



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 8, 2025

The Board of Directors of the Green River Area Development District (GRADD) held its monthly meeting October 8, 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

- DAVIESS COUNTY: Judge/Executive Charlie Castlen, Mayor Patsy Mayfield, Lauren Osowicz, Nate Pagan
- 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,
- WEBSTER COUNTY: Judge/Executive Steve Henry, Ryan Hammack, Mayor Pat Clark

COMMITTEE CHAIRS PRESENT

- Green River Workforce Development Board - Mickey Dunbar
- Green River Economic Development Corporation - Brad Davis
- GRADD Water Management Council - Eric Hickman
- GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council - Jeremy Moore
- 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 | Joanna Shake, Executive Director

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



BOARD OF DIRECTORS ABSENT

DAVISS COUNTY: \*Henrietta Harris, \*Robert Howard  
HANCOCK COUNTY: All present  
HENDERSON COUNTY: \*Judge/Executive Brad Schneider, Mayor Brad Staton,  
Janeth Nicolas  
McLEAN COUNTY: All present  
OHIO COUNTY: Mayor Jeff Fuqua  
UNION COUNTY: \*Mayor Randy Greenwell, \*Melissa Coker  
WEBSTER COUNTY: All present

COMMITTEE CHAIRS ABSENT

Green River Area Council on Aging - (\*Henrietta Harris)

GUESTS AND STAFF PRESENT

Representative DJ Johnson, Kentucky State Representative  
Mayor LaDonna Tapp, City of Uniontown  
Bruce Williams, Healthforce Kentucky  
Joanna Shake, Executive Director, GRADD  
Mariah Myres, Director of Finance & Human Resources, GRADD  
Leslie Wilson Director of Social Services, GRADD  
Bryan Kennedy, Communications Officer, GRADD  
Andrew Rudkosky, IT Director, GRADD  
Hunter Phillips, Associate Director of Community & Economic Development, GRADD  
Amy Matheny, Community Development Planner, GRADD  
Janet Johnston-Crowe, Planning & Zoning Advisor, GRADD  
Amber Gebhard, Community Partners Manager, GRADD  
Lisa Flahardy, Aging Contract Specialist, GRADD  
Reenee Fogle, Fiscal Manager, GRADD  
Beth Ferguson, Accounting Clerk, GRADD  
Kaycee Brooks, Waiver Intake Specialist, GRADD  
Carissa Walker-McQuaid, Waiver Case Manager, GRADD  
Britny Costa, Waiver Case Manager, GRADD  
Aria Hamlin, Waiver Case Manager, GRADD  
Kelsey Smith, Payroll Coordinator, GRADD  
Libby Watson, Contract Specialist, GRADD  
Nikki Rouse, Aging Case Manager, GRADD  
Tiffanye Corsey, Aging Case Manager, GRADD  
Brad Alley, AmeriCorps Program Director, GRADD  
Mary Ashford, Certified Ombudsman Assistant, GRADD  
Bethanney McPherson, Program Assistant, GRADD  
Kim Wells, Executive Assistant, GRADD

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Secretary's Report

Secretary Curtis Dame presented the July 9, 2025 and September 10, 2025 minutes of the GRADD Board of Directors meeting.

A motion was made by Curtis Dame and seconded by David Johnston to approve the July 9, 2025 and September 10, 2025 minutes of the GRADD Board of Directors. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

B. Treasurer's Report

Lauren Osowicz presented the Treasurer's Report for the periods of July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024, July 1, 2025 - July 31, 2025 and July 1, 2025 - August 31, 2025.

A motion was made by Lauren Osowicz and seconded by David Johnston to approve the Treasurer's Report for the periods of July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024, July 1, 2025 - July 31, 2025 and July 1, 2025 - August 31, 2025, which is subject to audit. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Promoting from Your Pocket: Using Your Phone to Showcase Your Community

Bryan Kennedy, Communications Director for GRADD gave the group several ways to promote cities, counties and business within the District. He noted that while people used to get news at certain times of the day, real time updates happen every minute. He suggested videos for event promotion, a weekly highlight video of area happenings or even an event or weekly recap. Mr. Kennedy also gave tips on taking better photos for publishing and posting on social media.

B. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Resolution

Hunter Phillips, Associate Director of Community and Economic Development Community & Economic Development Department gave an update on the 2025 CEDS, which serves as a blueprint for regional economic development and is updated annually to track community needs and progress.

Chair Johnny "Chic" Roberts read the CEDS Resolution.

A motion was made by Charlie Castlen and seconded by Brad Davis to approve the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Resolution. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

C. Revolving Loan Fund Loan Review

1. Tiki Lab Company, LLC

Brad Davis reported Daniel and Maria Keaveney are requesting \$50,000 to be used to purchase equipment and working capital for 1885 Cocktail Bar, in Daviess County. The establishment will serve quality drinks and a light menu in a relaxed prohibition style atmosphere.

A motion was made by Brad Davis and seconded by Bill Markwell to approve the Tiki Lab Company, LLC loan in the amount of \$50,000. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

D. Fiscal Year 2026 1<sup>st</sup> Revised Budget

Lauren Osowicz presented the Fiscal Year 2026 1st Revised Budget. Mrs. Osowicz noted GRADD has adjusted revenues for estimated and actual contracts received. A key change is the addition of \$6.9 million in state revenues for the Medicaid Waiver program. Other changes were based on actual allocations received from federal, state and local partners. With all revenue changes and the recognition of member dues, GRADD is projecting that no additional funds will be needed from administrative reserves.

Mrs. Osowicz explained additional expenses under Contractual Services and Direct Program Expenditures, nearly \$33 million, of the Direct Program Expenditures line are pass-through funds for the Medicaid Waiver program. This total will continue to fluctuate as the program evolves.

A motion was made by Lauren Osowicz and seconded by Curtis Dame to approve the Fiscal Year 2026 1<sup>st</sup> Revised Budget. A vote was taken and motion carried.

E. Employee Insurance 2026

Joanna Shake presented information regarding quotes for employee health insurance for 2026. Three quotes were presented: GRADD's current provider, SIHO, the Kentucky Association of Counties (KACo) and the Kentucky State Plan. While the KACo plan is competitive with our current plan, the max out of pocket is much higher than the SIHO plan. The Kentucky State insurance plan will incur an eighteen-percent increase for 2026. SIHO's quote was competitive and would not have an increase for employees as well as no structure or benefit changes.

A motion was made by Brad Davis and seconded by Pat Clark to approve SIHO Health Insurance for employee health insurance for 2026. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

F. Personnel Policy Revision

1. Employee Pay Schedule

Mariah Myres explained GRADD has moved to BambooHR for onboarding and offboarding of employees. This program has a payroll system component but to use the system, GRADD would need to move to a bi-weekly pay day. GRADD staff have been notified that in January 2026 the first paycheck would only be for two days. One other noted change, employees would see a slight decrease in pay due to twenty-six pay periods instead of twenty-four and every year moving forward. The slight decrease is per paycheck not a decrease in the yearly salary.

A motion was made by Betty Howard and seconded by Pat Clark to approve the new employee pay schedule beginning January 2026. A vote was taken and the motion passed with Judge/Executive Curtis Dame opposing.

G. Nominating Committee Appointment

Chair Johnny "Chic" Roberts appointed Judge/Executive Steve Henry, Mayor Brad Staton and Melissa Coker to serve on the Nominating Committee.

H. Service Awards

Chair Johnny "Chic" Roberts presented Mary Ashford with a five-year service award. Ms. Ashford previously served with AmeriCorps. After her volunteer hours were complete with AmeriCorps, Mary moved to the AmeriCorps Program Assistant position then transferred to the Certified Ombudsman Assistant position in 2024. Chair Roberts thanked Ms. Ashford for her continued dedication to GRADD.

I. Committee Reports

1. Green River Area Council on Aging

Franklin Powers presented the June 3, 2025 minutes of the Green River Area Council on Aging.

