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GREEN RIVER WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

February 4, 2026

M-I-N-U-T-E-S

The Green River Workforce Development Board (Board) held its regular meeting on Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at 12:30 p.m., at Green River Area Development District (GRADD) with the following in attendance:

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mickey Dunbar
Dr. Jason Warren
Mike Baker
Amanda Blohm-Thompson
Kenneth Calloway
Sheri Plain
Jonathan Pendergrass
Bill Banczak
Jamie Cole

Brian Basham
Isaac Murphy
Keith Wells
Sonya Hendrix
Jason Cole
Luke Aull
Bart Darrell
Allyson Sanders

MEMBERS ABSENT

Chris Geary
Greg LeCroy

Eddie Embry

GUESTS AND STAFF PRESENT

Charles Aull, Vice President of Policy for the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
Matt Bartlett, Equus Workforce Solutions
Melissa Roberts, Equus Workforce Solutions
Kim Shannon, Equus Workforce Solutions
Andrea McGehee, Equus Workforce Solutions
Steve Reinhold, Equus Workforce Solutions
Michelle Drake, Director, Workforce Development, GRAD
Jill Gray, Assistant Director, Workforce Development, GRADD
Alisha Smith, Youth Coordinator, Workforce Development, GRADD
Paula Payne, Coordinator, Workforce Development, GRADD

Johnny "Chic" Roberts, Chairman | Adam O'Nan, Vice Chairman | Curtis Dame, Secretary | Charlie Castlen, Treasurer | Kenneth J. Williams, Executive Director

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GUESTS AND STAFF PRESENT, continued

Paula Snyder, Career Development Office
Naomi Sutton, Office of Employer & Apprenticeships
Beth Ferguson, Finance Department, GRADD
Tonya Cooper, Finance Department, GRADD
Mariah Myres, Finance Department, GRADD
Stacia Cole, Vocational Rehabilitation
Jimmy Cantrell, ARCH
Kemp Morgan, Deputy Director, GRADD
Kenny Williams, Executive Director, GRADD
Jamie Johnson, GOEDC
Whitney Risley, Henderson Economic Development

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Mickey Dunbar called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone. It was determined that a quorum was present.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Chairperson Dunbar recognized new leadership at GRADD and invited them to share a comment:

Mr. Kenny Williams as the new Executive Director of GRADD. Mr. Williams spoke briefly of his excitement about being at GRADD. He emphasized his support of the Workforce Development team and regional engagement.

Mr. Kemp Morgan as Deputy Director of GRADD. Mr. Morgan shared he recently relocated from Mississippi and that his background has been with the Delta Regional Authority for twenty plus years. He has a passion for regional development.

Chairperson Dunbar also welcomed the following and thanked them for being in attendance:

Mr. Jamie Cole, Brenntag MidSouth, as a new Board member.

Mr. Steve Reinhold, Regional Director of Equus Workforce Solutions

III. BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Century Aluminum was recognized as the Business Spotlight and thanked for providing

lunch. Mr. Kenneth Calloway spoke of a new venture Century has joined in Oklahoma as well as the sale of the Hawesville KY smelter plant to TeraWulf.

IV. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Chairperson Dunbar called on Secretary Bart Darrell to present minutes of the November 5, 2025, Green River Workforce Development Board meeting. Mr. Darrell presented the minutes and requested a motion to approve.

Motion was made by Mr. Jonathan Pendergrass to approve the minutes of November 5, 2025, Green River Workforce Development Board meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. Brian Basham. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Mr. Darrell also presented October 16 and November 24, 2025, minutes of the Workforce Board Executive Committee meetings for consideration.

V. FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Isaac Murphy, Treasurer, presented the FY26 financial report and requested a motion for acceptance.

Motion was made by Mr. Kenneth Calloway to accept the FY26 financial report. Motion seconded by Mr. Mike Baker. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

VI. MONITORING REPORTS

Chairperson Dunbar shared that PY24 WIOA State Compliance was recently completed with no program or financial findings or areas of concern.

He also stated that the QUEST Green River National Dislocated Worker Grant bi-annual monitoring review was conducted with no program findings or areas of concern.

Chairperson Dunbar commended staff for their hard work and dedication resulting in excellent monitoring results.

VII. GUEST PRESENTER

Mr. Kenneth Calloway introduced Mr. Charles Aull, Vice President of Policy for the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce to speak about A Foundation for Action – Shared Solutions to Child Care Challenges in Kentucky. Mr. Aull stated that childcare has recently been prioritized as a workforce issue. A cross-section of Kentuckians including business leaders, public policy professionals, workforce and economic development experts, attorneys, childcare providers, advocatess, non-profit leaders, faith community leaders and educators reached a consensus on more than three dozen actionable items to create a foundation for sustainable long-term childcare as a solution in Kentucky.

VIII. EQUUS QUARTERLY DELIVERABLES

Chairperson Dunbar stated that Equus quarterly deliverables for period ending December 31, 2025, were met and are payable. Mr. Matthew Bartlett shared quarterly data and stated the quality monitoring rate was 99.52%. Of note, Mr. Bartlett stated eight hiring events were held during the quarter, and 222 social media posts were made including employment opportunities and hiring events.

IX. KENTUCKY CAREER CENTER PARTNER UPDATES

Mr. Jason Cole shared a participant success story from Vocational Rehabilitation. Additionally, Vocational Rehabilitation data were included in the meeting packet.

Ms. Paula Snyder shared a participant success story from the Career Development Office and data were included in the packet.

Mr. Bartlett shared a participant success story from Equus Workforce Solutions. Quarterly data and additional success stories were included in the meeting packet.

X. GREEN RIVER YOUTH SUMMIT 2026

Ms. Alisha Smith was called on to share information about the upcoming 2026 Green River Youth Summit being held on March 12, 2026, at Owensboro Career and Technical College. Middle and high school students from the seven county GRADD region have been invited. With recent snow days, there is not an estimate of how many youths will attend. Board Members were invited to support the Youth Summit with a donation and were invited to visit during the Youth Summit.

XI. LOOKING AHEAD – GOALS FOR 2026

Chairperson Dunbar shared that he would like a planning session to be held at the next Board meeting day, May 6, 2026, to set goals for the year. More information will be shared soon.

XII. OTHER BUSINESS

Chairperson Dunbar shared that the Statewide Workforce and Talent Team in Kentucky (SWATT) was at GRADD on January 7, 2026, and met with stakeholders to share the structure and vision. The SWATT initiative unites businesses, government, and community partners to address workforce gaps through sector-based strategies and data-driven approaches. We await final outcomes of the statewide meetings.

Ms. Michelle Drake shared that staff is currently organizing Rapid Response events for several different local closures/lay-offs.

The next Workforce Development Board meeting will be held on May 6, 2026.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Dunbar requested a motion to adjourn.

Motion was made by Mr. Isaac Murphy
To adjourn the February 4, 2026, Workforce
Development Board meeting. Motion was
seconded by Mr. Jason Cole.
Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.



Chairperson