

**MINUTES
BRADD BOARD OF DIRECTORS
December 18, 2024**

TIME & PLACE:

The Barren River Area Development District Board of Directors met at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 18, 2024 at the BRADD Conference Center.

Vice Chair Judge/Executive Joe Choate called the meeting to order due to the recent, unexpected passing of Chairman Gary Dillard. Vice Chair Choate invited Warren County Judge/Executive Doug Gorman forward for remarks of remembrance of Mr. Gary Dillard. Judge Gorman spoke about the many accomplishments and legacy of Mr. Dillard. Some of Mr. Dillard's most noted accomplishments included his active work in bringing KY Trans Park, Sloan Convention Center and National Corvette Museum to Bowling Green. Members were drawn to reflect on the man whose life was dedicated to making the lives of others better. A moment of silence was held in honor of the life and service of Mr. Gary K. Dillard.

Judge/Executive Doug Gorman led the prayer of invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

ATTENDANCE:

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

AUDIT PRESENTATION:

Vice Chair Choate introduced Ms. Jennifer O'Connor of Carr, Riggs & Ingram. Ms. O'Connor reported on behalf of the BRADDs Fiscal Year 2024 audit. Upon final review, the independent auditors report resulted in an unmodified opinion, which is the best audit result. Additionally, in the review of internal controls there were no opinions issued. Ms. O'Connor provided a breakdown of the overall accounts receivable and expenditures for the year with interjected financial highlights. Revenues increased by \$6.5 million due to various program expansions. This increase resulted in an increased fund balance of \$126 thousand in the general fund and \$456 thousand in special revenue fund. Ms. O'Connor commended the work of the BRADD Finance team for responsible fiscal management. Ms. O'Connor informed a summary of the FY 24 audit was located in the members packet, further, the full audit for review would be available on the BRADD website.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Vice Chair Choate introduced guest speaker Mr. JD Chaney, Executive Director of the KY League of Cities. Mr. Chaney introduced his guest, Mayor Rita Dotson, current President of the KY League of Cities. Mr. Chaney spoke about the collaboration of governments with cities and counties working together as one local government. Mr. Chaney spoke about change in the political legislature and philosophy emphasizing the need for more local level decision making. He further spoke on the need for occupational tax to be administered and collected locally. With a focus on the overall modernizing of the local tax structure. Mr. Chaney spoke about other areas of need including, retirees health insurance, law enforcement, and open records requests. Mr. Chaney reminded the members KLC exists to work in a collaborative way to support and address needs to make the state of KY the best that it can be. Mr. Chaney encouraged the members to contact him with any questions.

MINUTES:

With no corrections or additions, the minutes of the October 30, 2024 meeting were approved as emailed. (See attached)

Motion was made by Mayor Billy Phelps, seconded by Mayor Larry Dixon to approve the October 30, 2024 board minutes as emailed. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Officers: No Report

Council Reports:

Regional Planning Committee:

Vice Chair Choate called on Judge/Executive Tim Flener who reported the committee met on Wednesday, December 4, 2024 and reviewed objectives for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan for the quarter. The committee heard from Brent Gallo with Hire a Cyber Pro about two regional cybersecurity projects which will help local county and city governments to develop cybersecurity incident response plan and conduct cybersecurity vulnerability assessments. The committee also heard a presentation for Laurie McKnight with Ohio University on preparing Appalachia for an Electric Aviation future. Finally, the Council reviewed the membership listing and made appointments to open membership positions. The next

committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday March, 5, 2025 at 10 am at the BRADD Office.

Regional Transportation Committee:

Vice Chair Choate called on Mayor Billy Phelps who reported, on December 4, 2024 the BRADD Regional Transportation Committee met at the BRADD conference center. Attendees heard a presentation by Jim DeCesare about Transportation Improvement Districts, how they can help develop transportation in communities, and which communities are eligible to have them. The committee reviewed and approved its membership for the fiscal year and also heard updates on two major grant programs the BRADD is currently operating to improve pedestrian and roadway infrastructure in the region. The next regular meeting is Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at 11:00 am at the BRADD Conference Center.

Water Management Council:

Vice Chair Choate called on Mayor Mike Hughes who reported, the BRADD Water Management Council met on December 4, 2024, for the last Water Management Meeting of 2024. There was no formal speaker due to the possibility of project rankings taking longer than scheduled. The Council approved the county project rankings & prioritization list. Zach presented information about the progress of the Regional Water Management Plan and noted that official system visits will start in the February-April timeframe. Kim reminded the Council that the last day to submit mapping for SRF is 12-05-2024. The next WMC meeting is on March 5, 2025, at 12:30 at the BRADD.

Special Advisors:

Vice Chair Choate announced that in the interest of time there would be no Special Advisor reports and encouraged the members to review the board packets for any additional information.

