



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 January 14, 2026

The Board of Directors of the Green River Area Development District (GRADD) held its monthly meeting January 14, 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

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 Ronda Moore Smith, Bill Markwell, Mayor Brad Staton
McLEAN COUNTY:	Judge/Executive Curtis Dame, Vicki Hughes
OHIO COUNTY:	Mayor Paul Sandefur, Mayor Jeff Fuqua
UNION COUNTY:	Mayor Randy Greenwell, Melissa Coker
WEBSTER COUNTY:	Mayor Pat Clark, Ryan Hammack

COMMITTEE CHAIRS PRESENT

Green River Workforce Development Board - Mickey Dunbar
Green River Economic Development Corporation - Brad Davis
GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council - Jeremy Moore
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 | Kenneth J. Williams, Executive Director



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS ABSENT

DAVIESS COUNTY: *Robert Howard
HANCOCK COUNTY: All present
HENDERSON COUNTY: *Janeth Nicolas
McLEAN COUNTY: *Mayor Betty Howard
OHIO COUNTY *Judge/Executive David Johnston
UNION COUNTY: *Judge/Executive Adam O’Nan
WEBSTER COUNTY: *Judge/Executive Steve Henry

COMMITTEE CHAIRS ABSENT

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

GUESTS AND STAFF PRESENT

Mayor LaDonna Tapp, City of Uniontown
Hunter Whitaker, Senator Mitch McConnell’s Office
Heidi Redibu, Senator Mitch McConnell’s Office
Katie Marks, Congressman Brett Guthrie’s Office
Logan Hart, Bluegrass Area Development District
Joanna Shake, Executive Director, GRADD
Mariah Myres, Director of Finance & Human Resources, GRADD
Leslie Wilson Director of Social Services, GRADD
Skyler Stewart, Director of Community & Economic Development, GRADD
Bryan Kennedy, Communications Officer, GRADD
Andrew Rudkosky, IT Director, GRADD
Hunter Phillips, Associate Director of Community & Economic Development, GRADD
Monte Davenport, Local Government Advisor, GRADD
Janet Johnston Crowe, Planning & Zoning Advisor, GRADD
Jacob Matson, Infrastructure Planner, 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
Lisa Daughtery, Waiver Program Assistant, GRADD
Kaycee Brooks, Waiver Intake Specialist, GRADD
Melissa Layson, Waiver Case Manager, GRADD
Tara Smith, Waiver Case Manager, GRADD
Amber Gebhard, Community Partners Manager, GRADD
Libby Watson, Contract Specialist, GRADD
Maria Shyver, CCC Program Administrator, GRADD
Brad Alley, AmeriCorps Program Director, 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.

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 December 10, 2025 minutes of the GRADD Board of Directors meeting.

A motion was made by Curtis Dame and seconded by Charlie Castlen to approve the December 10, 2025 minutes of the GRADD Board of Directors. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Secretary Curtis Dame presented the December 10, 2025 minutes of the GRADD Executive Committee meeting.

A motion was made by Curtis Dame and seconded by Charlie Castlen to approve the December 10, 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 period of July 1, 2025 - November 30, 2025.

A motion was made by Charlie Castlen and seconded by Randy Greenwell to approve the Treasurer's Report for the period of July 1, 2025 - November 30, 2025, which is subject to audit. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Bank Signature Authorization Approval

Treasurer Charlie Castlen explained the GRADD Board of Directors would need to approve authorization of Kenny Williams, GRADD's new Executive Director, to serve as the on-site signatory for all bank accounts, investment accounts and credit cards effective February 1, 2026.

A motion was made by Charlie Castlen and seconded by Bill Markwell to approve authorization of Kenny Williams, GRADD's Executive Director, to serve as the on-site signatory for all bank accounts, investment accounts and credit cards effective February 1, 2026. A vote was taken and motion carried.

B. Deputy Director Candidate Consideration

Secretary Curtis Dame reported the Deputy Director Search Committee would like to recommend Kemp Morgan as the Deputy Director of GRADD.

A motion was made by Charlie Castlen and seconded by Randy Greenwell to approve Kemp Morgan as GRADD's Deputy Director. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

C. Committee Reports

1. Green River Area Council on Aging

Chair Henrietta Harris reported the Ombudsman Silver Bells successfully served four personal care facilities across three counties, reaching a total of 247 residents. Each resident received a prepared bag filled with essential and comfort items, including socks, sock hats, puzzles, snacks, fruit, candy and more. The Regional Aging Area Plan Public Hearing will be held on January 26, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at GRADD. All interested individuals and members of the public are invited to attend. AmeriCorps members from GRADD's Senior Connections program will serve at St. Benedict's Women and Family Day Shelter in observance of the AmeriCorps National Day of Service on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The Day of Service honors Dr. King's legacy by encouraging community service nationwide.

