



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 March 11, 2026

The Board of Directors of the Green River Area Development District (GRADD) held its monthly meeting March 11, 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: Mayor Ronda Moore Smith, Janeth Nicolas
- McLEAN COUNTY: Judge/Executive Curtis Dame, Vicki Hughes, Mayor Betty Howard
- OHIO COUNTY: Judge/Executive David Johnston, Mayor Paul Sandefur, Mayor Jeff Fuqua
- UNION COUNTY: Mayor Randy Greenwell
- 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

DAVISS COUNTY: *Robert Howard, *Lauren Osowicz, *Nate Pagan
HANCOCK COUNTY: All present
HENDERSON COUNTY: *Judge/Executive Brad Schneider, *Bill Markwell,
*Mayor Brad Staton
McLEAN COUNTY: All present
OHIO COUNTY: All present
UNION COUNTY: Judge/Executive Adam O’Nan, *Melissa Coker
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

Katie Marks, Congressman Brett Guthrie’s Office
Alex Caudill, Department for Local Government
Ian Rison, Abandoned Mine Lands Economic Revitalization (AMLER) Program
Kim Humphrey, Union/Webster County
Zara Toal, Webster County
Vickie Davis, City of Sturgis
Mayor Billy Adams, City of Sturgis
Mayor David Sellers, City of Robards
Kenny Williams, Executive Director, GRADD
Kemp Morgan, Deputy Director, GRADD
Mariah Myres, Director of Administration, GRADD
Sarah Duncan, Director of Waiver Services, 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
Amy Matheny, Community Development Planner, GRADD
Jacob Matson, Infrastructure Planner, GRADD
Jill Gray, Assistant Director of Workforce Development, GRADD
Bobbie Phillips, Waiver Case Manager, GRADD
Reenee Fogle, Fiscal Manager, GRADD
Kelsey Smith, Payroll Coordinator, GRADD
Tonya Cooper, Staff Accountant, GRADD
Amber Gebhard, Community Partners Manager, GRADD
Libby Watson, Contracts Manager, GRADD
Maria Shyver, CCC Program Administrator, GRADD
Brad Alley, AmeriCorps Program Director, GRADD
Bethanney McPherson, Program 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 February 11, 2026 minutes of the GRADD Board of Directors meeting.

A motion was made by Curtis Dame and seconded by Charlie Castlen to approve the February 11, 2026 minutes of the GRADD Board of Directors. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

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

A motion was made by Curtis Dame and seconded by Betty Howard to approve the February 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 - January 31, 2026.

A motion was made by Charlie Castlen and seconded by Curtis Dame to approve the Treasurer's Report for the period of July 1, 2025 - January 31, 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 Ian Rison, Program Supervisor of the Abandoned Mine Lands Economic Revitalization (AMLER) Program.

Ian Rison explained the Abandoned Mine Lands Economic Revitalization (AMLER) Program helps eastern and western Kentucky coalfield communities affected by coal decline by funding projects that promote economic development and job creation.

The AMLER Program provides about \$25 million annually and is highly competitive, with an average award of around \$2 million. Applications are open from February to May 11, 2026 and must emphasize economic impact. Projects must be tied to abandoned mines from before 1982 and some areas may struggle to prove eligibility. Support is available through in-person and virtual sessions where staff can help applicants coordinate with local officials. Projects are selected by the state Cabinet Secretary, with announcements usually in late summer. Eligible projects include infrastructure, tourism and healthcare improvements. Competition has increased due to more applicants, higher costs and expanded eligibility areas. Projects don't have to be located directly on mine sites but must show a clear connection. An in-person AMLER application presentation will be held on April 16, 2026 in Madisonville.

B. AmeriCorps Week Proclamation

Skyler Stewart presented a proclamation declaring March 9 - 13, 2026 as AmeriCorps Week. She recognized the program impact across Kentucky. Members were encouraged to thank those members who have chosen to serve.

