

**MINUTES
BRADD BOARD OF DIRECTORS
September 23, 2020**

TIME & PLACE:

The Barren River Area Development District Board of Directors met at 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 23, 2020 at the BRADD Conference Center and virtually through Zoom. Chairman Steve Thurmond called the BRADD meeting to order.

Mayor Randall Curry led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Chairman Thurmond welcomed all board members, special advisors and attendees both virtually and in-person to the BRADD 52nd Annual Meeting. The coronavirus pandemic has not allowed for the traditional annual meeting celebration. The meeting included an opportunity to present the fiscal year 2020 annual report and provide a time for special advisors and community stakeholders to provide regional and state updates from the past several months.

ATTENDANCE:

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

PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL REPORT:

Chairman Thurmond introduced Mr. Eric Sexton, Executive Director. Mr. Sexton informed the BRADD fiscal year 2020 was successful in many accomplishments for the region. Mr. Sexton referenced the Building Regional Resources Annual Report which was provided to those in attendance, and will be mailed to other members. The printed report highlighted services from each of the BRADDs program areas. Work in each of the BRADD counties was included to provide an overview of services, grants, and programs specific to each county. Mr. Sexton thanked and recognized all staff for their hard work throughout the fiscal year attributing much success to their efforts. Mr. Sexton announced the next BRADD Board Meeting will be held Tuesday, October 27, 2020, a day earlier due to the KACo annual conference. Mr. Sexton played a video highlighting the BRADD fiscal year 2020 annual report. Mr. Sexton informed the video and report will be posted on the BRADD website.

SPECIAL ADVISORS REPORT:

Mr. Dennis Keene, DLG Commissioner, expressed appreciation to the BRADD region for the work being done throughout the pandemic. Commissioner Keene informed the state of Kentucky has received \$300 million in CARES funds for

City and County Governments. The BRADD region alone has received \$9 million with some entities still having not applied. He further spoke about CARES Act funding changes which can now include hot spot locations for schools, city and county governments. Lastly, Commissioner Keene spoke about possible fund reimbursement for municipal utility expenses incurred during the pandemic.

Mr. Jon Crosby, Senator Paul's Representative, spoke about the REINS Act, which would require Congress to examine all existing regulations that have financial impacts on the U.S. economy of \$100 million or more. Mr. Crosby also spoke about the Internet Kill Switch Act needed revision to remove governmental internet control, which may help reduce shutdown or outages in the current environment of increased internet reliance.

Mr. Timothy Gilliam, Congressman McConnell's Representative, informed the Congressman has recently visited over 30 hospitals during his recent recess to thank and show appreciation to healthcare workers. The CARES Act has had direct impact to the BRADD region including the Medical Center receiving \$37 million in funds, WKU and the Community College receiving \$12 million, and Warren County First Responders \$5 million. Mr. Gilliam informed many small businesses have received aid from the Paycheck Protection Program. Specifically, Taz Trucking obtained a \$1 million forgivable loan which has been used to keep truck drivers employed during reduced work. Mammoth Cave National Park is one of the many national parks to receive assistance on deferred maintenance through the Great American Outdoor Act which includes \$90 million in designated funds to national parks. Mr. Gilliam relayed Congressman McConnell's commitment to rural Kentucky with the example of his visit to Jerry's Store in rural Green County.

Ms. Kylie Hubbard, Congressman Guthrie's Representative, introduced herself as she has previously worked in the Eastern Kentucky region and has recently moved to Barren County and will be working partially in the BRADD region with District Director Mark Lord. Ms. Hubbard spoke about the status of the coronavirus vaccine which will be approved in three phases. She expressed the FDA will offer no alterations to their standard approval for a vaccine. Priority will be given to the most vulnerable populations upon initial release.

Dr. Donald Butler, Community Action, provided a summary of the changes, at the agency, due to the pandemic. Dr. Butler informed essential services have continued to be provided throughout the region while maintaining all health and safety precautions. Senior Centers were forced to close, however a new method of curbside meal delivery has been in place to ensure seniors receive needed meals. Dr. Butler informed the CARES funding has greatly aided in meeting basic emergency needs for the agency.

