



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 10, 2025

The Board of Directors of the Green River Area Development District (GRADD) held its monthly meeting December 10, 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, Lauren Osowicz, Nate Pagan, Henrietta Harris
- HANCOCK COUNTY: Judge/Executive Johnny Roberts, Mayor Chad Gregory, Franklin Powers
- HENDERSON COUNTY: Judge/Executive Brad Schneider, Mayor David Sellers, Bill Markwell, Mayor Brad Staton, Janeth Nicolas
- 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, Mayor Randy Greenwell
- 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)
- Green River Area Council on Aging - (*Henrietta Harris)

*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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BOARD OF DIRECTORS ABSENT

DAVISS COUNTY: *Robert Howard
HANCOCK COUNTY: All present
HENDERSON COUNTY: All present
McLEAN COUNTY: All present
OHIO COUNTY Mayor Jeff Fuqua
UNION COUNTY: *Melissa Coker
WEBSTER COUNTY: All present

COMMITTEE CHAIRS ABSENT

All present

GUESTS AND STAFF PRESENT

Mayor LaDonna Tapp, City of Uniontown
Katie Marks, Congressman Brett Guthrie's Office
Ben Weathers, Governor Andy Beshear's Office
Sam Flynn, Governor Andy Beshear's Office
Cory Bridges, Henderson Chamber
Dr. Jason Warren, Henderson Community & Technical College
Dr. Scott Williams, Owensboro Community & Technical College
Kam-Ren Strickland-Hallagher, Tichenor & Associates Auditors
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 Development, GRADD
Bryan Kennedy, Communications Officer, GRADD
Andrew Rudkosky, IT Director, GRADD
Hunter Phillips, Associate Director of Community & Economic Development, GRADD
Jennifer Alvey, GIS Analyst, GRADD
Tom Lovett, MPO Coordinator, GRADD
Amy Matheny, Community Development Planner, GRADD
Jeanette Woodward, KY Aging & Disability Database Coordinator, GRADD
Lisa Flahardy, Aging Contract Specialist, GRADD
Kelly King, Family Caregiver Coordinator, GRADD
Abigail Newmeyer, ADRC/SHIP Coordinator, GRADD
Lexi Camron, Family Caregiver Program Specialist, GRADD
Cheryl Peters, Accounting Clerk, GRADD
Reenee Fogle, Fiscal Manager, GRADD
Beth Ferguson, Accounting Clerk, GRADD
Marissa Haight, Fiscal Contracts Coordinator, GRADD
Kelsey Smith, Payroll Coordinator, GRADD
Tonya Cooper, Staff Accountant, GRADD
Jill Gray, Assistant Director of Workforce Development, GRADD
Alisha Smith, Workforce Development Youth Coordinator, GRADD
Heather Mullican, Waiver Case Manager, GRADD

Ashley Dowell, Waiver Case Manager, GRADD
Kaycee Brooks, Waiver Intake Specialist, GRADD
Libby Watson, Contract Specialist, GRADD
Maria Shyver, CCC Program Administrator, 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.

Chair Roberts asked for a moment of silence for Thomas Platt who passed away on November 18, 2025. Mr. Platt served on the GRADD Board of Directors from 1998 to 2019.

Chair Roberts opened the meeting with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Roberts welcomed guests to the meeting.

Judge/Executive Steve Henry informed the group that Richard Kolodey who spoke at the November 2024 meeting passed away on November 25, 2025.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Secretary's Report

Secretary Curtis Dame presented the October 8, 2025 minutes of the GRADD Board of Directors meeting.

A motion was made by Curtis Dame and seconded by Adam O'Nan to approve the October 8, 2025 minutes of the GRADD Board of Directors. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Secretary Curtis Dame presented the October 8, 2025 minutes of the GRADD Executive Committee meeting.

A motion was made by Curtis Dame and seconded by Adam O'Nan to approve the October 8, 2025 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 periods of July 1, 2025 - September 30, 2025 and July 1, 2025 - October 31, 2025.

A motion was made by Chalie Castlen and seconded by Henrietta Harris to approve the Treasurer's Report for the periods of July 1, 2025 - September 30, 2025 and July 1, 2025 - October 31, 2025, which is subject to audit. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Guest Speaker

Chair Johnny "Chic" Roberts introduced Sam Flynn, Executive Director of Pre K for All.

Sam Flynn shared findings developed from research and data conducted at five town halls and 54 outreach events held across the state. The report also included testimonials and feedback from local leaders, educators, parents, child-care providers and businesses. The report shows Kentucky at 46% falling behind the 64% national average for kindergarten readiness. In other states the initiative has been instrumental putting parents back in the workforce and increasing wages; kids are better educated with less disciplinary issues and local communities and economies are thriving. Mr. Flynn noted funding for Pre K for All expansion would be funded by existing sports wagering revenue, requiring no new taxes. An estimated \$115 million has already been generated, with an additional \$30-\$35 million projected annually.