C. Fiscal Year 2026 Revised Budget

Treasurer Charlie Castlen presented the Fiscal Year 2026 2nd Revised Budget for review and approval.

Treasurer Castlen noted a key change in revenues is the addition of \$3.1 million in federal revenues for the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Rockport Bridge Rehabilitation grant. This revision also incorporates additional spending for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfield Assessment grant. In addition, revenues for project administration, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP), Aging programs and Workforce Development were adjusted to reflect revised allocations and carryover balances between fiscal years. With all revenue changes and the recognition of member dues, GRADD is projecting that no additional funds will be needed from administrative reserves.

The changes in expenses include the creation of a stand-alone line item for Participant Directed Services. Previously, this was included in the Direct Program Expenditures line item, but GRADD has separated the two so that the program can be tracked appropriately. GRADD has also revised the Contractual Services line to include expenses for the Rockport Bridge Rehabilitation grant and the EPA Brownfields contract. Minor adjustments were also made to the printing and the repairs and maintenance line items for anticipated needs for the remainder of the fiscal year.

A motion was made by Charlie Castlen and seconded by David Johnston to approve the Fiscal Year 2026 2nd Revised Budget. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

D. Lawncare Recommendation Approval

Treasurer Charlie Castlen presented a summary of lawn maintenance proposals received in GRADD's recent procurement cycle. GRADD received seven proposals in total. The GRADD Executive Committee have reviewed and are recommending Greensmen Landscape Solutions, based on quality of work, availability and overall pricing. The total annual cost is estimated at \$12,448, with snow removal expenses as needed.

A motion was made by Charlie Castlen and seconded by Curtis Dame to approve Greensmen Landscape Solutions for lawncare. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

E. Elite Auto Glass, LLC Loan Approval

Brad Davis reported Ryan Brown, Elite Auto Glass LLC is requesting \$40,000 from the GRADD Revolving Loan Fund (RLF).

Elite Auto Glass LLC is a locally owned and operated auto glass mobile auto glass repair and replacement company. Funds will be used to working capital, maintaining adequate inventory and increasing marketing efforts to support continued growth.

A motion was made by Brad Davis and seconded by Mickey Dunbar to approve the Elite Auto Glass, LLC Revolving Loan Fund loan. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

F. Committee Reports

1. Green River Area Council on Aging

Chair Henrietta Harris reported Community Collaboration for Children (CCC) is a federally funded program designed to prevent child abuse and neglect, to support and strengthen families and to encourage communities to work together. Serving the region's seven counties, the GRADD CCC Regional Network provides in-home based services and parent education classes through a contract with the Green River District Health Department. Chair Harris noted upcoming events and training.

- Free Caregiver Training - March 23, 2026 - Daviess County Public Schools Central Office; and
- Stand Up 4 Children Crossing the Bridge from Awareness to Action will take place April 24, 2026 from 3:30 to 6:00 PM in Owensboro; and s year

2. Green River Economic Development Corporation (EDC)

Chair Brad Davis reported the Green River Economic Development Corporation met on March 4, 2026 and approved a loan for Elite Auto Glass, LLC.

Monte Davenport is currently working with one potential loan client and has sent out two applications. Mr. Davenport has plans to meet with regional banks and has a meeting with Owensboro Chamber of Commerce in March to promote loans for businesses. Marketing of the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) continues throughout the region. The next meeting of the Green River EDC will be held on April 1 at 8:30 AM at GRADD.

3. GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council

Chair Jeremy Moore reported the GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council will meet on April 21, 2026 and Area Emergency Management meetings are currently ongoing.

4. GRADD Regional Transportation Committee (RTC)

Treasurer Curtis Dame presented the December 1, 2025 minutes of the GRADD Regional Transportation Committee.

