

**MINUTES
BRADD BOARD OF DIRECTORS
December 13, 2023**

TIME & PLACE:

The Barren River Area Development District Board of Directors met at 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at the BRADD Conference Center.

Mr. Barclay Trimble led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Vice Chair Joe Choate called the meeting to order and chaired the meeting in the absence of Chairman Dillard. Vice Chair Choate welcomed all members and guests in attendance with special guests Monroe County Magistrate Rickey Bartley and State Representative Suzanne Miles.

ATTENDANCE:

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

AUDIT PRESENTATION:

Vice Chair Choate introduced Mr. Andrew Tolbert of Carr, Riggs & Ingram. Mr. Tolbert reported on behalf of the BRADDs Fiscal Year 2023 audit which he oversaw completion of along with Ms. Jennifer O'Connor and the now retired Mr. Lanny White. Mr. Tolbert reported BRADD received an unmodified opinion, which is the best audit result. Additionally, in the review of internal controls there were no opinions issued. Mr. Tolbert provided a breakdown of the overall accounts receivable and expenditures for the year with interjected financial highlights. Mr. Tolbert commended the excellent work of the BRADD Finance team for responsible fiscal management. Mr. Tolbert informed the Board the full audit for their review would be available on the BRADD website.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Vice Chair Choate introduced guest speakers Mr. Jim DeCesare and Mr. Anthony Wright. Mr. DeCesare began the segment by introducing the topic of how the inflation act can help local governments and further introduced Mr. Wright who represents the energy services company, TRANE. The goal of TRANE is local execution and global experience with the focus of refreshing energy efficiency. TRANE is Kentucky's largest energy services company. Mr. Wright spoke about specific ways to create lasting effects with improved energy efficiency. From specific building improvements to water utility solutions, natural gas

replacements, LED streetlights, and more. Mr. Wright provided an example of how one city in Kentucky was able to save 50 percent, or more, of project expenses with the savings created by the energy efficiencies. Mr. Wright discussed the Energy Savings Performance Contract with the tax credits available for energy efficient changes. In particular, he encouraged members to make thermal and geothermal adjustments as tax credits could change after 2024. Mr. Wright encouraged members to act towards energy efficient improvements and to contact TRANE to further assistance in doing so. Email Anthony.wright@trane.com or by phone 859-556-2051.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

Vice Chair Choate called on Immediate Past Chairman Steve Thurmond for a special recognition. Mr. Thurmond informed the honoree, Mr. Lanny White, has had longstanding service to the BRADD. Mr. Thurmond, couldn't recall a time without Mr. Lanny White. Mr. White recently retired in November with over 30 years of service to Carr, Riggs and Ingram. He recently oversaw his last BRADD audit for Fiscal Year 2023. Mr. Thurmond expressed thanks and appreciation for Mr. White's exceptional financial knowledge and assistance over the years. Mr. White's respected insight and abilities has ensured the upmost compliance and adherence to the best accounting standards and has provided the BRADD board with confidence in the financial management of BRADD. Mr. White came forward and provided remarks. The board responded with a standing applause of appreciation.

MINUTES:

With no corrections or additions, the minutes of the October 30, 2023 meeting were approved as emailed. (See attached)

Motion was made by Mayor Billy Phelps, seconded by Judge/Executive Tim Flener to approve the October 30, 2023 board minutes as emailed. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Officers: No Report

Council Reports:

Economic Development Committee:

Vice Chair Choate called on Mayor Dewayne Hatcher who reported the regional planning committee met on Wednesday, December 6th and adopted the bylaws presented in the September meeting. The Council also discussed and endorsed projects to be presented to the legislature for potential House Bill 9 consideration. A listing of the endorsed projects can be found online at planning.bradd.org. The next Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 10 am.

Regional Transportation Committee:

Vice Chair Choate called on Judge/Executive Tim Flener who reported the Committee met on December 6th and enjoyed a panel discussion with Representatives Shawn McPherson, Steve Riley, Robert Duvall, and Kevin Jackson. The Representatives discussed the need for legislators and local elected officials to work together to bring more funding to the BRADD region. The committee also approved BRADD's updated Title VI plan and the Transportation Committee's membership. With no other business, the Committee adjourned. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 6 at 11am at the BRADD Conference Center.