B. Audit Approval

Kam-Ren Strickland-Hallagher, Tichenor & Associates, LLP, presented the Fiscal Year 2025 Draft Budget with no instances of noncompliance or findings.

A motion was made by Bill Markwell and seconded by Charlie Castel to approve the Draft Audit Approval for fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

B. Committee Reports

1. Green River Area Council on Aging

Chair Henrietta Harris presented the August 5, 2025 minutes from the Green River Area Council on Aging.

A motion was made by Henrietta Harris and seconded by Charlie Castlen to approve the August 5, 2025 minutes of the Green River Area Council on Aging. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Chair Henrietta Harris reported GRADD staff will be preparing bags for Silver Bells on December 15, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at GRADD. These bags provide support and holiday cheer to personal care home residents who have limited funds. As of December 1, 2025, SHIP Counselors Melissa Polities, Kathryn Gould and Abigail Newmeyer have assisted 141 clients during Medicare Open Enrollment. The combined savings for the clients total approximately \$200,000.

The first round of emergency meals was distributed in November due to inclement weather. The next meeting of the Green River Area Council on Aging will be held on February 3, 2026.

2. Green River Economic Development Corporation (EDC)

Mayor Chad Gregory reported Monte Davenport is currently working with one potential loan client and has sent out one application. Mr. Davenport will be visiting banks in January to promote loans for businesses. The next meeting of the Green River EDC will be held on January 7, 2026.

3. GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council

Chair Jeremy Moore reported the GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council continues to make progress on the 2026 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. Also discussed at the meeting was council representation and bylaws.

4. GRADD Regional Transportation Committee (RTC)

Chair Adam O’Nan presented the August 18, 2025 minutes of the GRADD Regional Transportation Committee.

A motion was made by Adam O’Nan and seconded by Charlie Castlen to approve the August 18, 2025 minutes of the GRADD Regional Transportation Committee.
A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Chair Adam O’Nan reported the GRADD Regional Transportation Committee met on December 1, 2025. Nathan Ridgway from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet’s Planning Office gave an overview of the importance of the RTC and transportation planning. The Nominating Committee recommended and ultimately approved the following for 2026: Chair, Adam O’Nan; Vice Chair, Brian Howard and Secretary, Donnie Mayton. The Committee approved the RTC Goals and Objectives and bylaws. The Committee also reviewed the Kentucky Freight Network and Intermodal Connectors, Truck Parking Inventory and Traffic Generators. The next meeting of the GRADD RTS will be February 23, 2026.

5. GRADD Water Management Council

Chair Eric Hickman reported the call for projects for the State Revolving Funds are due on December 13, 2025. The next GRADD Water Management Council meeting will be held on December 11, 2025

6. Green River Workforce Development Board

Chair Mickey Dunbar presented the August 6, 2025 minutes of the Green River Workforce Development Board.

A motion was made by Mickey Dunbar and seconded by Brad Staton to approve the August 6, 2025 minutes of the Green River Workforce Development Board. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Chair Mickey Dunbar reported the Green River Workforce Development Board met on November 5, 2025. Sarah McLaughlin, Re-Entry & Employment Branch Navigator with the Kentucky Education and Labor Cabinet, shared information regarding services provided for justice impacted individuals. The Kentucky Career Center partners hosted an Open Doors Resource & Job Fair on October 29, 2025. The event brought 120 job seekers in contact with 20 employers and nine community resource organizations.

A Statewide Workforce and Talent Team in Kentucky (SWATT) has been formed and aims to improve and coordinate workforce development solutions for the state's employers. The initiative unites businesses, government and community partners to address workforce gaps through sector-based strategies and data-driven approaches. The SWATT team will meet at GRADD on January 7, 2026.

D. Executive Director Report

Joanna Shake welcomed to GRADD Monte Davenport, Local Government Advisor. Ms. Shake honored three retiring staff members who have a combined 81 years of service. She went on to say how inspiring their faith, love and compassion for their friends, family and church are despite all three enduring challenging times the last couple of years. All three have persevered and continued to be resilient.

- Lisa Flahardy - 17 years of service;
- Jeanette Woodward - 30 years of service; and
- Cheryl Peters - 34 years of service.

Joanna Shake also made the following announcements:

- GRADD hosted a regional briefing for local and state officials to discuss the ongoing I-165 Feasibility Study;
- The Alma Randolph Charitable Foundation held its annual fundraiser gala on November 1, 2025. GRADD's own Bryan Kennedy was a celebrity server for the evening;
- The West Region Community Turf meeting was held at OCTC. Updates from the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development were given on legislative priorities to regional project activity from multiple speakers including Cabinet Secretary Jeff Noel; and

- A video showcasing Governor Andy Beshear announcing the Delta Regional Authority's \$430,000 grant award to Henderson Community & Technical College for the electrical technology program.

