

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 July 8, 2026

The Board of Directors of the Green River Area Development District (GRADD) held its monthly meeting July 8, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. The meeting was held at the Green River Area Development District, 300 GRADD Way, Owensboro, KY. It was noted a quorum was not present. Members in attendance are listed below.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DAVIESS COUNTY:	Judge/Executive Charlie Castlen, Nate Pagan, Lauren Osowicz
HANCOCK COUNTY:	Judge/Executive Johnny Roberts, Mayor Chad Gregory, Franklin Powers
HENDERSON COUNTY:	Mayor Ronda Moore Smith
McLEAN COUNTY:	Vicki Hughes
OHIO COUNTY:	Judge/Executive David Johnston
UNION COUNTY:	Mayor Randy Greenwell, Melissa Coker
WEBSTER COUNTY:	None present

COMMITTEE CHAIRS PRESENT

Green River Workforce Development Board - Mickey Dunbar
Green River Economic Development Corporation - Brad Davis

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ABSENT

DAVIESS COUNTY:	Mayor Patsy Mayfield, *Henrietta Harris, *Robert Howard
HANCOCK COUNTY:	All present
HENDERSON COUNTY:	*Judge/Executive Brad Schneider, *Mayor Brad Staton, Bill Markwell, *Janeth Nicolas

*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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McLEAN COUNTY: *Judge/Executive Curtis Dame, *Mayor Betty Howard
OHIO COUNTY *Mayor Paul Sandefur, *Mayor Jeff Fuqua
UNION COUNTY: *Judge/Executive Adam O’Nan
WEBSTER COUNTY: *Judge/Executive Steve Henry, *Mayor Pat Clark,
*Ryan Hammack

COMMITTEE CHAIRS ABSENT

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

GUESTS AND STAFF PRESENT

Mayor Sharon Nell Boyken, City of Livermore
Hunter Whitaker Senator Mitch McConnell’s Office
Alex Caudill, Department for Local Government
Chris Wooldridge, Murray State University
Tracy Beatty, Ohio County
Darren Peach, Opportunity Center
Jennifer Richardson, Health Force Kentucky
Kenny Williams, Executive Director, GRADD
Kemp Morgan, Deputy Director, GRADD
Cory Alexander, Director of Finance, GRADD
Leslie Wilson, Director of Aging and Social Services, GRADD
Sarah Duncan, Director of Waiver Services, GRADD
Skyler Stewart, Director of Community & Economic Development, GRADD
Michelle Drake, Director of Workforce Development, GRADD
Bryan Kennedy, Communications Officer, GRADD
Andrew Rudkosky, IT Director, GRADD
Jenna Whitsell, Staff Accountant, GRADD
Jill Gray, Assistant Director, Workforce Development, GRADD
Paula Payne, Workforce Development Coordinator, GRADD
Jennifer Alvey, GIS Analyst, GRADD
Monte Davenport, Local Government Advisor, GRADD
Leslie Rusher, Public Administration Specialist, GRADD
Jacob Matson, Infrastructure Planner, GRADD
Brandon Wirthwein, Community Development Planner, GRADD
Alexandra Bennett, Community Projects Coordinator, GRADD
Amber Gebhard, Community Partners Manager, GRADD
Kelli King, Family Caregiver Coordinator, GRADD
Lauren Wellman, Aging Case Manager Supervisor, GRADD
Brock Burger, Waiver/Administration Intern, GRADD
Luke Reffitt, Finance Intern, 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 noted a quorum was not present.

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

Kenny Williams presented the June 10, 2026 minutes of the GRADD Board of Directors meeting.

A motion was made by David Johnston and seconded by Brad Davis to approve the June 10, 2026 minutes of the GRADD Board of Directors. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Kenny Williams presented the June 10, 2026 minutes of the GRADD Executive Committee meeting.

A motion was made by David Johnston and seconded by Randy Greenwell to approve the June 10, 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 – May 31, 2026.

Treasurer Charlie Castlen reported for the eleven months ending May 31, 2026, GRADD has generated total revenues of \$47.6 million and incurred total expenses of \$45.17 million, resulting in a year-to-date operating surplus of \$2.43 million. He noted revenues are exactly on target at 92%, while expenditures are at 87%, reflecting continued sound fiscal management and spending below budget even in the midst of building and property capital projects. For the month of May, GRADD recorded revenues of \$4.13 million and expenses of \$4.38 million, resulting in a monthly deficit of approximately \$253,000.

This temporary variance was solely attributable to the timing of a \$478,715 reimbursement from the Commonwealth that was expected in May but was received and recorded on June 1, 2026.

A motion was made by Charlie Castlen and seconded by Nate Pagan to approve the Treasurer's Report for the period of July 1, 2025 - May 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 Darren Peach, Executive Director of the Opportunity Center of Owensboro.

Darren Peach gave an overview of the Opportunity Center and the services it offers to children and adults with disabilities. The Opportunity Center was founded in 1956 by a group of parents who believed their children deserved more than institutionalization and would provide opportunity, dignity and community inclusion. The Opportunity Center has evolved over the years as participants got older, offering vocational training through workshops and partnerships. Today the Opportunity Center is a comprehensive day training and vocational center serving adults across the region and is celebrating 70 years of service. Mr. Peach noted over the years the Opportunity Center acquired and operated Pinocchio's Deli which provided real-world food service training for participants.