A motion was made by Franklin Powers and seconded by Brad Davis to approve the June 3, 2025 minutes of the Green River Area Council on Aging. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Franklin Powers reported the Green River Area Council on Aging met on August 5, 2025 and October 7, 2025. Updates from senior center providers, the Alzheimer's Association, Comfort Keepers and Five Star, (the catered meal provider,) were provided.

A QR code was provided to each member for the Community Partners Needs Assessment Survey. Members were asked to complete the survey. Results will help guide GRADD staff as they plan for the future of Aging Services in the region. A video highlighting Senior Games was shown.

2. Green River Economic Development Corporation (EDC)

Chair Brad Davis presented the May 7, 2025 minutes of the Green River Economic Development Corporation.

A motion was made by Brad Davis and seconded by Franklin Powers to approve the May 7, 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 September 3, 2025 and approved a loan for Tiki Lab Company, LLC. Monte Davenport is currently working through the application process with six clients for potential loans. The next meeting of the EDC will be held on November 5, 2025.

3. GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council

Chair Jeremy Moore presented the January 21, 2025 minutes of the GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council.

A motion was made by Jeremy Moore and seconded by David Johnston to approve the January 21, 2025 minutes of the GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Chair Jeremy Moore reported the GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council met on July 15, 2025. During this meeting, Brandon Brummett of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers presented on available programs for flood mitigation, flood control and streambank restoration. Pat Hardesty of Kentucky Emergency Management discussed the status of the recent disaster declarations and what local officials can do to assist. The Hazard Mitigation Plan contract has been received (and executed) from KY-EM; planning activities can now commence. The next meeting of the GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council is scheduled for October 21, 2025.

4. GRADD Regional Transportation Committee (RTC)

Chair Adam O'Nan presented the June 16, 2025 minutes of the GRADD Regional Transportation Committee.

A motion was made by Adam O’Nan and seconded by David Johnston to approve the June 16, 2025 minutes of the GRADD Regional Transportation Committee. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Chair Adam O’Nan reported GRADD Regional Transportation Committee met on August 18, 2025. During the meeting, SHIFT scores were reviewed and nine transportation projects were chosen to “boost.” Drafts of the GRADD Goals and Objectives along with the RTC bylaws were reviewed. The next meeting is of the GRADD Regional Transportation Committee is scheduled for November 24, 2025.

5. GRADD Water Management Council

Chair Eric Hickman presented the June 26, 2025 minutes of the GRADD Water Management Council.

A motion was made by Eric Hickman and seconded by Mickey Dunbar to approve the June 26, 2025 minutes of the GRADD Water Management Council. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Chair Eric Hickman reported 17 Kentucky Water and Wastewater applications were submitted in August for potential funding. The Kentucky Infrastructure Authority released the Fiscal Year 2027 call for projects, the regional rankings have begun and ranking meetings will be conducted in each county from mid-October to early November for project submittal December 16, 2025. The next GRADD Water Management meeting is scheduled for December 11, 2025.

6. Green River Workforce Development Board

Chair Mickey Dunbar presented the Green River Workforce Development Board minutes February 5, 2025 and May 7, 2025.

A motion was made by Mickey Dunbar and seconded by David Johnston to approve the February 5, 2025 and the May 7, 2025 minutes of the Green River Workforce Development Board. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Chair Mickey Dunbar reported Green River Workforce Development Board met on August 6, 2025. Caroline Young presented information regarding Commute with Enterprise. This program offers van and shuttle opportunities to and from work. Harvest Your Future: Hancock County Career Fair was held on September 25, 2025 with over 125 job seekers and high school seniors in attendance. Fifteen local employers from a variety of industries participated. The next meeting of the Green River Workforce Development Board will be November 5, 2025

J. Executive Director Report

Joanna Shake made the following report:

- Welcome to GRADD: Aria Hamlin, Waiver Case Manager; Kaycee Brooks, Waiver Intake Specialist; Nikki Rouse, Aging Case Manager; Britny Costa, Waiver Case Manager; and Carissa Walker McQuaid, Waiver Case Manager;
- Secretary Jeff Noel, Secretary of the Cabinet for Economic Development met with Area Development District (ADD) Directors at their recent retreat. He provided the Cabinet's strategic plan which involved the ADDs;
- Commissioner Matt Sawyers with the Department for Local Government also met with the ADD Directors along with Chief of Staff Billy Johnson to discuss the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. GRADD has two projects under review for funding;
- The Delta Regional Authority (DRA) Board held its first ever meeting in Kentucky in Henderson. Among those in attendance were DRA Federal Co-Chair Dr. Wiggins, Kentucky DLG Commissioner Matt Sawyer and Office of Governor Andy Beshear Field Representative Alex Caudill;
- At a recent meeting with the Department of Agriculture, Senate Bill 28 was discussed. This Bill creates a new agricultural economic development fund;
- Tracy Burch with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has assured Mrs. Shake, during a recent meeting, that USDA is taking steps to get boots on the ground in the Districts;
- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding is ending and with that several ADDs will be facing cuts in meals. GRADD staff has monitored the situation very closely in the past to make sure GRADD is fully funded through the end of Fiscal Year 2026;
- GRADD's new director for the Community & Economic Development Department has been hired and Skyler Stewart, who served as an intern and hired full-time as GRADD's Public Administration Specialist will begin on October 20, 2025. Hunter Phillips has been promoted to Associate Director of Community & Economic Development; and
- Building renovations will take place in early December, replacing the siding.

K. Frankfort and Washington Updates

Representative DJ Johnson commended GRADD on its work for preserving the meals program.

IV. INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

Amy Matheny, Community Development Planner, presented the following regional Executive Orders:

Beaver Dam Park Renovation  
City of Beaver Dam KY202507090582

Additional Deputy  
Hancock County Fiscal Court KY202507090583

IPE - North Water Main Project  
Ohio County Water District KY202507140599

Proposed KY-120 Water Interconnect/Distribution Improvements Construction  
City of Providence KY202507090580

Sturgis Waterline Replacement Water Loss Project  
City of Sturgis KY202508060683

Additional SRO for Union County Sheriff's Office  
Union County Fiscal Court KY202507090584

Canaan Ridge Park Trail Improvement Construction  
Webster County Fiscal Court KY202507090581

A motion was made by Brad Davis and seconded by Adam O'Nan to endorse the above-stated Regional Executive Orders. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

V. CHAIR COMMENTS

Chair Johnny "Chic" Roberts made the following comments:

- The Governor's Local Issues Conference was held August 13-15 in Louisville. This multi-day event brings together leaders from across Kentucky to hear from organizations dedicated to strengthening and supporting our communities. It is an opportunity to share ideas, learn best practices, and bring home solutions to help our region thrive;
- GRADDs Annual Meeting welcomed over 200 guests to Reid's Orchard for an afternoon of celebration and community recognition. Attendees enjoyed outstanding food and ice cream while honoring individuals and communities who exemplify leadership and resilience. Award Recipients: Charles Reid Regional Citizenship Award - Alma Randolph Crump; Texal Brooks Regional Leadership Award - Deneatra Henderson; Wendell H. Ford Legislative Leadership Award - Webster County Judge Executive Steve Henry and Community of the Year Award went to the City of Sturgis;

- The 2025 Kentucky League of Cities Conference & Expo was held at the Downtown Owensboro Convention Center! This year's theme was bringing voices together to build cities where everyone is engaged, involved, and invested.
- Congratulations to Beaver Dam Mayor Paul Sandefur, who was officially sworn in as the new Kentucky League of Cities President! The swearing-in took place during the conference; and
- The Ohio County Water District (OCWD) received the 2025 Wooden Bucket Award at the Kentucky Rural Water Association's (KRWA) annual conference.


VI. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Johnny "Chic" Roberts reported the November 12, 2025 GRADD Board of Directors meeting has been cancelled due to several members attending conferences.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

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

  
Curtis Dame, Secretary

  
Johnny "Chic" Roberts, Chair

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