E. Frankfort and Washington Updates

Katie Marks with Congressman Brett Guthrie's office reported that Washington is playing catch up after the government shutdown. Ms. Marks noted some very big announcements recently were the PERMIT Act, passed by the House, aims to reform Clean Water Act (CWA) processes, including streamlining permits for infrastructure and energy projects while narrowing federal protections for certain streams and wetlands. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will make \$12 billion available in one time bridge payments to American farmers in response to temporary trade market disruptions and increased production costs that are still impacting farmers.

Dr. Scott Williams, Owensboro Community & Technical College reported there will be a ribbon cutting for the Health Force Innovation Lab will be held on February 20, 2026.

Dr. Jason Warren reported Henderson Community & Technical College will be using funding received from the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) for its new electrical technology training program. The program will begin in January and program staff has been hired.

IV. INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

Monte Davenport, Local Government Advisor, presented the following regional Executive Orders:

Owensboro Sidewalk Expansion and Improvement Project

City of Owensboro KY202511211020

Raw Water Intake & Pipeline Project

Henderson Water Utility KY202511241024

Habitat for Humanity of Henderson, Kentucky Inc.

Habitat for Humanity of Henderson, Kentucky Inc. 202511181003

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:

- Thank you to our veterans: Judge/Executive David Johnston, Nikki Rouse and Andrew Rudkosky;
- Congratulations to Judge Adam O'Nan who was officially sworn in as the new Kentucky Association of Counties (KACo) President;
- Congratulations to the City of Slaughter on receiving \$150,000 from the Delta Regional Authority's Strategic Planning Program for the Slaughter KY-138 Feasibility Study;
- Congratulations to McLean County on receiving a \$1.25 million commitment for a new water storage tank and more than 5,000 feet of waterline in the Beech Grove area;
- Congratulations to Henderson Community College on the approximately \$430,000 from the States' Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP). Funds will be used to purchase state-of-the-art equipment for HCC's new electrical technology training program; and
- Hancock County Chamber of Commerce held a holiday Jingle n' Mingle Gala on November 22, 2025 for its members and guests.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CANDIDATE CONSIDERATION

Vice Chair Adam O'Nan explained the search committee for GRADD Executive Director had several apply for the position. The Committee conducted six interviews narrowing the candidates to two.

Vice Chair Adam O'Nan thanked Treasurer Charlie Castlen, Secretary Curtis Dame, Mayor Chad Gregory and Mickey Dunbar for serving on the committee and he thanked Chair Johnny "Chic" Roberts for his guidance as well.

The GRADD Executive Committee met earlier today and is recommending that Kenny Williams be offered the position of Executive Director. The Committee also strongly recommends the immediate hiring of a Deputy Director.

A motion was made by Adam O'Nan and seconded by Charlie Castlen to approve Kenny Williams as the new Executive Director of GRADD. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

VII. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mayor Brad Staton presented the slate of GRADD Board of Directors for 2026. One notable change, Mayor Ronda Moore Smith will be replacing Mayor David Sellers as the Henderson Mayor's Representative.

Officers for a one-year term ending on December 31, 2026

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

Executive Committee Members for a one-year term ending on December 31, 2026

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

The following have been nominated to serve as the Mayor's Representative for a two-year term ending on December 31, 2027

Owensboro	Nate Pagan (Owensboro Mayor's Rep)
Daviess	Hon. Patsy Mayfield
Hancock	Hon. Chad Gregory
Henderson	Hon. Ronda Moore Smith
Henderson	Hon. Brad Staton
McLean	Hon. Betty Howard
Ohio	Hon. Paul Sandefur
Union	Hon. Randy Greenwell
Webster	Hon. Pat Clark

The following have been nominated to serve as chairperson for a one-year term ending on December 31, 2026

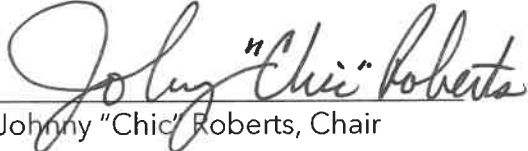
Green River Area Council on Aging	Henrietta Harris
Green River Workforce Development Board	Mickey Dunbar
Green River Economic Development Corporation	Brad Davis
GRADD Regional Transportation	Hon. Adam O'Nan
GRADD Water Management Council	Eric Hickman
GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council	Jeremy Moore

A motion was made by Brad Staton and seconded by Ryan Hammack to approve the 2026 slate of GRADD Board of Directors. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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


Curtis Dame, Secretary


Johnny "Chic" Roberts, Chair

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