

**MINUTES
BRADD BOARD OF DIRECTORS
June 27, 2024**

TIME & PLACE:

The Barren River Area Development District Board of Directors met at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, June 27, 2024 at the BRADD Conference Center.

Mayor Randall Curry led the invocation. Mr. Tom Harned 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).

GUEST SPEAKER:

Chairman Dillard introduced guest speaker, Mr. Jonathan Shell, the Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture. Mr. Shell began by giving an overview of the services the Department of Agriculture offers, as well as highlighting areas of emphasis. The Dept. has a priority of encouraging farming, particularly young farmers. Commissioner Shell spoke about a loan program which provides up to \$250,000 of lower interest rate loans to young and first-time farmers. Mr. Shell informed the Dept. of Agriculture has 250 employees that provides a wide variety of services, including inspection of gas pumps, grain elevators, amusement bounce houses and other similar areas. The Dept. engages in marketing efforts, through the KY Proud brand, which shows products that are manufactured or grown in Kentucky. Mr. Shell wants to promote this brand and encourage participation by making the benefits so great that all producers in the state would want to be a part of it. Mr. Shell further discussed the goals for new crop infrastructure. The Dept. of Agriculture has been looking into what can be done to expand and do better statewide. Mr. Shell emphasized how agriculture can be a large driver of the economy and is in search of alternative use for KY crops. For example, using KY crops to supply fuel and ethanol needs in KY for large KY companies like UPS and Amazon located in northern KY. Mr. Shell also discussed the goal of improving large-scale animal processing. 30% of corn in the state goes towards feeding chickens, and the state needs to do this more efficiently. Another focal point was establishing a food production network for hospitals to improve their cafeterias. Higher quality meals can contribute to improving

patient outcomes and experiences. Lastly, he spoke about opportunities for farm tourism and education. In efforts to allow those who have never experienced being on a farm the opportunity to do so. Mr. Shell emphasized that the sky is the limit for Kentucky's agriculture. One way to accomplish this is by finding alternatives around liability insurance or providing exemptions for KY proud members. Commissioner concluded by emphasizing the importance of supporting strong KY farming.

MINUTES:

With no corrections or additions, the minutes of the May 22, 2024 meeting were approved as emailed. (See attached)

Motion was made by Mayor Michael Hughes, seconded by Judge/Executive Scott Lindsey to approve the May 22, 2024 board minutes as emailed. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Officers: No Report

Council Reports:

Economic Development Council:

Judge/Executive Tim Flener reported the The BRADD Regional Planning Committee met on Wednesday, June 5, and reviewed voting membership, approved community-added objectives to the regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, and reviewed the regional objectives for both plans for the quarter. The committee also gave one final review to the BRIC objectives for the region. Dajana Crocket covered a new planning grant that is kicking off in fiscal year 25 to continue creating enhanced objectives for the hazard mitigation plan specifically supporting critical infrastructure in the region and building off the previous BRIC efforts. The next Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at 10 am at the BRADD Conference Room.

Transportation Council:

Mayor David Burch reported the regional transportation Council met at the BRADD Office on June 5, hearing a presentation by Joe Plunk from KYTC District 3 about projects that have received funding in the new state highway plan. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday September 11th at the BRADD Office.

Water Management Council:

Judge/Executive Mason Barnes reported the Water Management Council met on June 5th, 2024 for the last Water Management Meeting of FY 24. The Council heard from Thomas Grubbs with EUDS Consulting about hazard mitigation projects that could be funded by FEMA, among other funding sources. Utilities can use this information to identify potential projects or incorporate hazard mitigation practices into their existing project development. The council approved thirteen projects totaling over \$10 million. The council also approved the ranking & scoring criteria for the KIA Ranking/Scoring process to happen in September. Kim Morrow gave the Council some information on the WATERS funding program through KIA, and directed utilities to reach out to she or Emily if they are interested. Morgan announced that BRADD will be hosting the Department of Homeland Security for a free Cybersecurity training on June 25th. Morgan's last day was on June 12th at BRADD, so all utility inquiries should be directed to Emily Hathcock for the time being. The next Council meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2024, at 12:30.

Special Advisors:

Ms. Hunter Whitaker, Senator Mitch McConnell's Representative, discussed the Senator's prioritization on the farm bill with the instability and volatile market issues. Ms. Whitaker announced Sen. McConnell has signed a letter in support of the Governor's declaration of emergency following the widespread Memorial Day storm damage, where funds will be dispensed when appropriate. Ms. Whitaker encouraged members to contact her if the Senators office could be of assistance.