Water Management Council:

Vice Chair Choate called on Judge/Executive Dennis Harper who reported the BRADD Water Management Council met on Wednesday, December 6th in the BRADD Conference Center. After welcoming everyone and approving the minutes, Morgan, with the help of Judge Barnes, presented plans for the Council in the coming year. Namely, BRADD utility systems will be joining their county steering committees in July and August 2024 to prioritize infrastructure projects at the county level. The Council Approved 19 new and amended project profiles, endorsed the KIA SRF2025. Call for projects scores and rankings and renewed their Council Bylaws. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 6th at 12:30 pm following lunch.

Special Advisors:

Mr. Gilbert Mischel, Senator McConnell's Representative, spoke about the importance of the matters in Israel and securing the nations borders, with 66 illegal aliens being released each day. Furthermore, \$29 million has been awarded in KY for Safe Streets for All grant.

Mr. Mark Lord, Congressman Brett Guthrie Representative, spoke about the Support Act funding to help fight the drug epidemic to use tax dollars most efficiently to enhance opioid recovery centers. Further, Mr. Lord spoke about the price transparency initiative of pharmaceuticals in efforts to drive down the costs of for the private sector.

Mrs. Sandy Simpson, Congressman Comer Representative, recognized Monroe County Magistrate, Rickey Bartley in attendance. She further spoke about the healthcare workforce bill and the scholarship funding available for licensing and certification. The Congressman takes very seriously his role as Chair of the House Oversight Committee and further supports the work of the Workforce and Innovation Committee. Mrs. Simpson also recognized Mr. Gilbert Mischel for his last meeting representing Senator McConnell; Ms. Simpson thanked Mr. Mischel for his work in the BRADD and wished him the best in his new role.

Mrs. Martha Jane King, DLG Representative, spoke about the Governors focus for continued expanded broadband and cleaner water initiatives. Mrs. King expressed thanks to BRADD for the support provided with House Bill 9.

Mr. Wes Watt, KY Department of Transportation, informed most construction projects have concluded for the season. Lane closures will occur on Campbell Lane while the Menards construction project continues. Further, Bucees in Smith Grove will cause traffic impacts to the surrounding area and I-65. Mr. Watt spoke about the planning and design work that goes on during the winter months. Mr. Watt commended KYTC employees for their response efforts to clear roadways during the recent tornado.

Mr. Barclay Trimble, Mammoth Cave National Park, park visitation has been up, and trends continue to be so throughout the holiday season. The renovations have concluded on the lobby, and it will be reopening soon along with a new Starbucks location. Sloan's pond boardwalk will be undergoing a construction project.

Staff Reports:

Ms. Alecia Johnson, Associate Director of Aging, reported BRADD has held food drives in partnership with Independence Bank to help provide food items to area seniors in need. BRADD also partnered with Logan County High School and Russellville High Schools in a "supermarket sweep" activity as a great way to raise awareness of senior hunger in the region. Further, BRADD has recently worked with Wheeldon's Pest Control, who donated and delivered 20 Thanksgiving meals to BRADD clients. BRADD has used funding from the U.S. Aging Vaccine Initiative Grant to hold a vaccination clinic at the BRADD Office encouraging seniors to get

their COVID, shingles, and flu shots. BRADD has additional vaccination events planned with the local senior centers as well. Ongoing awareness and education about vaccinations will be the focus for the remainder of the grant. Ms. Johnson informed the Kentucky Caregiver Program returned in July 2023, BRADD has been able to assist an additional 72 grandchildren who are under the care of their grandparents. Ms. Johnson described a recent BRADD project which included working with a local media group to promote the impact of BRADD services. The video highlighted BRADDs meal delivery program. Ms. Johnson played the video for the members.

