

**MINUTES**  
**BRADD BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**December 18, 2019**

**TIME & PLACE:**

The Barren River Area Development District Board of Directors met at 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 18, 2019 at the BRADD Conference Center Bowling Green, KY. Chairman Steve Thurmond called the BRADD meeting to order.

Judge/Executive Harold Stilts, Metcalfe County, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Chairman Thurmond welcomed all visitors and guests and representatives of the news media.

**ATTENDANCE:**

It was determined a quorum was present. (See attached attendance Record).

**GUEST SPEAKERS:**

Chairman Thurmond introduced the first guest speaker, Mr. Lanny White of Carr, Riggs and Ingram. Mr. White presented findings of the fiscal year 2019 audit. Mr. White informed the Auditor of Public Accounts (APA) reviewed the BRADDs audit this year and sent a letter of acceptance for full approval. A clean opinion was received of the federal and state funds for BRADD internal controls and compliance. Mr. White informed the BRADD experienced an increase in assets and equity attributed to the BRADD PDS program expansion. Mr. White explained that unfunded liability results in negative numbers due to the 2015 pension rule. Mr. White reported a clean audit with a year of good growth for the BRADD.

Chairman Thurmond introduced the next guest speaker, Mr. JD Chaney the newly appointed Executive Director of Kentucky League of Cities. Mr. Chaney informed this is the first event he has spoken since receiving the new title. Mr. Chaney voiced the importance of cities in stating, cities are the core of the overall fate of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Mr. Chaney informed there were 15 bills passed from the recent session. Mr. Chaney spoke about the top three priorities of KLC. The first included the cost of pensions. Mr. Chaney spoke the rates with the CERS system not being based on sound actuarial data, as half of the counties and cities in Kentucky cannot survive the full phase in proposal. Mr. Chaney voiced the importance on the nearly failing retirement system. The second priority included revenue. The KLC Board of Directors believes with the current 1891 Constitution design, City and County tax bases are forced into a

tax base that punishes productivity. Mr. Chaney voiced the need for change in that there are few states following Kentucky's current design. There is a need for a constitution amendment in efforts to create a tax policy to meet the diverse need of the tax bases. Lastly, Mr. Chaney expressed the need for investment in infrastructure. Neighboring states are investing with different model approaches. The road systems need greater investment rather than continued reduction. Mr. Chaney spoke of the commitment to seek the common ground to move forward.

Chairman Thurmond introduced guest speaker Ms. Shellie Hampton, Director of Governmental Relations for the Kentucky Association of Counties. Similarly, Ms. Hampton spoke about the top three priorities from KACo. The number one priority is transportation funding. After continued loss of funding, the state budget is 6.5% short from funding levels six years ago. Counties have a great responsibility to maintain the roads in their region as funding continues to remain increasingly difficult. The second priority discussed is jail relief. Overcrowding issues are statewide with the increase of 25 thousand incarcerated inmates. 85% of inmates are drug related issues. Kentucky currently stands as second in the nation for the highest number of female inmates. Ms. Hampton discussed inventory and expansion for drug addicts to receive treatment and attention needed for recovery. Ms. Hampton spoke about the financial need for jails such as the jailers needed per-diem increase. As well as the financial impact for pretrial release and credit for time served. Lastly, Ms. Hampton discussed tax reform issues with the need for increased funds. Legislators should consider the individuality of the counties for the local needs. Ms. Hampton advised against supporting the appeal for occupational taxing, as it would not benefit counties tax income bases. Ms. Hampton encouraged the officials to meet with their Legislators to represent the voice they need to hear for the individual counties need.

#### **MINUTES:**

With no corrections or additions, the minutes of October 30, 2019 meeting were approved as emailed. (See attached)

**Motion was made by Mayor Mike Hughes, seconded by Mayor Randall Curry to approve the October 30, 2019 board minutes as emailed. Motion carried.**

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Officers:** No reports.

