

MINUTES
BRADD BOARD OF DIRECTORS
March 26, 2025

TIME & PLACE:

The Barren River Area Development District Board of Directors met at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 26, 2025 at the BRADD Conference Center.

Chairman Joe Choate called the meeting to order.

Mr. Jesse Varner led the prayer of invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

ATTENDANCE:

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

MINUTES:

With no corrections or additions, the minutes of the January 22, 2025 meeting were approved as emailed. (See attached)

Motion was made by Judge/Executive Phil Baker, seconded by Mayor Billy Phelps to approve the January 22, 2025 board minutes as emailed. Motion carried.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Chairman Choate introduced the first speaker, BRADD staff, Mrs. Ashley Mehmedovic presenting on the impact of Medicaid Waiver in the BRADD region. Mrs. Mehmedovic began by providing a summary of the programs that fall under the BRADD Medicaid Waiver program which includes the Home and Community Based Waiver and Michelle P. Waiver. Mrs. Mehmedovic discussed the criteria and eligibility to become a participant. BRADD provides case management services for the waiver to ensure client care needs are met and they are eligible to remain safely in their home and out of long term care placement. The option has proven to be more cost efficient than long term care placement while promoting independence and an enhanced quality of life. Mrs. Mehmedovic provided a personal testimony of a consenting client and how the services have impacted her life. She further encouraged members to contact her with any questions about the program.

Chairman Choate introduced the next speaker, Barren County Judge/Executive Jamie Byrd and Barren County High School Senior Matthew Estes. Judge Byrd spoke about the intern program that Barren County Fiscal Court enacted with the Barren County School System in efforts to give youth a greater insight into government work. Judge Byrd explained the establishment of the program as an opportunity to empower the next generation, giving students the opportunity to build networks. Mr. Estes is co-oping through the lens of agriculture which he has found many interconnections with local government. Mr. Estes gave a personal testimony of knowledge he has learned, and insights gained from the opportunity to participate in this program. He hopes to be able to use his passion for agriculture and knowledge of government to guide his future career.

NEW BUSINESS:

Executive Council Reports:

1. Clearinghouse Projects

Chairman Choate called on Mayor Billy Phelps who informed the BRADD Executive Council met prior to the BRADD Board Meeting and reviewed and considered seven regional clearinghouse projects. Detailed project descriptions are included in the member's packet. Upon review the Council recommended approval.

Motion: Mayor Billy Phelps made a motion to approve seven regional clearinghouse projects as presented. The motion was seconded by Mayor David Burch. Motion carried. (See attached)

2. In-Home Services RFQ

Chairman Choate called on Mr. Michael Stoyonovich who reported the Executive Council met prior to the board meeting and considered the Aging Services Review Committee recommendation of the two applications received for In-Home Services as submitted by the current provider, Comfort Keepers for full regional coverage, and Caring With a Smile for coverage of Logan, Simpson, and Warren Counties. Both providers agreed to a fixed unit rate cost of \$40.50 per hour, and \$100 per trip of assisted transportation. The Aging Services Review Committee recommended both applications. Both providers would share the counties of Logan, Simpson, and Warren. Clients in those counties will have the ability to choose between the two providers. After review and consideration the Executive Council recommended both providers to the full board.

Motion: Mr. Michael Stoyonovich made a motion to approve the aging in-home service providers as presented. The motion was seconded by Mayor Billy Phelps. Motion carried. (See attached)

3. Directors Report

Chairman Choate called on Mr. Eric Sexton, Executive Director. Mr. Sexton recognized staff position changes, Hannah Addington as the new Senior Center Coordinator and Emma Steen as Trager Case Manager. Ms. Stephanie Bratcher was recognized for her one-year anniversary. Mr. Sexton introduced newly appointed Citizen Members, Mr. Lanny White, Warren Co. and Mr. Carter Walden, Monroe Co. Mr. Sexton spoke about an initiative, Two Lights for Tomorrow related to Paul Revere's ride in recognition of 250 years of our existence as the United States of America. Mr. Sexton informed BRADD will take over operations of the region's senior centers effective July 1, 2025, with transitional planning currently underway. The Executive Council has voted to approve the RFP for the Anchor Projects Construction Manager to be awarded to Kelley Construction. Opioid abatement funds can be designated towards regional opioid response. The next Board meeting will be held on April 23, 2025 in Metcalfe County for the annual Legislative luncheon beginning at 11:45 am.

