 2026 Unified Planning Work Program
Daviess County Fiscal Court KY2025-0326-0244

A motion was made by Randy Greenwell and seconded by Charlie Castlen to endorse the above-stated Regional Executive Order. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

V. CHAIR/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Chair Johnny "Chic" Roberts reported on the recent National Association of Development Organizations Conference in Washington. Blake Edge, presented at the conference on the Henderson IRT Project. While in Washington the GRADD attendees were able to meet with its congressional delegation and discuss priorities for the GRADD region.

Executive Director Joanna Shake made the following announcements:

- Welcomed new staff Lindsey Worthington, Waiver Case Manager;
- Noted staff position changes that included: Lauren Wellman, Aging Case Management Supervisor; Mary Ashford, Ombudsman Assistant; and Baliey Wright, AmeriCorps Assistant;
- The STAND Against Child Abuse will take place on April 11, 2025 on the front lawn of Kentucky Wesleyan College from 3:30 PM - 6:30 PM;
- On March 25, 2025 Workforce Development Youth Coordinator Alisha Smith, along with the representatives from the Kentucky Career Center attended the Owensboro High School Junior College and Career Fair;
- Dana Garrett, Community Development Planner was accepted into the 2025 Cohort of the Collaborative Learning Group. The group offered through NADO is a seven-month virtual training and networking opportunity for new economic development district staff;
- The Governors Local Issues Conference will take place August 13 - 15, 2025 at the Galt House in Louisville; and
- The 2025 Kentucky Public Riverport Construction & Maintenance Awards have been announced. Congratulations to: Henderson County Riverport Authority on receiving \$208,890 for the new material handler project and the Owensboro Riverport Authority on receiving \$381,743 for the resurfacing and access extension project.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

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


Curtis Dame, Secretary


Johnny "Chic" Roberts, Chair