**Council:****Regional Transportation Committee:**

Chairman Thurmond called on Judge/Executive Dennis Harper. Judge Harper reported the BRADD Regional Transportation Committee met on Wednesday, October 30th at the BRADD Conference Center. The Committee reviewed and approved new changes to the Title VI Plan, the regional goals and objectives, and the Bylaws. The Committee elected Judge/Executive Dennis Harper as Chair and Mayor Billy Phelps as Vice Chair. The next Regional Transportation Committee meeting will be held on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 at 2:15 p.m. and will include a guest speaker from Bridging Kentucky, who will provide details on bridge replacement and rehabilitation projects within the BRADD.

**Water Management Council:**

Chairman Thurmond called on Judge/Executive Wil Cannon. Judge Cannon reported the Water Management Council met December 4<sup>th</sup> at the BRADD Conference Center. The Council heard a presentation by Allie Terrell with ServLine about leak protection insurance for utilities. The council reviewed and approved four new drinking water projects and three wastewater projects. The Council also reviewed and approved the FY 20 Regional Priority Water Rankings for water and wastewater projects in the BRADD region. The rankings are included in the board packet. The next Council meeting will be held March 4, 2020 at the BRADD Conference Center. Any questions should be directed to BRADD staff Mr. Thomas Grubbs.

**Aging Council:**

Chairman Thurmond called on Mr. Jesse Varner, Aging Council Chair. Mr. Varner reported the Barren River Council on Aging met on November 20, 2019 at 10 am at the BRADD Conference Center. Lynda Love, Barren River District Ombudsman, provided a presentation on elder abuse. Ms. Love covered signs and symptoms, prevention, and how to report abuse or neglect. The Ombudsman Program is currently holding a blanket drive, asking for donations of blankets for Long Term Care and Personal Care home residents. Bobbie Esters, Kentucky Legal Aid State Health Insurance Program Coordinator, reported that she is currently finishing up the Medicare Part D Open Enrollment Events. She reported that \$255,000 in healthcare expenses have been saved region-wide. Mr. Varner informed the relocation of the Russellville Senior Center has been approved. The new location is at 201 West 6th Street in Russellville. The Barren River Mental Health and Aging Conference was held at the Carroll Knicley Conference Center on Wednesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> with over 225 participants and vendors in attendance. Mr. Varner informed as part of

National Caregiver's Month, BRADD held a personal care drive for clients in need. BRADD staff worked with Home Instead's Be a Santa to a Senior program to bring Christmas gifts to needy seniors. All of these programs combined will assist the Aging staff in providing much needed food, personal care supplies and presents to the elderly and disabled during the holidays. Mr. Varner informed Aging Council members, Board members, and other community members are being asked to complete the FY 2021 Needs Assessment, by January 15th, 2020. The survey is located on the BRADD website. The next Aging Council meeting will take place Wednesday, January 15th, 2020 at 10:00 am at the BRADD Conference Center.

### **Special Advisors:**

**Mr. Timothy Gilliam**, Congressman McConnell's Representative, provided a status on various bills including; funding for a bill to prevent the risk of Government shut down, funds allocated to USDA for hemp provisions and research, the Kentucky Wild land National Heritage Study Act, the remaining funds needed to complete the VA Hospital in Louisville, funds allocated to the Asian Carp invasion at Land Between the Lakes.

**Mr. Mark Lord**, Congressman Brett Guthrie's Representative, provided a brief update on rural broadband issues, empower act funding, money follows a person Medicaid program which allows individuals to remain in their home to receive needed care, with aims to reduce high Medicaid costs of facility care.

**Mrs. Sandy Simpson**, Congressman Comer's Representative, spoke about the Congressman's work on the trade agreement, defense authorization with a provision of a 3.1% raise for troops, flexibility for building the boarder wall, and rising the age to 21 for tobacco purchases, and the pension fund.