Ms. Emily Hathcock, Associate Director of Economic Development, provided a brief update and informed the members their packet contains a copy of the project impact report. The report outlines 64 active projects of which represent over \$50 million in investment, 87 projects awaiting approval representing over \$153 million in investment, and 41 projects in development. Ms. Hathcock further informed the members to please contact the office with any additional House Bill 9 project proposals.

Mr. Eric Sexton, Executive Director, provided various updates and announcements. Mr. Sexton recognized a one-year staff anniversary for Alexis Hayes, who was unable to be present. Further, Mr. Sexton informed the members Mayor Henry Royce has a podcast, Dashboard Dialogue, and encouraged members to tune in. Mr. Sexton recognized Judge/Executive Jamie Bewley-Byrd for being selected by the KY Gazette magazine as 2023s most notable women in KY politics and government. Mr. Sexton introduced the new Hart County Citizen Member, Ms. Caralyne Pennington. Mr. Sexton informed the members their packet contains a copy of five Legislative priorities for KY Area Development Districts and further encouraged members to speak to their Legislators about these areas of importance to the region. A copy of the 2024 board meeting dates was provided in the packet. Mr. Sexton noted meetings not set for the regular fourth Wednesday due to scheduling conflicts and the attempt of an evening meeting in June to try accommodating those unable to attend midday meetings. Mr. Sexton further encouraged members to send in any House Bill 9 edits by Friday as BRADD will be sending a collective response to Representative Petrie on behalf of the region. Mr. Sexton expressed thanks to Mr. Lanny White for his many years of service to the BRADD. The next BRADD Board meeting will be held January 24, 2024 at 1 pm at the BRADD Conference Center.

NEW BUSINESS:

Executive Council Reports:

1. Clearinghouse Projects

Vice Chair Choate called on Mr. Steve Thurmond who informed the BRADD Executive Council met prior to the BRADD Board Meeting and reviewed and considered three regional clearinghouse projects. Detailed project descriptions are included in the member's packet. Upon review the Council recommended approval.

Motion: Mr. Steve Thurmond made a motion to approve three regional clearinghouse projects as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tom Harned. Motion carried. (See attached)

2. FY 23 Audit

Vice Chair Choate called on Judge/Executive Dennis Harper who reported the Executive Council met prior to the board meeting and reviewed the Fiscal Year 2023 audit. Mr. Andrew Tolbert of Carr, Riggs, and Ingram also provided a brief overview of the audit earlier in this meeting. The Council recommended approval.

Motion: Judge/Executive Dennis Harper made a motion to approve the FY 23 audit as presented. The motion was seconded by Mayor Dewayne Hatcher. Motion carried. (See attached)

3. Strategic Plan

Vice Chair Choate called on Mayor Billy Phelps who reported earlier this year the BRADD management team drafted a strategic plan recognizing a larger vision helps create direction and influence. The plan encompasses six core goals which align with the mission of BRADD. The plan was shared internally with employees for comment and input. In August it was presented to the Executive Council for input. A copy of the plan is included in the member packet.

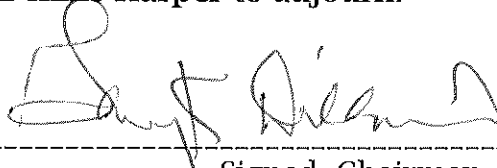
Motion: Mayor Billy Phelps made a motion to adopt the BRADD strategic plan. The motion was seconded by Judge/Executive Tim Flener. Motion carried. (See attached)

ADJOURN

Vice Chair Choate encouraged members to check out the KY City Magazine where City of Auburn Mayor Mike Hughes was featured in a nice article in recognition

of his appointment as President of the Kentucky League of Cities. Further, Vice Chair Choate expressed thanks to Mr. Gilbert Mischel for his representation of Senator McConnell and service to the BRADD District. Choate wished him well in his next endeavor and informed him he would be missed at the BRADD. Choate wished the members a Merry Christmas.

With no further business, a motion was made by Mayor Billy Phelps and seconded by Judge/Executive Dennis Harper to adjourn.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dennis Harper", written over a horizontal dashed line.

Signed, Chairman

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Billy Phelps", written over a horizontal dashed line.

Approved, Secretary