Ms. Susanne Miles, Congressman Brett Guthrie's Representative, spoke about communication projects which are underway. Ms. Miles encouraged members to reach out with any assistance needs.

Mr. Joe Plunk, KY Department of Transportation, spoke about the opening of Buc-ees in Smith's Grove, and how the new road changes have proved effective in handling the increased traffic. Mr. Plunk also discussed various roadway projects throughout the district, as well as the development of a new highway plan. The Dept. of Transportation spoke with BRADD's Regional Transportation Committee in the development process.

Ms. Molly Schorer, Mammoth Cave National Park, informed the park visitation was up year-over-year. She provided updates on the Woodland cabin remodel

project which is ongoing. The park has scheduled visits with multiple school systems in the region. The Park is hosting a variety of events throughout the Summer.

Staff Reports:

Ms. Alecia Johnson, Associate Director of Aging, informed the members all Aging Services contracts have been received for Fiscal Year 2025, however allocations have not been received yet. Service provider contracts have been sent out. The Family Caregiver Program recently held a training event for caregivers and grandparents raising grandchildren. This event took place on May 16th at the Charleston in Bowling Green, KY. The Caregiver Program also hosted an Alzheimer's training on June 6th at the BRADD Conference Center. For Aging Council members with expiring terms in July, letters have been sent to Mayors, Judges, and Senior Centers asking to re-appoint their member or appoint a new member. Aging Council officer nominations will take place at the next meeting on August 21st.

Ms. Emily Hathcock, Associate Director of Economic Development, informed the members their packet contains a copy of the project impact report. The report outlines 72 active projects of which represent over \$93.6 million in investment, 47 projects awaiting approval representing over \$80 million in investment, and 26 projects in development. Ms. Hathcock informed members a special called meeting of the Regional Water Management Council will be held July 3rd, 2024 at 9:00 AM. This special meeting is to review and approve an upcoming project and prevent unnecessary delays.

Mr. Eric Sexton, Executive Director, provided various updates and announcements. Mr. Sexton announced the internal promotion of Mrs. Kim Morrow to Assistant Director of Economic Development, and of Mrs. Hollie Smith to Assistant Director of Aging. Mr. Sexton gave an update on the rollout of the State's medical cannabis program, and informed BRADD has started a regional tracker of city and county decisions on whether or not to approve medical cannabis dispensaries in their jurisdiction. Mr. Sexton also discussed the Anchor Project, which the General Assembly allocated \$20 million to BRADD to coordinate this project. Discussions with the KY Dept for Behavioral Health are underway and a draft contract for these funds is being reviewed. Mr. Sexton informed of the need for officials to appoint a member to the advisory council for the Anchor Project. Mr. Sexton informed BRADD is in the process of hiring a new position for the project, the Director for the Office of Drug Control Policy. Mr. Sexton informed there will not be a regular July board meeting. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, August 28, 2024 at the BRADD Office.

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 thirteen regional clearinghouse projects. Detailed project descriptions are included in the member's packet. Four additional projects were provided since the original email. Upon review, the Council recommended approval.

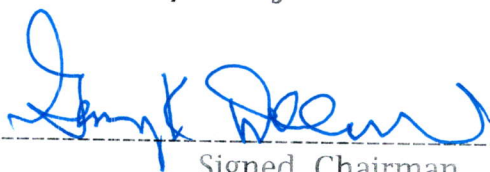
Motion: Judge/Executive Joe Choate made a motion to approve thirteen regional clearinghouse projects as presented. The motion was seconded by Mayor Michael Hughes. Motion carried. (See attached)

Chairman Dillard called on Judge/Executive Scott Lindsey, who asked the Board to recognize one of its own members, Mr. Michael Stoyonovich, for his continuous efforts to serve the veteran population of the state of Kentucky and the BRADD region. Mr. Stoyonovich was featured in the Good News Magazine for his efforts.

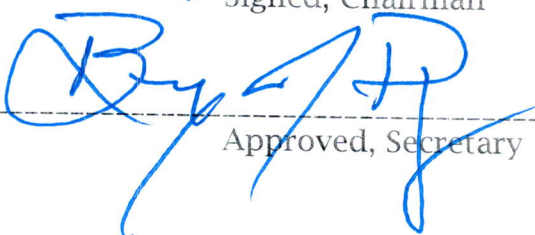
Chairman Dillard provided a roundtable opportunity for any official present for each of the counties to provide a report of happenings and events in their respective area. Many spoke about their upcoming fireworks and Independence Day celebrations.

ADJOURN

With no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Tom Harned and seconded by Judge/Executive Scott Lindsey to adjourn.



Signed, Chairman



Approved, Secretary