Mr. Tom Harned, LEAD Executive Director, provided an update on the Small Business Development Center which is now open for business with two newly hired business coaches available to help anyone in the BRADD region. Mr. Harned also spoke about a multi county federal transportation project partnership for Logan and Todd counties for multiple bridge rebuilding's on highway 79. With the opening of the new Novellis Mill on highway 79 the road has received an increase of truck traffic, the 1930s constructed bridges are no longer sufficient. Mr. Harned expressed great effectiveness in the multi county partnership in receiving the \$14.5 million dollar project. Mr. Harned gave recommendations on behalf of Logan County for the new I-65 exchange with a suggested location at Woodburn as highway 240 would provide a direct connection to highway 68/80 near Auburn.

Mr. Joe Plunk, Transportation Cabinet, spoke about utilizing the BUILD grant which has been received from the federal government, and is a great asset in light of the current climate. Mr. Plunk further spoke to the Logan/Todd bridge project that required a match; both Todd and Logan Counties will contribute \$300 thousand towards the project. Mr. Plunk spoke about the Tompkinsville bypass opening. Work is being done on the Natcher Expressway to exit three northbound ramp, delays should be expected. Bid openings will begin for projects next spring. The Cabinet is making preparations for snow and ice if counties need any assistance to please contact the office.

Mr. Doug Taylor, KYTC Department of Rural and Municipal Aid, introduced himself as a field representative for local roads including Logan, Hart, Warren and Butler counties. Mr. Taylor informed rural aid funding received to date with flex fund requests are being returned this week. Mr. Taylor informed emergency requests are being reviewed. The discretionary fund program was discussed with limited funds available. Current requests total \$21 million for the \$10 million budget, safety concerns receive priority review.

Mr. Barclay Trimble, Mammoth Cave National Park Superintendent, provided updates, the Biosphere Reserve Committee is undergoing changes to update and highlight the work being done by the committee. Park visitation continues to be down. Preparations are being made for a winter schedule. The park is transitioning back to guided tours for small groups. The Parks webpage is undergoing updates. The Green River Ferry ramp improvements continue, work is dependent on the river levels. Paving projects continue in the park on Brownsville Road.

Ms. Mary Ann Henry, Auburn Senior Center, informed the center has served 1,149 meals the last six month period. While the delivery method has changed to curbside pick up, the volume has increased. The centers shutdown in March has provided many obstacles with the most concerning the impacts to seniors

experiencing isolation and loneliness. Ms. Henry spoke about new innovations like bingo at home in efforts to help engage seniors. Ms. Henry gave a detailed overview on the success of the Auburn Senior Center.

Ms. Sandy Simpson, Congressman Comer's representative, was unable to attend in person and submitted a report as given by Chariman Thurmond. Congress is in the process of discussing a new coronavirus stimulus package. Congressman Comer is open to targeted relief for certain people and industries, and believes the best way to help the economy is to safely open. Congressman Comer continues to work on the Oversight Committee on important matters including the 2020 Census operations. His main priority is to ensure that government is efficient, accountable and spends tax dollars wisely. Congressman Comer's office continues to help people navigate issues with the federal government during COVID-19 including: helping constituents with casework and issues accessing stimulus checks and Paycheck Protection loans. Anyone needing help with a federal issue, or would like a letter of support for grant applications, are encouraged to contact Mrs. Simpson at Congressman Comer's office.

MINUTES:

With no corrections or additions, the minutes of August 26, 2020 meeting were approved as emailed. (See attached)

Motion was made by Judge/Executive Joe Choate, seconded by Mr. Michael Stoyonovich to approve the August 26, 2020 board minutes as emailed. Motion carried.

Chairman Thurmond called on all counties represented in person for any specific updates or announcements. Chair Thurmond made a final recognition of the agencies 52nd Annual Meeting and reminded all represented that they are the servants of the people.

ADJOURN

With no further business, a motion was made by Mayor Mike Hughes and seconded by Mayor Mark Stratton to adjourn.



Signed, Chairman



Approved, Secretary