B. Conflict of Interest

Kenny Williams explained, annually board members are asked to complete a Conflict of Interest. This compliance requirement ensures members are not in a position to influence a decision that may result in a direct or indirect personal gain.

C. Service Awards

Chairman Johnny "Chic" Roberts presented service awards to Amber Gehbard (20 years), Leslie Wilson (25 years) and Kim Wells (25 years). Chair Roberts thanked each of them for their leadership and dedication to GRADD.

D. Committee Reports

1. Green River Area Council on Aging

Franklin Powers reported on June 15, 2026 GRADD's Aging and Social Services Department, Brescia University, Department of Community Based Services (DCBS), Department for Aging & Independent Living (DAIL), and local senior centers partnered to raise awareness of Elder Abuse Awareness across the seven county region. Informational placemats were distributed at senior centers and with home-delivered meals, providing information on the placemats of elder abuse, key statistics and contact numbers for reporting concerns or seeking assistance. This collaborative effort helped educate older adults, caregivers and community members about recognizing and preventing elder abuse. A brief video was shown showcasing the event.

2. Green River Economic Development Corporation (EDC)

Chair Brad Davis presented the minutes of the May 6, 2026 and May 27, 2026 meetings of the Green River EDC.

A motion was made by Brad Davis and seconded by Randy Greenwell to approve the May 6, 2026 and May 27, 2026 minutes of the Green River EDC. A vote was taken and motion carried.

Chair Brad Davis reported the Green River EDC met on July 1, 2026 and approved a loan for Carrico Therapy Services, LLC. Kelsey Carrico is seeking funding in the amount of \$160,000 from the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Program to refinance existing debt obligations and establish a more sustainable debt structure that supports long term job retention and future growth.

A motion was made by Brad Davis and seconded by David Johnston to approve the Carrico Therapy Services, LLC Revolving Loan Fund loan in the amount of \$160,000. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Chair Brad Davis reported Monte Davenport is currently working with one potential loan client and has sent out six applications in June. Mr. Davenport continues to market the RLF throughout the region. The next meeting of the Green River EDC will be held on August 5, 2026.

3. GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council

Skyler Stewart announced GRADD Hazard Mitigation Council will meet on July 21, 2026.

4. GRADD Regional Transportation Committee (RTC)

Skyler Stewart reported that Jennifer Alvey completed updates to the Public Involvement Plan, Regional Transportation Asset Inventory and Socioeconomic Profiles. The next Green River RTC meeting is scheduled for August 24, 2026.

5. GRADD Water Management Council

Jacob Matson reported the GRADD Water Management Council met on June 18, 2026. At this meeting, five projects were approved, Daviess County Water District US 231 Booster Station, Breckinridge Housing Initiative Waterline Extension; Sebree Springs Estates Waterline Extension, Breckinridge Housing Initiative Sewer Extension and Sebree Springs Estates Sewer Extension. Kentucky Water/Wastewater applications are now being accepted. Application information has been sent to all elected officials and system operators. Applications are due by August 31, 2026. The next GRADD Water Management Council meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2026.

6. Green River Workforce Development Board

Chair Mickey Dunbar reported the Take-Off Tuesday Job Fairs continue weekly at the Kentucky Career Center. The Fairs provide job seekers the opportunity for on-site interviews. The August 5, 2026 Green River Workforce Development Board meeting will include a tour of the new HealthForce Kentucky Innovation Center. A video was shown sharing work-based learning opportunities.

E. Executive Director Report

Kenny Williams reported the following:

- Welcome to GRADD: Mackenzie Quiggins, Building Services Technician; Luke Reffitt, Finance Intern; and Hannah Robinson, Waiver Case Manager;
- Congratulations to Bryan Kennedy, Communications Director on graduating from Leadership Owensboro; and
- Senior Games was held Jun 12, 2026 at Ohio County Park. The event welcomed athletes from the GRADD district who participated in events such as football toss, washers and golf.

F. Frankfort and Washington Updates

Hunter Whitaker with Senator Mitch McConnell's office reported Senator McConnell is recovering from a recent illness and is eager to get back to work. Ms. Whitaker noted the appropriations process is ongoing. There has also been an uptick in Internal Revenue funding that dates back to COVID. The relief dollars that individuals were eligible for have not been claimed and that deadline is ending this year. If communities have individuals that need assistance, Ms. Whitaker asked them to call the Senator's office.

Alex Caudill with the Department for Local Government announced the Governor's Local Issues Conference is fast approaching, August 19 - 21, 2026 at the Galt House in Louisville. The Delta Regional Authority application cycle is open for Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP) and Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF) with a deadline of July 31, 2026.

IV. INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEWS

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

FY 2027 Planning Work Program

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet - Division of Planning KY202606110588

Sacramento Gravity Sewer Project

City of Sacramento KY20260618037

Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG)

Elite Roadside Service LLC KY202606160622

A motion was made by Brad Davis and seconded by Nate Pagan to recommend endorsement of the above-stated Regional Executive Orders. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

V. CHAIR COMMENTS

Chair Johnny "Chic" Roberts made the following announcements:

- Congratulations to the City of Morganfield on the recent ribbon cutting for the brand-new splash pad located at Homestead Park; and
- A Brownfield Bootcamp will be held at GRADD on July 30, 2026.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Johnny "Chic" Roberts invited members to stay for lunch which was prepared by participants from the Opportunity Center.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

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


Curtis Dame, Secretary


Johnny "Chic" Roberts, Chair

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