2. Green River Economic Development Corporation (EDC)

Chair Brad Davis presented the September 3, 2025 minutes of the Green River EDC.

A motion was made by Brad Davis and seconded by Pat Clark to approve the September 3, 2025 minutes of the Green River EDC. A vote was taken and motion carried.

Chair Brad Davis presented the November 5, 2025 minutes of the Green River EDC.

A motion was made by Brad Davis and seconded by Franklin Powers to approve the November 5, 2025 minutes of the Green River EDC. A vote was taken and motion carried.

Chair Brad Davis reported Monte Davenport continues to work with potential loan clients. The next meeting of the Green River EDC will be held on February 4, 2026. Guest speaker Jody Hulsey, Business Coach with the Small Business Development Center.

3. GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council

Chair Jeremy Moore reported the GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council meeting scheduled for January 20, 2026, is cancelled and a special called meeting will be held later. Skyler Stewart and Amy Matheny will be meeting with emergency management personnel to assess their needs.

4. GRADD Regional Transportation Committee (RTC)

Treasurer Curtis Dame reported the GRADD Regional Transportation Committee met on December 1, 2025. During the meeting the committee approved the slate of officers for 2026. Judge/Executive Adam O’Nan will remain as Chair; Brian Howard will remain as Vice Chair; and Donnie Mayton will remain as Secretary.

The Committee approved the RTC Goals and Objectives for 2026, the RTC Bylaws for 2026 and reviewed the Kentucky Freight Network Truck Parking Inventory. The next meeting of the GRADD RTC is scheduled for February 23, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.

5. GRADD Water Management Council

Hunter Phillips reported the GRADD Water Management Council met on December 11, 2025. At this meeting, the nominating committee recommended Eric Hickman as the 2026 Chair. The ranking criteria was reviewed and approved.

6. Green River Workforce Development Board

Chair Mickey Dunbar reported that on January 7, 2026, the Statewide Workforce and Talent Team (SWATT) met at GRADD to share its structure and vision and to engage with regional stakeholders. SWATT was established to improve and better coordinate workforce development solutions for employers across the state. The initiative brings together businesses, government and community partners to address workforce gaps through sector-based strategies and data-driven approaches. The next meeting of the Green River Workforce Development Board will be held on February 4, 2026, beginning at 12:30 p.m. at GRADD.

D. Executive Director Report

Joanna Shake welcomed new staff Jacob Matson, Local Government Analyst; Melissa Layson, Waiver Case Manager; and Tara Smith, Waiver Case Manager. Ms. Shake also noted the Kentucky Area Development Districts 2026 Legislative Priorities list, which was distributed to each member.

Priorities include an increase in the Joint Funding Agreement (JFA), increase in Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (KIA) funding, increase in the Senior Nutrition Program, further support of the Putting Young Kentuckians to Work initiative, reauthorization and continued investment into the Government Resources Accelerating Needed Transformation (GRANT) Program and continuation of the successful Kentucky Product Development Initiative (KPD) Program to help communities respond quickly to opportunities that create jobs and strengthen economies.

E. Frankfort and Washington Updates

Hunter Whitaker introduced Heidi Redibu. Ms. Redibu will be working out of the Louisville office. Ms. Hunter reported that Kentucky has been awarded \$212,905,591 in federal funds for investment in rural healthcare. The Rural Health Transformation (RHT) Program funding will be directed toward rural hospitals. Senator McConnell praised Senate passage of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which authorizes funding to train and equip military to meet evolving security threats. Also signed into law is the CAREER Act which assists individuals recovering from substance use disorders by funding stable, transitional housing and offering essential support to help reenter the workforce and sustain employment.

Katie Marks reported Congressman Brett Guthrie announced passage of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) approval. The NTIA will bring 86,400 unserved and underserved locations in the Commonwealth fast and reliable broadband. Ms. Marks referenced legislation that would update the definition of a tipped employee. She directed members to Congressman Guthrie's website for all the up-to-date information and full details.

IV. INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

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

Repaving the Path: Ohio County Park Trail
Ohio County Park KY202512181104

Groundwater Treatment Plant and Water System Improvements
City of Sturgis KY202512171103

A motion was made by Brad Schneider and seconded by Charlie Castlen to endorse the above-stated Regional Executive Orders. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

V. CHAIR COMMENTS

Chair Johnny "Chic" Roberts noted that this meeting marked Jonna Shake's final board meeting as she will be retiring January 31, 2026.

He recognized her significant contributions to the region, citing her key involvement in projects such as 4 Star Industrial Park, ConnectGRADD and multiple new senior centers within the District.

Chair Roberts thanked Ms. Shake for her dedication, professionalism and hard work, which played a vital role in the continued growth of GRADD.

Joanna Shake expressed thanks to the board, the GRADD squad and numerous folks.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

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


Curtis Dame, Secretary


Johnny "Chic" Roberts, Chair

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