REPORTS:

1. Aging Council

Chairman Choate called on Mr. Jesse Varner, Aging Council Representative. Mr. Varner reported, The BRADD Aging Council met on Wednesday, March 19. Hosparus Health provided a presentation on the services they provide. Aging Council members reviewed and approved the recommendations from the Aging Services Review Committee regarding applications received for in-home services. After review, the Aging Council is in agreement of the selection. The next Aging Council meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, May 21st, at 10am in the BRADD Conference Center.

2. Water Management Council

Judge Executive Mason Barnes reported the BRADD Water Management Council met on March 6, 2025. Emily Hathcock reviewed regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Objectives related to infrastructure with the committee as a follow-up to the county-level ranking meetings held last fall. Committee members are encouraged to remain active with their county steering committees and to continue to incorporate infrastructure projects in their county's strategic plans. Zach then reviewed information for the upcoming official KIA system visits, including what would be needed from each system

and a timeline for the visits. The Council approved three different projects. The next Water Management Council meeting is scheduled for June 4, 2025, at 12:30.

3. Transportation Committee

Mayor David Burch reported the BRADD Regional Transportation Committee met on March 6th at the BRADD conference center. The meeting served as the annual Coordinated Transit Meeting, and BRADD staff gave a presentation on funding opportunities currently available to transit providers. The meeting also had discussions about the gaps, needs, and opportunities facing transit services in the region. The committee reviewed and approved the sponsorship of roadway projects in each county as part of the SHIFT process to select projects funded in the state highway plan. The committee also heard updates on transportation projects in progress from BRADD and KYTC Districts 3 and 4. The next regular meeting is Wednesday, June 4th at 11:00 am at the BRADD Conference Center.

4. Planning Committee

Mayor Dwayne Hatcher reported, The BRADD Regional Planning Committee met on Wednesday, March 6, 2025, in the BRADD Conference Center. The Committee reviewed objectives of the regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan for the quarter. The Committee also heard from Bob Palmer, Simpson County Emergency Manager, about Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT). Simpson County has a robust CERT program and BRADD has been awarded some grant funding to help support CERT team training throughout the region. Bob will also be speaking with each County Steering Committee as they meet in April and May to give more details on the CERT program. The next Regional Planning meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 4, 2025, at 10 am here in the BRADD Conference Room. If you have any questions please direct them to Emily Hathcock.

5. Community & Economic Development

Chairman Choate called on Ms. Emily Hathcock who reported the members packet contains a copy of the project impact report with 36 projects awaiting approval, 52 projects in development, and 86 active projects representing \$103,168,447.00. Ms. Hathcock also reported the packet contains a copy of upcoming trainings and the annual CEDS summit training to be held on May 19, 2025 pre-registration is now available.

ADVISOR REPORTS:

Hunter Whittaker, Senator Mich McConnell's Representative, spoke about two pieces of legislation. The Herbert D. Proffit Act concerning the officer killed in Monroe Co. now includes an amended officer safety program. Secondly, the Protecting American farmland act with the priority of securing prime farmland and addressing capital gains.

Mark Lord, Congressman Brett Guthrie's Representative, spoke about the Congressman's role as leader of the sub-committee, with the take it down act. Mr. Lord encouraged members receiving misinformation about proposed cuts please contact the office.

Sandy Simpson, Congressman Jamie Comer's Representative, expressed thanks for passing the Herbert Proffit Act. She informed if there are grants members are needing to apply for to please contact the office for additional information. Also, the Congressman's office can be contacted for additional assistance with obtaining passports.

Clark Arnold, Senator Rand Paul's Representative, spoke about visiting 11 of 17 high schools in the region promoting the virtual services academy. Senator recognized Officer Matt Davis who was shot and wounded in the line of duty, with a public record. Further Mr. Arnold spoke about the save our Veterans act and the SNAP food assistance which statistics reveal 20-30% of food purchased is on junk food. Shifting the focus to more nutritional food sources.

Brian Blank, KY Fish and Wildlife, provided his contact information and spoke about the Game Warden Academy with 30 new officers. He provided information about Camp Curry. He informed boarding, wildlife, fishing, and hunting provides an economic impact of \$8.4 billion a year.

Martha Jane King, DLG Representative, the last two days of session are underway, she will provide a list of bills upon session conclusion. Specifically, House Bill 544 related to disasters, provides funding for the burden on local governments in efforts to prevent draining local resources.

Barclay Trimble, Mammoth Cave National Park, spoke about park visitation being down, improvements to the self-discovery loop and there is currently one park trail closed for improvements.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURN

With no further business, a motion was made by Judge/Executive Mason Barnes and seconded by Mr. Steve Thurmond to adjourn.



Signed, Chairman



Approved, Secretary