NEW BUSINESS:

Executive Council Reports:

1. Clearinghouse Projects

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

Motion: Judge/Executive Dennis Harper made a motion to approve five regional clearinghouse projects as presented. The motion was seconded by Mayor Mike Hughes. Motion carried. (See attached)

2. FY 24 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 2024 audit. Ms. Jennifer O'Connor 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 24 audit as presented. The motion was seconded by Judge/Executive Phil Baker. Motion carried. (See attached)

3. Presentation of 25-26 BRADD Officers

Vice Chair Choate called on Mayor Dewayne Hatcher, who reported the BRADD Nominating Committee met November 25 to discuss and prepare a slate of BRADD Officers for the 2025-2026 calendar years. After careful review of the officer history, the Committee recommended the following slate of officers be approved beginning, January 1, 2025, serving a two-year term through December 31, 2026.

Chairman: Judge Joe Choate - Hart County

Vice-Chair: Mayor Billy Phelps - City of Morgantown

Secretary: Judge Dennis Harper - Allen County

Treasurer: Michael Stoyonovich - Edmonson County Citizen Member

Immediate Past Chair: In light of the recent passing of board chairman Gary Dillard, the Nominating committee would like to ask Steve Thurmond, Simpson County citizen member to remain immediate past chair.

Motion: Mayor Dewayne Hatcher made a motion to approve the 25-26 BRADD Officers as presented. The motion was seconded by Mayor Randall Curry. Motion carried. (See attached)

4. Tim Lee Carter Award Criteria

Vice Chair Choate called on Mayor Dewayne Hatcher who reported the BRADD Nominating Committee met November 25, 2024 and discussed the criteria for the Tim Lee Carter Award. After discussion about the history of the award, the Committee would like to recommend one change. The members packet contains a copy of the award criteria with a strike through of the one sentence recommended to be removed, which removes the exemption of current board members, special advisors and staff. This change would take effect for the 2025 award cycle.

Motion: Mayor Dewyane Hatcher made a motion to approve updating the Tim Lee Carter Award Criteria to remove the exception of Board members, staff and Special advisors, effective with the 2025 award cycle. The motion was seconded by Judge/Executive Dennis Harper. Motion carried.

Staff Report:

Vice Chair Choate called on Mr. Eric Sexton, Executive Director who commended the finance staff on a job well done with the un-modified audit opinion. Mr. Sexton provided departmental updates. In Economic Development, a copy of the project impact report is included in the members packet which notes 82 active projects, 39 projects awaiting approval and 54 projects in development. In the Aging Department, BRADD conducted the 'Be a Santa to a Senior' drive this year which resulted in the collection and distribution of 50 bags to seniors in need. BRADD partnered with Independence bank on a food drive, supermarket sweepstakes, in which high school seniors from Logan County and Russellville competed in shopping for seniors. \$4,000 of food was donated and distributed to seniors in Logan County. Mr. Sexton informed the BRADD Policy and Review Committee met to review bids received for the Anchor Project RFQ. The project has been awarded to Stengel Hill Architecture, a notice to proceed will be issued. Mr. Sexton recognized two new Case Managers at BRADD, Ms. Lauren Key and Ms. Zoe Lambert. Mr. Ethan Bates has now completed his masters degree and has transitioned into the full time Transportation Planner role. Mr. Sexton recognized a milestone staff anniversary for Mr. Joshua Ritchie's 10 years of service at BRADD. Finally, Mr. Sexton invited Mr. Mark Lord, of Congressman Brett Guthrie's office, to come forward for a special presentation. Mr. Lord presented Mrs. Michelle Hines a congressional record on behalf of Congressman Guthrie for her service to the region. Mr. Sexton made a special presentation honoring Mrs.

Michelle Hines for her 33 years of dedication and service at BRADD. Ms. Hines is retiring effective December 31, 2024. Mr. Sexton spoke about her various roles at BRADD over the years and her ability to be a mover, shaker and difference maker. Members stood in applause of recognition of Mrs. Hines accomplishments. Mrs. Hines provided remarks of thanks and appreciation. Mr. Sexton expressed sentiments towards the passing of the current BRADD Chairman Mr. Gary Dillard. Mr. Sexton stated, Judge/Executive Dennis Harper said it best in that Mr. Dillard left this world better than he found it. He will certainly be missed.

ADJOURN

Vice Chair Choate thanked the members for their attendance and informed a visitation for Mr. Gary Dillard would be held until 5 pm at the J.C Kirby and Son Funeral Chapel on Lovers Lane. Vice Chair Choate asked members to continue to remember the family of Mr. Dillard in their thoughts and prayers.

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



Signed, Chairman



Approved, Secretary