

**MINUTES
BRADD BOARD OF DIRECTORS
April 29, 2024**

TIME & PLACE:

The Barren River Area Development District Board of Directors met at 12:45 p.m. Monday, April 29, 2024 at the Hart Co. Fairgrounds.

Mayor Annie Swift led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Chairman Dillard called the meeting to order and welcomed all members and guests in attendance.

ATTENDANCE:

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

MINUTES:

With no corrections or additions, the minutes of the March 27, 2024 meeting were approved as emailed. (See attached)

Motion was made by Mayor Dwayne Hatcher, seconded by Mr. Steve Thurmond to approve the March 27, 2024 board minutes as emailed. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Officers/Board Members: No Reports

Council: No Reports

NEW BUSINESS:

Executive Council Reports:

1. Clearinghouse Projects

Chairman Dillard called on Judge/Executive Joe Choate who informed the BRADD Executive Council met prior to the BRADD Board Meeting and reviewed

and considered twenty-nine regional clearinghouse projects. Detailed project descriptions are included in the member's packet. Upon review, the Council recommended approval.

Motion: Judge/Executive Joe Choate made a motion to approve twenty-nine regional clearinghouse projects as presented. The motion was seconded by Mayor Michael Hughes. Motion carried. (See attached)

2. Quarterly Financial Report

Chairman Dillard called on Judge/Executive Dennis Harper who informed the BRADD Executive Council met prior to the Board Meeting and reviewed the FY 24 third quarter financial report for period ending March 31, 2024.

Judge/Executive Harper informed that revenues for the quarter were at \$18.2 million, representing 73% of the annual budget, and expenses were at \$17.8 million, representing 73% of the annual budget. The Quarterly Financial Report is included in the member's packet. Upon review, the Council recommended approval of the report.

Motion: Judge/Executive Dennis Harper made a motion to approve the third Quarter Financial Report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Michael Stoyonovich. Motion carried. (See Attached)

3. FY 25 Cost Allocation Plan

Chairman Dillard called on Judge/Executive Dennis Harper who informed the BRADD Executive Council met prior to the Board Meeting and reviewed the FY 25 Cost Allocation Plan, a copy was emailed for prior review. The plan has been developed to ensure BRADDs financial management system is efficient and equitable and to further ensure the fairness in the distribution of cost is achieved. Upon approval the plan will be maintained on the BRADD website. Upon review, the Executive Council recommended approval.

Motion: Judge/Executive Dennis Harper made a motion to approve the FY 25 Cost Allocation Plan. The motion was seconded by Judge/Executive Phillip Baker. Motion carried.

Guest Speakers – State Legislators

Chairman Dillard introduced Senator Mike Wilson to serve as moderator of the legislative roundtable. Senator Wilson detailed the Senate's goals and outcomes from the recent legislative session. Senator Wilson explained the Senate's goals to lower taxes down to 3 percent, and are hopeful to further lower state income

taxes. The Senate allocated \$160 million in bonds to Western Kentucky University for their Academic Complex. The Senate allocated a further 3 percent towards education, bringing the total to 9 percent.

Representative Robert Duvall, District 17, emphasized the importance of civic education in high schools since only 15 percent of students take a civic education class. Rep. Duvall discussed House Bill 1's budget allocation towards projects he thought important, including the Mental Health Crisis Center, SKYPAC, and Life Works at WKU. Rep. Duvall discussed the need for a Workforce Task Force, with Kentucky's workforce participation rate in the bottom 10 nationwide at 57 percent. Rep. Duvall concluded by saying healthcare was in a similar situation.

Representative Kevin Jackson, District 20, informed the biennial budgeting session is a very long 60 days, but very productive. 1,220 bills were filed with 212 of those passing (17.5%). Rep. Jackson discussed House Bill 109, which updated lifeguarding standards for schools and city pools. Rep. Jackson also discussed House Bill 695, which introduced the Adaptive Kindergarten Readiness Pilot Project. Rep. Jackson concluded by emphasizing the importance of the \$20 million allocated to the Mental Health Crisis Center, since 90 percent of the local jailed population has a mental or substance abuse situation.

Representative Amy Neighbors, District 21, spoke about her background in healthcare as a strong influence for her legislative focus. Rep. Neighbors discussed House Bill 220 which alters step therapy protocols which permits insurers to require trying biosimilar generic drugs before extending coverage to branded prescription drugs, in an effort to be more cost effective. Rep. Neighbors discussed House Bill 477 which introduces new diagnosis criteria for sepsis, where Kentucky has one of the highest rates of sepsis nationwide and 17 percent of patients experiencing sepsis die from it. Rep. Neighbors concluded by emphasizing the high maternal death rate in the state and recognized House Bill 10, which adds pregnancy as a qualifying event for health insurance enrollment.

Representative Shawn McPherson, District 22, discussed his past as a real estate appraiser and relative seniority among the BRADD region's representatives. Rep. McPherson stated the recently passed budget was the best he had seen from the state in 14 years. Rep. McPherson stated the legislature's approach to saving money during COVID resulted in having a surplus to invest now, in a prime time to do so. Rep. McPherson emphasized that House Bill 1 is not the budget, but rather an investment bill resulting from careful planning. Rep. McPherson concluded by expressing his desire to meet with community leaders to discuss road projects.

Representative Rebecca Raymer, District 22 discussed House Bill 11, which regulates tobacco and nicotine retailers and increases penalties for those who sell to minors. Rep. Raymer emphasized the vaping crisis that is rampant in school systems, with illegal and disguised products affecting youth. Rep. Raymer concluded by emphasizing her belief that the region is primed for growth in the near future.

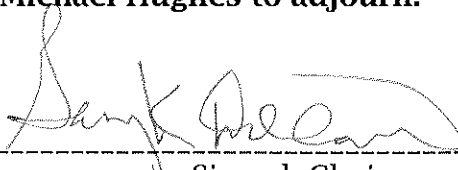
Senator Stephen Meredith, District 5, informed this was his fourth budget session, and the most challenging. Sen. Meredith praised the budget for being very well planned. Sen. Meredith discussed the state's move towards consumption-based taxation, with reduced income taxes serving the goal of putting dollars into families' pockets. Sen. Meredith concluded by emphasizing his passion for rural Kentucky and his belief that the state is set to explode in economic growth in the future.

Senator Max Wise, District 16, spoke about his services as the Chair of the Economic Development, Labor and Tourism Committee. He encouraged the local officials to reach out to their representatives to inform them where they feel money needs to be allocated. Sen. Wise discussed a recent Senate Bill to introduce a Guardian Program that would allow honorably discharged veterans and retired police officers to be armed protectors in school systems. Sen. Wise emphasized the need for programs like this and other solutions to violence in school systems, with 600 unprotected campuses across the state. Sen. Wise concluded by discussing Senate Bill 188, which attempts to help independent and family-owned pharmacies by restricting the role of pharmacy benefit managers in health insurance as middle man.

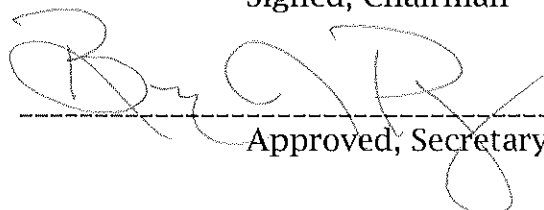
ADJOURN

Chairman Dillard thanked all attendees and legislators for their participation. He further expressed appreciation to all Hart Co. officials for helping host the event.

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



Signed, Chairman



Approved, Secretary