**Mr. Tom Harned**, LEAD Executive Director, provided an update on the group of regional economic developer's efforts to resuscitate the Small Business Development Center. Commitments have been made from six of the ten counties. The University of Kentucky will begin the hiring process to fulfill staff positions after the first of the year with hopes for the center to begin operating in early March.

**Mr. Barclay Trimble**, Mammoth Cave National Park, informed park tourism remains strong, the park will be open Christmas Day but no cave tours will occur. The Cave trail project continues as well as the north ramp of the Green River Ferry project. There has been recent exploration of a new cave opening.

**Representative Steve Sheldon**, spoke about the pressing task of the 50 billion dollar unfunded pension, and his opinion for the need of gas tax. He is excited about the upcoming 2020 general assembly.

**STAFF:**

**Ms. Emily Hathcock**, Associate Director of Planning and Development, informed the board packet contains the project impact report since October 30th, which includes BRADD's grants, 37 active projects, representing \$13 million dollars of investment. There are currently 30 applications awaiting approval, representing \$17 million dollars of investment, additionally there are 11 grant applications in development.

**Mr. Eric Sexton**, Executive Director, informed the members the recently published Daily News article concerning the Small Business Development Center needed clarification in that BRADD has been asked to assist with holding the contributions for submission of one payment for the invoice. For clarification, BRADD will not receive funding for this task. Mr. Sexton acknowledged one staff 5 year anniversary for Joshua Ritchie, Case Manager and SHIP and MIPPA Counselor in the Aging Department. Mr. Sexton informed the members the board packet contains a list of the approved 2020 Board Meeting dates. The primary date will be the fourth Wednesday of each month with exceptions noted. The next Board Meeting will be held on January 22, 2020. Mr. Sexton wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Executive Council Report:**

**1. Clearinghouse Projects**

Chairman Thurmond called on Judge/Executive Wil Cannon, Vice Chair, who reported the Executive Council met prior to the BRADD Board Meeting and considered one regional clearinghouse project, the description is provided in the board packet. If there are no questions, upon review of the project the Council recommends approval.

**Motion:** Judge/Executive Wil Cannon made a motion to approve the Clearinghouse Projects. Judge/Executive Dennis Harper seconded the motion. Motion carried. (See attached).

**2. FY 20 Water Rankings**

Chairman Thurmond called on Judge/Executive Wil Cannon, Vice Chair, who reported that the Regional Water Council met prior this month and considered the FY 20 BRADD regional drinking water rankings, the rankings are located in the board packet. If there are no questions, upon review of the ranking, the Water Management Council recommended approval.

**Motion: Judge/Executive Wil Cannon made a motion to approve the FY 20 Water Rankings. Judge/Executive Logan Chick seconded the motion. Motion carried. (See attached)**

### **3. FY 19 Audit**

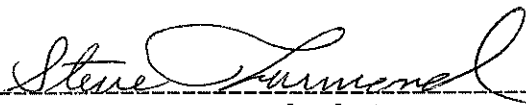
Chairman Thurmond called on Mr. Gary Dillard, Treasurer. Mr. Dillard reported The Executive Council met prior to the BRADD Board Meeting and reviewed the FY 19 audit results as presented by auditor, Mr. Lanny White, who also gave a brief update at the beginning of the meeting. If there are no questions the Executive Council recommends approval of the fiscal year 2019 audit.

**Motion: Mr. Gary Dillard made a motion to approve the FY 19 Audit. The motion was seconded by Mayor Dewayne Hatcher. Motion carried. (See attached)**

Chairman Thurmond wished all Board Members and attendees a very Merry Christmas and expressed thanks for the honor to serve as Chairman for the year. Chair Thurmond thanked all staff for their efforts in a great audit result.

### **ADJOURN**

**With no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Jim Wilkerson and seconded by Judge/Executive Harold Stilts to adjourn.**

  
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Signed, Chairman

  
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Approved, Secretary