



MEDIA RELEASE

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Green River Area Development District Names Kemp Morgan as Deputy Director

OWENSBORO, Ky. — The Green River Area Development District (GRADD) has hired **Kemp Morgan as its Deputy Director**, a newly created leadership position within the organization.

Morgan brings more than 20 years of leadership experience in public administration, federal grantmaking, and regional economic development. His resume reflects extensive experience managing multimillion-dollar budgets, overseeing federal and state grant programs, and advising boards at the local, state, and federal levels. Morgan most recently served as Office Manager for Irrigation Services in Cleveland, Mississippi. Prior to that, he held several senior leadership roles with the Delta Regional Authority, including Chief Programs Officer, Interim Chief of Staff, Director of Project Development & Management, Deputy Director of the Federal Grant Program, and Federal Program Coordinator.

“Strong regions aren’t built city by city—they’re built when communities decide to move forward together,” says GRADD Deputy Director Kemp Morgan. “GRADD exists to help make that collaboration work, and I’m grateful for the opportunity to serve the leaders and communities across our region.”

In his new role, Morgan **will work closely with Executive Director Kenny Williams to support the day-to-day operations of the agency** and coordinate activities between GRADD’s divisions to ensure efficient, consistent, and effective performance.

Programmatically, Morgan **will help oversee initiatives within several core areas of the organization, including community and economic development, transportation planning, human services, waiver services, and workforce development.** The role is designed to strengthen collaboration between programs while promoting proactive leadership and strategic alignment across the agency.

Morgan will also assist the Executive Director with strategic planning, budgetary decisions, and policy implementation while serving as a direct resource to the 27 communities within the GRADD region.

In addition, the Deputy Director position will play an important role in external relations, representing GRADD to local governments, state and federal agencies, community partners, and regional stakeholders. Through those partnerships, the position supports GRADD's mission to provide local governments and citizens with a regional forum to identify issues and opportunities while offering leadership in planning and implementing programs that improve quality of life across the district.

"Kemp brings an extraordinary depth of experience in regional development, federal programs, and strategic leadership, and we are incredibly excited to welcome him to the GRADD team," says **GRADD Executive Director Kenneth J. Williams**. "Throughout his career, he has demonstrated a remarkable ability to build strong partnerships and deliver meaningful results for communities. As our region continues to grow and face new opportunities, Kemp's leadership will ensure our leaders remain focused on innovative solutions that improve the quality of life for the citizens and communities we serve. I am truly excited to be working alongside Kemp as we continue advancing GRADD's mission across the entire region."

During his time with the Delta Regional Authority, Morgan directed program teams and managed annual appropriations ranging from \$30 million to \$75 million. He oversaw appropriations and allocations across eight states and 252 counties, supervised staff, reviewed budgets, ensured regulatory compliance, and developed policies and procedures for effective program management. He also created and managed federal grant databases and reporting systems and secured and managed \$14 million in USDA Rural Development funds.

Earlier in his career, Morgan was a Business Manager for a fixed-base operator at a local airport in Cleveland, MS., where he directed business operations, payroll, and accounts management.

Morgan holds a Bachelor of Commercial Aviation in Aviation Management from Delta State University. He has completed a Certificate in Grants Management (24 CPE hours), is an alum of Leadership Mississippi and the Delta Leadership Institute.

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The Green River Area Development District (GRADD) is a regional planning agency and council of governments serving the communities of Daviess, Hancock, Henderson, McLean, Ohio, Union, and Webster counties. GRADD offers assistance in the fields of aging, health, and social services; community and economic development; transportation planning; and workforce development. Our mission is to afford local governments and citizens a regional forum to identify issues and opportunities, and to provide leadership in planning and implementing programs to improve the quality of life in our district.

