



300 GRADD Way
Owensboro, Kentucky
42301-0200

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GREEN RIVER WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

May 6, 2026

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

The Green River Workforce Development Board (Board) held its regular meeting on Wednesday, May 6, 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
Keith Wells
Sonya Hendrix
Jason Cole
Luke Aull
Bill Banczak

Eddie Embry
Mike Baker
Jamie Cole
Kenneth Calloway
Allyson Sanders
Jonathan Pendergrass
Katie Vincent, Proxy for Sheri Plain

MEMBERS ABSENT

Chris Geary
Greg LeCroy
Amanda Blohm-Thompson

Isaac Murphy
Bart Darrell
Brian Basham

GUESTS AND STAFF PRESENT

Nicki Stewart, KY VALOR
Travis Robbins, WPT Nonwovens
David Johnston, Ohio County Judge Executive
Charlie Castlen, Daviess County Judge Executive
Matt Bartlett, Equus Workforce Solutions
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
Stacia Cole, Vocational Rehabilitation
Kenny Williams, Executive Director, GRADD
Kemp Morgan, Deputy Director, GRADD
Joshua Mizanin, Kentucky Career Center
Whitney Risley, Henderson Economic Development
Sarah McLaughlin, Reentry & Employment Services
Andrea Clark
Ruby Jennings

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.

Chairperson Dunbar stated that Sheri Plain requested that Katie Vincent attend as her proxy. Chairperson Dunbar asked for a motion that Ms. Vincent be accepted proxies as stated.

Mr. Eddie Embry made the motion to accept proxy as stated. Mr. Kenneth Calloway seconded the motion.
A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Additionally, Chairperson Dunbar congratulated Board Member Mr. Brian Basham for his induction into the Kentucky Veterans Hall of Fame. He thanked Mr. Basham for continuing to serve our community after his service time in the military.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Chairperson Dunbar welcomed Judge/Executive David Johnston and Judge/Executive Charlie Castlen and thanked them for attending.

III. BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Planters Bank was recognized for providing lunch.

WPT Nonwovens was recognized as Business Spotlight. Mr. Travis Robbins, President, was welcomed. Mr. Robbins shared a video and presented information about WPT Nonwovens.

IV. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Chairperson Dunbar presented minutes of the February 4, 2026, Green River Workforce Development Board meeting and requested a motion to approve.

Motion was made by Mr. Kenneth Calloway to approve the minutes of February 4, 2026, Green River Workforce Development Board meeting. Motion seconded by Dr. Jason Warren. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Chairperson Dunbar also presented the minutes of the January 13, 2026, Workforce Development Board Executive Committee meeting for consideration.

V. FINANCIAL REPORT

Chairperson Dunbar presented the FY27 financial report and requested a motion to approve.

Motion was made by Mr. Eddie Embry to accept the FY26 financial report. Motion seconded by Ms. Allyson Sanders. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

VI. GUEST SPEAKER

Chairperson Dunbar introduced Ms. Nicki Stewart with KY VALOR (Veterans Accelerated Licensure Occupational Recruitment). KY VALOR is a nonprofit initiative of the Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation (KSTC) building on the success of KSTC's previous grant from the U.S. Department of Labor that established accelerated pathways for service members to licensed occupations. KY VALOR helps veterans capitalize on their military experience to meet career goals and find a fulfilling post-service career in Kentucky. They partner with employers throughout the Commonwealth to recruit and connect transitioning service members and their spouses to open job opportunities.

VII. RENEWAL OF DIRECT SERVICES CONTRACT

Chairperson Dunbar shared that Equus Workforce Solutions (EWS) has met all quarterly deliverables as well as all terms and conditions of the current contract. Based on performance and outcomes, there are three one-year renewable terms with this being year one. The amount proposed for the new fiscal year is \$720,400.19. Staff recommend renewal the Direct Services

contract with Equus for FY27. Chairperson Dunbar asked for a motion to approve renewal of the EWS contract.

Motion was made by Mr. Mike Baker to
renew the EWS contract for one year.
Motion was seconded by Mr. Eddie Embry.
A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

VIII. EQUUS QUARTERLY DELIVERABLES

Chairperson Dunbar stated that Equus quarterly deliverables for period ending March 31, 2026, were met and are payable. Mr. Matthew Bartlett shared quarterly data and stated the quality case monitoring rate was 100%. Of note, Mr. Bartlett stated nine hiring events were held during the quarter, and 285 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 shared that 250 middle and high school students attended the 2026 Green River Youth Summit being held on March 12, 2026, at Owensboro Career and Technical College. A video was shown highlighting events of the day.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Jill Gray announced that a recent award from Severe Storms grant funds will total nearly \$500,000. She also shared that the state has approved continued funding for the Putting Young Kentuckians to Work program for an additional two years, with the allocation amount to be announced soon. In addition, an application will be submitted next week to continue the H2O project, which supports water and wastewater utilities in hiring and training apprentices throughout our DRA counties.

Ms. Jill Gray invited Judge/Executive Charlie Castlen to share information about a recent visit to the Life Learning Center (The Center) in Covington, KY. Life Learning Center empowers people struggling with poverty, unemployment, and hopelessness to choose what they want to be and take the necessary steps to achieve it. By teaching people how to overcome life's challenges and supporting them along the way, they are helped to find a new direction, secure, and sustain stable employment, and build a better life for themselves and their families. Judge/Executive Castlen is part of a group of individuals interested in opening a similar model to in Daviess County.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Dunbar announced the next meeting of the Workforce Board will be on August 5, 2026, and then requested a motion to adjourn.

Motion was made by Mr. Jonathan Pendergrass
and seconded by Mr. Kenneth Calloway to adjourn
the meeting of the Workforce Board.
Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.



Chairperson