A motion was made by Curtis Dame and seconded by Charlie Castlen to approve the December 1, 2025 Minutes of the GRADD Regional Transportation Committee. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Treasurer Curtis Dame reported the GRADD Regional Transportation Committee met February 23, 2026. During the meeting, the 2026 Recommended Highway Plan that was published in January was reviewed. The plan is currently being reviewed by the legislature and the final Enacted Highway Plan should be available in June. Also reviewed were the suggested changes to Park-n-Ride, Freight Users and Sidewalk Inventories. The next meeting of the GRADD Regional Transportation Committee is May 18, 2026.

5. GRADD Water Management Council

Jacob Matson, Infrastructure Planner reported he has completed 28 of the 57 system visits. The next meeting of the GRADD Water Management Council is March 19, 2026. Russel Neal from the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority will be discussing the purpose of the Water Management Council.

6. Green River Workforce Development Board

Chair Mickey Dunbar presented the November 5, 2025 minutes Green River Workforce Development Board.

A motion was made by Mickey Dunbar and seconded by David Johnston to approve the November 5, 2026 minutes of the Green River Workforce Development Board. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Chair Dunbar reported on February 6, 2026 there were onsite interviews for Utility Melt positions in Henderson at the Career Center. On February 25, 2026 Kentucky Career Center staff assisted with a job fair for Terawulf at the Hancock County Career Center. A total of 57 jobseekers attended and had the opportunity to submit résumés. Many attendees also met with a Terawulf representative to learn more about available job opportunities. Also on February 25, 2026 a dual regional event highlighting employers from Green River and Lincoln Trail regions was held at the Breckenridge County Public Library. A Rapid Response meeting will be held on March 17, 2026 for employees impacted by the upcoming Swedish Match layoff. The Green River 2026 Youth Summit will be held March 12, 2026 at Owensboro Community & Technical College. Nearly 250 middle and high school students from the region are registered to attend. Local speakers will address youth on a variety of topics including leadership, high demand careers and financial literacy.

D. Executive Director Report

Kenny Williams gave a brief legislative update which included House Bill 6 which focuses on changes to the Child Care Assistance Program. Representative DJ Johnson will be scheduling a meeting with regional childcare workers to discuss what is working and not working with the system. Senate Bill 9, which addresses housing in the districts. GRADD will be hiring a new Community Projects Coordinator whose focus will be housing in the region and will also be assisting GRADD's communities with strategic planning. The GRADD building will begin its revitalization the week of March 16, 2026. Not only will the outside of the building be getting a facelift but the inside entrance foyer as well. The Waiver Department continues to grow and has added a new program and could potentially add another which concentrates on mental health. Currently the Social Services Department is reevaluating the home delivered meal waiting list. Mr. Williams reminded the members that April 1, 2026 is wear blue day. This day supports child abuse victims. Upcoming events include the IRT in Henderson in June and Workforce Development has an upcoming Youth Summit and unfortunately a Rapid Response a Swedish Match.

E. Frankfort and Washington Updates

Katie Marks reported the Farm Bill has finally advanced. If anyone should have specific questions on amendments, please reach out to Congressman Guthrie's office. Congressman Guthrie has also been working diligently on the KIDS Act, which is an improved version of the Online Safety Act, strengthening privacy, transparency and accountability across the online ecosystem. Mrs. Marks gave a shoutout to Skyler Stewart and her team for making the chaotic project funding time much easier and for that she is very grateful.

Alex Caudill reported that recently announced Kentucky ranks in the top five for economic development in the most recent *Site Selection Magazine*. Mr. Caudill distributed save the dates for the upcoming 50th Anniversary Governor's Local Issues Conference which will take place in August in Louisville. The City/County Bridge Improvement Program will be announcing grant awards very soon and the Local Assistance Road Program (LARP) was recently filed. This program is designed to assist local governments address key transportation needs.

IV. CHAIR COMMENTS

Chair Johnny "Chic" Roberts announced an I-165 New Interchange Planning Study meeting will take place on March 24, 2026 beginning at 5:00 PM at Abundant Life Church in Utica. All were encouraged to attend.

V. ADJOURNMENT

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


Curtis Dame, Secretary


Johnny "Chic" Roberts, Chair

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